

# THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD: PUBLIC BAPTISMS

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*January 12, 2025*



## OUR MISSION

*To bring by the power of the Holy Spirit as many people as possible to know, love, and serve God as revealed through Jesus Christ; and to be transformed into spiritually renewed disciples of Jesus who know, love and serve one another and the world.*



**ST. MARTIN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# WELCOME TO ST. MARTIN'S

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IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST,  
WELCOME.

Jesus' first words to His earliest disciples were very simple, "Come, follow Me ..." (Matthew 4:19) It was a gentle invitation to take seriously the wonderful journey of faith found in Christ. For more than 2,000 years, people of all ages have responded to that invitation through a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ in a community of prayer, study and service. St. Martin's is just such a place.

St. Martin's is a member Church in the Diocese of Texas, The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the greater worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of more than 77 million people. Our Parish Church considers it a tremendous honor to be a place where men, women, youth and children can grow in their personal relationship with our Lord, come to know and use their own spiritual gifts, and discover a personal ministry to be expressed both in the Church, the greater Houston area and beyond.

We want to invite you to participate in our worship services and as many of our activities and ministries as your own commitments and time will allow.

## ***Prayer Before Worship***

O Lord, we thank You that You have called us as members of Your family into this beautiful house of God. Grant that here we may feel Your presence and the beauty of Your peace, and that, as we return to our homes and work, we may sense Your guiding hand and loving care and be used in the service of our neighbors, our nation and the world, and all You send our way, through Him Who came not to condemn the world but to save it, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## NOTICES

- *St. Martin's is a gun-free Campus.*
  - *To use a hearing assisted device, see one of our ushers.*
  - *St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.*
  - *Please silence all cell phones when entering The Church and also refrain from texting.*
- Thank you for being respectful of God and others as we spend time together in worship.*



*\* indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshippers.*

# HOLY EUCHARIST

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*The Celebrant greets the People. Following the greeting, all stand.*

## VOLUNTARY ..... “Symphonie IV: Andante”

Charles-Marie Widor

*The Celebrant greets the People. Following the greeting, all stand.*

## \*HYMN 423 ..... “Immortal, Invisible”



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–1908), alt.; Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822–1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;

**People: There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**People: One God and Father of all.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*kneel*)

*The Celebrant says the Collect*

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

THE LESSON .....Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord,  
    he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
    I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
    and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
    and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
    the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
    Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
    and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
    nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
    I will bring your offspring from the east,  
    and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
    and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
    and my daughters from the end of the earth –  
everyone who is called by my name,  
    whom I created for my glory,  
    whom I formed and made."

Reader:    The Word of the Lord.

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

**HYMN 121** (*vs. 1-2*)..“Christ, When for Us You were Baptized”

1 Christ, when for us you were bap-tized, God's Spi-rit on you came,  
 2 God called you his be-lov-ed Son, called you his ser-vant true,  
 3 Straigh-way and stead-fast un-til death you then o-beyed his call  
 4 Bap-tize us with your Spi-rit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,

as peace-ful as a dove and yet as ur-gent as a flame.  
 sent you his king-dom to pro-claim, his ho-ly will to do.  
 free-ly as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.  
 that, like-wise in God's ser-vice we may per-fect free-dom find.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984), rev.; Music: *Caithness*, melody from *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meter*, 1635; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

**Deacon:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People:** **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**THE GOSPEL** .....Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

*The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 22.*

**HYMN 121** (*vs. 3-4*)..“Christ, When for Us You were Baptized”

1 Christ, when for us you were bap-tized, God's Spi-rit on you came,  
2 God called you his be-lov-ed Son, called you his ser-vant true,  
3 Straight-way and stead-fast un-til death you then o-beyed his call  
4 Bap-tize us with your Spi-rit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,

as peace-ful as a dove and yet as ur-gent as a flame.  
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Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895–1984), rev.; Music: *Caithness*, melody from *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meter*, 1635; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

*Please be seated.*

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**THE SERMON** ..... The Rev. Sharron L. Cox

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# THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

*The Celebrant*

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

**Parents and**

**Godparents:** **I present this child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents and**

**Godparents:** **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

**Parents and**

**Godparents:** **I will, with God's help.**

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.*

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**Answer: I renounce them.**

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

**Answer: I renounce them.**

Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

**Answer: I renounce them.**

Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

**Answer: I do.**

Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

**Answer: I do.**

Question: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

**Answer: I do.**



*After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**People: We will.**

## THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT *(stand)*

*The Celebrant*

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People: I will with God's help.**

## PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

### *The Celebrant*

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Minister: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Open their hearts to thy grace and truth.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Fill them with thy holy and life-giving Spirit.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Keep them in the faith and communion of thy holy Church.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Send them into the world in witness to thy love.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Minister: Bring them to the fullness of thy peace and glory.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ thy Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who liveth and reigneth now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is meet and right so to do.**

We thank thee, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it thou didst lead the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it thy Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank thee, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to thy Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray thee, by the power of thy Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to thee, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE BAPTISM

*Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then pours water upon the candidate, saying*

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Then the Celebrant places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross, using Chrism, and saying to each one*

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

*When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Celebrant, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying*

Let us pray. *(kneel)*

Heavenly Father, we thank thee that by water and the Holy Spirit thou hast bestowed upon these thy servants the forgiveness of sin, and hath raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in thy Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love thee, and the gift of joy and wonder in all thy works. **Amen.**

*All stand.*

*When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People*

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

## THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And with thy spirit.**

*Please be seated.*

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# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see page 23 for classes and events.*

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## THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM ..... “Sicut Cervus”  
Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum ita desiderat. anima mea ad te Deus.

*As the wild deer long for running streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God.*

Text: Psalm 42:1.

## AT THE PRESENTATION *(stand)*

DOXOLOGY ..... *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637–1711); Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

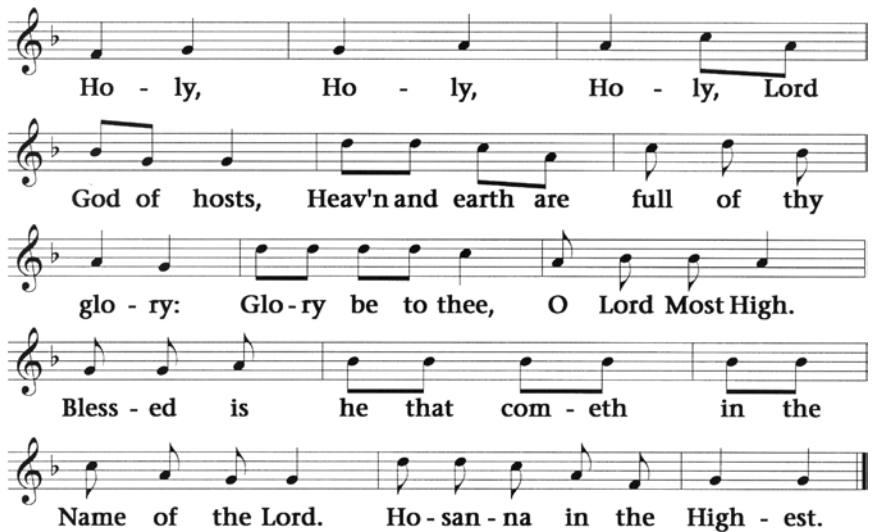
**People: It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord  
God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy  
glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the  
Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

John Merbecke, 1549. Copyright © 1940, 1943, 1961. The Church Pension Fund.

*The Celebrant continues (kneel)*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

## FRACTION ANTHEM ..... *Celtic Alleluia*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Celtic Alleluia*, Christopher Walker; Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker; © 1985, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, public by OCP Publications. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under LicenSingOnline #U3219.

*The Celebrant says the Invitation.*

*All Christians who have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to do so on this occasion. If you do not wish to receive one or both Elements, cross your arms over your chest and the Clergy will give you a blessing. Please tell the Clergy administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.*



ANTHEM ..... “The Lord is My Light”

Peter Hallock

The Lord is my light, the refuge of my life and my salvation: of who then shall I be afraid? If I take the wings of the morning, or go up into heaven, your right hand will hold me. In the shadow of your wings I will rejoice and bless your holy Name; and I will sing of your Glory, O Lord my strength, as long as I live.

Text from Psalm 27, v. 1 Psalm 139, v. 8, Psalm 63 v. 4, 7. © 1984 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

HYMN ..... “I Surrender All”

1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, All to Him I free - ly give;  
 2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Hum - bly at His feet I bow,  
 3. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly Thine;  
 4. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to Thee;

I will ev - er love and trust Him, In His pres - ence dai - ly live.  
 World - ly pleas - ures all for - sak - en, Take me, Je - sus, take me now.  
 May Thy Ho - ly Spir - it fill me, May I know Thy pow'r di - vine.  
 Fill me with Thy love and pow - er, Let Thy bless - ing fall on me.

*Refrain*

I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.

All to Thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

Text: Judson W. VanDeVenter; Music: Winfield S. Weeden.

HYMN ..... “Here I Am, Lord”



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



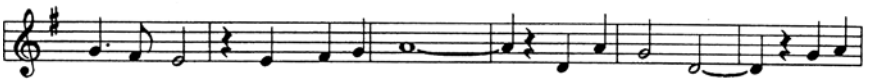
peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will  
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn a -  
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will



save,  
 way.  
 save. I who made the stars of night,  
 I will break their hearts of stone,  
 Fin - est bread I will pro - vide



I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear My  
 give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak My  
 till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give My



light to them? Whom shall I send? \_\_\_\_\_  
 word to them. Whom shall I send? \_\_\_\_\_ Here I am, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ Is it  
 life to them. Whom shall I send? \_\_\_\_\_



I, Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ I have heard You calling in the night. \_\_\_\_\_ I will go, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ if you lead me. \_\_\_\_\_ I will hold Your peo - ple in my



heart. \_\_\_\_\_

heart. \_\_\_\_\_

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HYMN ..... “Father, We Adore Thee”

1. Fa - ther,  
 2. Je - sus, we a - dore thee, lay our lives be  
 3. Spir - it,

fore thee, how we love thee.

Text and Music: Terry Coelho; © 1972, Maranatha! Music (ADMIN. by The Copyright Co.). CCLI #805314.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says (kneel)*  
 Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

*After the Post-Communion Prayer, members of the Shepherd’s Guild may come forward. The priest or deacon gives the Sacrament to the Eucharistic visitors, saying*

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us the Communion of Christ’s body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. **Amen.**

# THE BLESSING

*All stand.*

## HYMN 525 .....“The Church’s One Foundation”

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war  
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;  
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;  
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;  
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.  
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839–1900); Music: *Auelia*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1818–1876).

# THE DISMISSAL

*A Minister says the dismissal*

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**VOLUNTARY** ..... “Orchestra Suite Set II, No. 8”  
Malcolm Arnold

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*Personal prayers are available at the west Side Chapel after this service.*

## RECOGNITIONS

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### FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- In thanksgiving for our 40th wedding anniversary  
by Jide and Ibi Ayo-Vaughan
- In thanksgiving for the baptism of Marigold Dillon Carpenter  
by Marika and William Carpenter
- In thanksgiving for the baptism of Alexandre Chen
- In thanksgiving for the baptism of Emily Suzanne and Riley Elizabeth Davey  
by Katelyn and Scott Davey
- In thanksgiving for the baptism of Dale Jones Flores  
by Lila and Chad Flores
- In thanksgiving for the baptism of Walker John Sample  
by the Sample family
- In thanksgiving for the baptism of Ferguson Michael White  
by Kelsi and Will White



### BIRTHS

- Dec. 19 Mary Kelley Adkins  
Daughter of Ashley and John Adkins, Jr.  
Granddaughter of Cynthia and John Adkins, Sr.



### SYMPATHY

- Dec. 12 Charles Robert Flores, Sr.
- Dec. 17 Bobbie Rucker Adams

To mark any occasion with altar flower dedications, visit [bit.ly/smecaltarflowers](http://bit.ly/smecaltarflowers) or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at [relhakam@smec.org](mailto:relhakam@smec.org).

# CONTINUING PRAYERS

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Individuals are included on the Continuing Prayers list for numerous reasons, some of which may include recovery from illness, thanksgiving or need for support for special ministry and mission. In addition to praying for participants in cancer support groups, the Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group and The Gathering, this week please pray for the following:

Crockett Abraham	Searcy Kracke
Carolyn Alban	Mary Tyler Labhart
Harvey Altmann	Tom Lamb
Edith Avery	Bruce Michael Lee
Shelly Bain	Nancy Liles
Cory Blackman	Patrick Maehs
Jennifer Broussard	Martha Marks
Gary Browning	Bill Maynard
Helen Paige Buck	Janet McDaniel
Brian Burke	Patricia McDonald
Delonda Citrano	Adams McHenry
Sammy A. Citrano III	Megan Palsa
Gail Davis	Dan Pate
Paul Davison	Ophelia Pujol
Bobby de Sosa	Phyllis Reinhardt
Linda de Sosa	Hugh Ripps
Jeanne Dewey	Monica Rivera
Mercedes Dewey	John Roady
Richard Dewey	Magdalene Robbins
Charlotte Dion	Helen and Jim Shaffer
Ross Dunn	Caroline Shanahan
Connie Dyer	Clif Shoemake
Stacey and John Elliott	Fran Gardner Shores
Amelia Embley	Jan and Jim Stokes
Michael Finn	Grantland Wagner
Mark Gholson	MaeJoyce Wagner
Catherine Gonzales	Margaret Watson
Nancy Gore	Mary Watters
The Rev. Alex Graham	Stephen Wedemeyer
Shea Guinn	Eric Zoerb
Bette Haidusek	Bill
Cassidy Haidusek	Dave
Cathy Haidusek	Elizabeth and Scott
Jean Hatton	Harold
Nancy Haywood	Henry
Wendy Hurt	Laura
Clare Jan	Lynne
Mary and Jim Jennings	Sharon
Katie Jones	Wayne
Dick Kilday	

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Please be advised that the weeks after Easter and All Saints' Day, this list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).

# CONTINUING PRAYERS

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Prayers for those on Active Military Duty in the Armed Forces:

Lt. Col. Julian Benton	1st Lt. Alex Mullen
1LT. Tom Cadwallender	PFC. Parris F. Owen
1LT. Yonatan Cadwallender	SrA James W. Peoples
1st LCDR Casey Gainer	Lt. Paul Piana
LCDR Bradley Hoffman	Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant
LTC Wesley J. Hunnell	PO1 Brian Powell
1st Lt. Stephen A. Jeckovich	Sgt. Joel Rowell
Capt. Blake J. Kidd	PO Evan Tomlin
Capt. Jack Mullen	

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Please be advised that each year the week after Veterans Day, this list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Military Service Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).

## OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES

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 *family table*

9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Family Table service with Holy Eucharist combines contemporary worship music with traditional liturgy and is designed for families with young children.

 RIVERWAY

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Riverway Contemporary Service is both Anglican and modern, offering the Holy Eucharist in a relaxed service with contemporary music.

## WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist Services  
7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • Christ Chapel

OSL Healing Prayer Service  
First Wednesday of the month  
5 p.m. • Parish Life Center  
Online at [bit.ly/oslservice](http://bit.ly/oslservice)

# READINGS FOR THE DAY

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## THE PSALM ..... Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the Lord \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT ..... Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



# THIS SUNDAY

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## ✦ ADULTS

**8+** with the Rev. Wesley Arning

Discuss the lectionary readings of the day following the 8 a.m. service.

*8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall*

**THEOLOGY FOR LIFE** with the Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson

“Frequently Asked Questions: What is the Anglican Communion?”

This series hopes to give the best answers to the questions you have about our faith.

*10:15 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall*

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER** with the Rev. Sharron Cox

Spend a morning in silent prayer and sharing as we grow to learn to love as God loves.

*10:15 a.m. • Levenson Pastoral Care Center, Bride’s Parlor*

## ✦ STUDENT MINISTRIES

### SUNDAY GET-TOGETHERS

Students in grades 6–12 spend time in fellowship and discuss the Scriptures shared in worship.

*10:15 a.m. • Student Life Center*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



*To view all our Christian education options, scan the QR code or visit **[bit.ly/smeccedu](http://bit.ly/smeccedu)**.*

# THIS SUNDAY

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## ✦ CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children through 5th grade are given a solid foundation of Biblical and theological knowledge in age-appropriate ways.

*10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

### CHILDCARE

Available during all morning services for six-weeks through three-year-olds.

*8 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

## ✦ OUTREACH MINISTRIES

### CHRIS KING WITH AMISTAD MISSION

Make birthday cards for the Amistad kids and learn about the mission.

*10:15 a.m. • Activity Center Gym*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



*To view all our Christian education options, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/smecedu](https://bit.ly/smecedu).*

# THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

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JANUARY 13-18, 2025

## ALL ADULTS

**Docent Tour** *Wednesday, 11 a.m. • The Church*

The Docent Guild offers a formal tour of The Church. To schedule a group tour or tours of other Campus locations, contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117.

**St. Clare's Guild** *Wednesday, Noon • Activity Center, Upper Hall East*

St. Clare's Guild undertakes a variety of needlepoint projects in worship spaces and for outreach programs.

**St. Martin's 20s & 30s** *Wednesday, 7 p.m. • Children's Life Center*

Join a community of young adults who eat, pray and read Scripture together.

## MEN

**Dads' Bible Study** *Thursday, 8 a.m. • Welcome Center*

Join dads with children of all ages for coffee, fellowship and Bible study.

## WOMEN

**The Moms' Group** *Wednesday, 9:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

Join mothers of infants through grade 12 students for a book study and fellowship.

## STUDENTS

**Life Groups** *Wednesday, 6 p.m. • Student Life Center*

Students in grades 6–12 connect with their peers for fun activities and great discussions about faith and life. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of the meal.

## EVENTS



*To view all our upcoming events, scan the QR code or visit **[bit.ly/smecevents](https://bit.ly/smecevents)**.*

## PRACTICING OUR BAPTISMAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our baptismal responsibility is a commitment to serve God and participate at St. Martin's through various actions. Being generous with what we have received acknowledges God's generosity to us and is an integral part of our spiritual growth.



Make a financial commitment that helps St. Martin's plan.

Contact Ashley Pratka: [apratka@smec.org](mailto:apratka@smec.org) | 346-335-8658

### PLEDGE TODAY

Scan this QR Code to make your 2025 pledge today - Online!



**WE**  
*believe*



### **MOST CLASSES ARE FREE!**

For more information, visit [bit.ly/smecactivitycenter](https://bit.ly/smecactivitycenter).

# ACTIVITY CENTER

## CORE & MORE

WEDNESDAYS

8:30–9:15 a.m.

Aerobics Room

Join Angela for a full body workout with focus on the core! This class helps to stabilize your core, strengthen your muscles and improve overall fitness.

**Open to ALL levels.**

**Contact** | Victoria Wilson  
[activitycenter@smec.org](mailto:activitycenter@smec.org) • 713-985-3835



BAYOU CITY  
**BLESSINGS IN A  
BACKPACK**

## *Food Packing*

Thursday, Jan. 16 | 6 p.m.

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church

12535 Perthshire Rd.

Houston, TX 77024

Get in the giving spirit and pack food bags that will be delivered in Spring Branch program schools.

Bayou City Blessings provides food on the weekends and during school breaks for Houston children who might otherwise go hungry.

The mission serves to raise awareness of childhood hunger by building community to improve the lives of Houston children.

Contact: Savanna Bowman • outreach@smec.org • 713-985-3811



# MARATHON SUNDAY

## JANUARY 19

Even though the Chevron Houston Marathon does not go by St. Martin's, some roads will not open until after 11 a.m. and may affect your drive to and from Church.

**Please note the streets affected near St. Martin's Campus:**

- Eastbound Woodway Drive traffic (west of Chimney Rock) will be forced to turn south on Chimney Rock.
- Eastbound traffic on Memorial Drive (west of Chimney Rock) will be forced to go north on Chimney Rock.

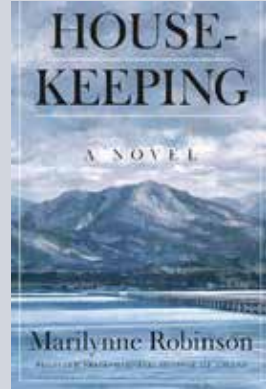


Visit the course map and street closures,  
at [bit.ly/marathonsunday](https://bit.ly/marathonsunday)



# EVENING GROUP

**Tuesday, Jan. 21 | 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**Children's Life Center, Room 109 and**  
**Via Zoom | [bit.ly/faithinliteveningzoom](https://bit.ly/faithinliteveningzoom)**



While operating within the framework of Christian theology, Faith in Literature seeks to ascertain in our reading how all good literature, if even by its omission, deals with and reflects themes of faith.

*This month, we discuss "Housekeeping" by Marilynne Robinson.*

**Contact: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden • [jhylden@smec.org](mailto:jhylden@smec.org) • 713-830-4106**



**Friday, Jan. 24 • 7 p.m. • The Church**  
*Free admission*

Houston Civic Symphony returns to St. Martin's! In his 19th season as Music Director and Conductor of the Houston Civic Symphony, Brian Runnels will present "Pines of Rome" by Ottorino Respighi.

**Contact: Dr. David Henning • [dhenning@smec.org](mailto:dhenning@smec.org) • 713-985-3820**



# 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26  
10:15 A.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL**

*Parishioners are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to learn about progress in the preceding year and plans for 2025. Sunday School for adults will not be offered on this Sunday so that all will have the opportunity to attend. Please join us!*



## Good Books and Good Conversation

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden  
“Life Together” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**JAN. 30 | 6:15–7:45 P.M.  
CHAPEL RECEPTION HALL**

**D**ietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) is one of the most well-known theologians of the 20th century. A beloved pastor and teacher, he was imprisoned and executed for his involvement in an attempt to kill Hitler. Bonhoeffer wrote “Life Together” for his students in the underground seminary he led in Nazi Germany.



**Contact:** Amanda DeViney  
adeviney@smec.org • 713-830-4110

*“Life Together” is available wherever fine books are sold.*



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF ST. MARTIN'S PRESENTS

SPRING LUNCHEON

# Worry Free Parenting

FEATURING SISSY GOFF

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

11 A.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL



Reserve Your Spot at  
***bit.ly/ecwmain***

Registration opens Jan. 13 at noon



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Contact: Valerie Rivera  
713-985-3817 • [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org)

INTRO TO

# Anglicanism

Sundays, Feb. 9 – May 4  
10:15 a.m.  
Chapel Reception Hall

Learn more about our unique faith, heritage and traditions, and how you can grow in your relationship with Christ with us through Word and Sacrament. Especially encouraged for all who want to be confirmed in the Anglican Communion.



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Juli Browning, Worship Service Coordinator  
713-985-3845 • [jbrowning@smec.org](mailto:jbrowning@smec.org)

## SPRING SCHEDULE

- Feb. 9 The Nicene Creed: God the Father
- Feb. 16 The Nicene Creed: God the Son
- Feb. 23 The Nicene Creed: The Holy Spirit & Holy Scripture
- March 2 *Outreach Sunday*
- March 9 *Spring Break*
- March 16 The Church & Ministry
- March 23 The Book of Common Prayer, Prayer & Sacraments
- March 30 Holy Baptism & Confirmation
- April 6 Holy Eucharist
- April 13 History of Anglicanism
- April 20 *Palm Sunday*
- April 27 *Easter Sunday*
- May 4 Life in the Anglican Communion
- Saturday, May 10** Confirmation with the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle



# MEMBERSHIP

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If you are visiting today, please fill out a Welcome Card from the pew rack to place in the offering plate or complete it online by scanning the QR code or visiting **[bit.ly/smecvisitors](http://bit.ly/smecvisitors)**. Please introduce yourself to one of our Clergy and we will be in touch to let you know more about our Parish Family.



Seeking membership in a parish is a very important step and it is our goal to support your understanding of our Parish, its ministries and your place in the life of St. Martin's. Our membership process begins by attending one of our quarterly Membership 101 classes.

Contact: Kathy Johnson • 713-985-3834 • [kjohnson@smec.org](mailto:kjohnson@smec.org)

## ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU

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For general questions, contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040 during business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday–Friday).

For pastoral concerns during business hours, contact 713-985-3817 or [pastoralcare@smec.org](mailto:pastoralcare@smec.org).

For pastoral emergencies after hours and weekends, call 713-621-3040 and follow the prompts to reach the priest on call.

For prayer requests, contact the prayer request line at 713-830-4124 or Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or [vrivera@smec.org](mailto:vrivera@smec.org).

For death notifications and funerals, contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or [censign@smec.org](mailto:censign@smec.org).

# OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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## SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. David Henning**

*Director of Music and Parish Organist*  
dhenning@smec.org

**Mr. Keith Lathrom**

*Choral Director of the Adult Choir*  
klathrom@smec.org

**Ms. Hannah Cen**

*Associate Organist*  
hcen@smec.org

**Ms. Carole Nelson**

*Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries*  
cnelson@smec.org

**Mr. Tyler (TD) Davis**

*Interim Director of Student Ministries*  
tdavis@smec.org

**Mrs. Ashley Monachelli**

*Director of Children's Ministry*  
amonachelli@smec.org

**Mrs. Kathy Johnson**

*Director of Membership*  
kjohnson@smec.org

**Mrs. Barbara Piana**

*Verger and Worship Coordinator*  
bpiana@smec.org

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## ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

### Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. Dan Meyer, *Senior Warden*  
Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Junior Warden*  
Mrs. Nancy Bynon, *Missions Chair*  
Ms. Sherrie Perkins, *Treasurer*  
Mr. Logan Walters, *Clerk*  
Mr. Tommy Ford, *Past Senior Warden*  
Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*  
Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor\**

### Vestry Members

Mr. Scott Anderson  
Mrs. Summer Craig  
Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes  
Mr. Will Hedges  
The Hon. Edith Jones  
Mr. David Leonard  
Mrs. Susan McConn  
Mr. Roy Nichol  
Mrs. Courtney Schilling  
Mr. Milton West

### Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry\**  
Mr. David Harvin, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2025*  
Mrs. Beth Reeves, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2025*  
Ms. Samantha Hutchison, *Altar Guild President 2024-2025*  
Mrs. Shelly Newton, *ECW President 2024-2025*  
Mr. Perry Ruthven, *Men of St. Martin's President 2023-2025*  
Mr. John Sutherland, *Usher Representative 2024-2026*

*\*Denotes Associate Vestry filled at the discretion of the Rector.*



**Mr. Will Hedges**  
*Vestry Representative*

# OUR CLERGY

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## **Jesus, The Christ** *The Head of This Church*



**The Rev. Martin J. Bastian**  
*Vice-Rector*  
mbastian@smec.org



**The Rev. R. Wesley Arning**  
*Associate for Riverway and  
Discipleship Ministries*  
rwarning@smec.org



**The Rev. John D. Sundara**  
*Vicar for Worship and Evangelism*  
jsundara@smec.org



**The Rev. Naomi B. Sundara**  
*Chaplain to the Preschool*  
nsundara@smec.org



**The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson**  
*Vicar for Pastoral Care*  
lneilson@smec.org



**The Rev. Elizabeth A. Miller**  
*Pastoral Assistant*  
emiller@smec.org



**The Rev. Alex D. Graham III**  
*Associate for Children and  
Family Ministries*  
agraham@smec.org



**The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr.**  
*Pastoral Associate*  
jbentley@smec.org



**The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden**  
*Associate for Christian Education*  
jhylden@smec.org



**The Rev. Gill B. Keyworth**  
*Deacon*  
gkeyworth@smec.org



**The Rev. Sharron L. Cox**  
*Associate for Spiritual Formation and  
Pastoral Ministries*  
scox@smec.org



**The Rev. Gregory W. Cross**  
*Curate*  
gcross@smec.org

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## **PRAYER FOR THE SEARCH FOR ST. MARTIN'S FIFTH RECTOR**

Heavenly Father,

As a community of believers, we come together in prayer seeking Your guidance as St. Martin's Episcopal Church continues the search for our fifth rector. May we be blessed with Your Holy Spirit's wisdom and discernment. We especially ask that You guide the hearts and minds of the Search Committee who will be deeply involved in this choice. Lord Jesus, shepherd Your flock with tender care and love. Give us patience as we wait, trusting in Your gracious provision. Guide us, Oh Lord, as we navigate this season of change, knowing that You are with us every step of the way. Our fervent prayer is that Your will be done.

With humble expectations, we pray this prayer in Jesus name, who we joyfully serve and love. Amen.

WE INVITE YOU TO  
KEEP THIS BOOKLET  
FOR REFERENCE.

*717 Sage Road  
Houston, TX 77056  
713-621-3040*

SMEC.ORG

