THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 26, 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

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 worshipers.

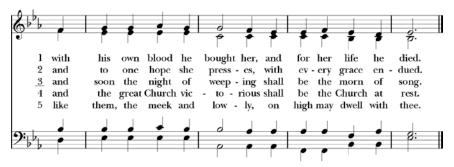
HOLY EUCHARIST

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. is a spoken service. Musical pieces in this booklet will be skipped or replaced by spoken liturgy, as noted.

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

*HYMN 525"The Church's One Foundation"





Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900); Music: Aurelia, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1818-1876).

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen. THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA (said at 8 a.m., sung at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)



Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847); Music: Lauda anima, John Goss (1800-1880).

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

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSON1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Reader:The Word of the Lord.People:Thanks be to God.

All stand.

σ 0 for thou - sand tongues to sing my 1 a dear Re - deem - er's praise, 2 Mv my God, gra - cious Mas - ter and as - sist me to pro - claim 3 Je sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease; 4 He speaks; and, lis - tening his voice, new life the dead to re - ceive, 5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos-ened tongues em - ploy; σ glo - ries 1 the of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace! 2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name. 3 'tis sic the 'tis life and health and peace. mu in sin - ner's ears, 4 the mourn ful bro-ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve. 5 blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ve lame, for joy! ye

> 6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.; Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Deacon:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**People:**Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELLuke 4:14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

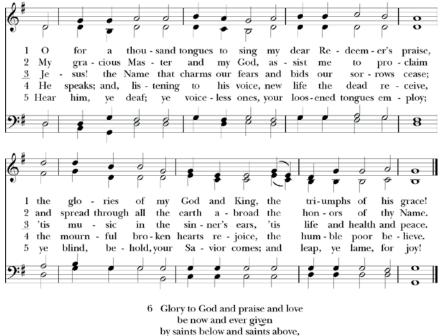
> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on pages 22-23.



the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.; Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Please be seated.

THE SERMON The Rev. Martin J. Bastian

THE NICENE CREED (stand)

Celebrant and People I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (kneel)

Minister and People pray responsively Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve thee;

That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for the nomination of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector and Brian, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; for our Search Committee and the fifth Rector; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria; for all bishops, priests and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Donald, our President, Greg, our Governor, John, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the World;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do thy will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in thy sight.

We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially ____; for those who are hospitalized, especially ____; and for those on our continuing prayer list; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who have died, especially ___; give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We give thee thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers, ____; and we praise thee for thy saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

In this moment of silence, let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

A period of silence, during which people may add their own petitions quietly in the privacy of their hearts.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in. St. Martin's for the renewal and mission of thy Church. Teach us in all things to seek first thy honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is observed.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE (stand)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 24 for classes and events.

THE OFFERTORY

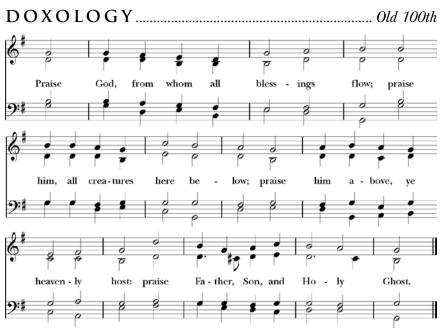
A N T H E M "O For a Closer Walk with God" Charles Villiers Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb! Return, O holy Dove, return! Sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made Thee mourn, and drove Thee from my breast. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800).

AT THE PRESENTATION (stand)

(8 a.m. only in place of sung Doxology)Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord;People: And of thine own have we given thee.



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.

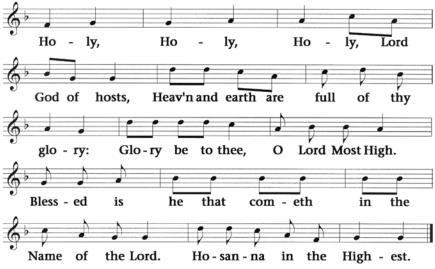
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

(said at 8 a.m., sung at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)



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.

(8 a.m. only in place of sung Fraction Anthem)Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!



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.

Then may be said by the Celebrant and People PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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 "How Lovely are the Messengers" Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words; throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

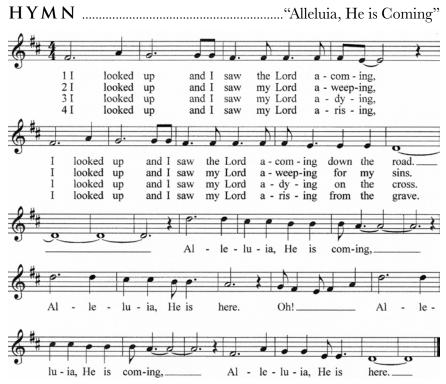
Text: Romans 10:15 (Paraphrased). Organ accompaniment by H. Clough-Leighter.

di 1 Come down. O Love vine, seek thou this soul of mine. 2 pas 0 let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly sions turn 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long, on and vis it it with thine glow ing; own ar dorto dust and ash _ es in its heat con sum ing; shall tell far out - pass the power of hu - man ing; R O Com-fort - er, draw with - in pear, near, mv heart ap and let thy glo rious light shine ev - er on my sight, place for none can guess till Love cre its grace, ate a n kin - dle and it, thy ho - ly flame be ing. stow and clothe me round, the while my path il lum ing. where in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes dwell ing. a

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833–1890), alt.; Music: Down Ampney, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958); Copyright Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.



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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. At 9 and 11:15 a.m., 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 371 "Thou, Whose Almighty Word" Thou, whose might word heard. 1 al у cha-os and dark - ness 2 Thou who didst come to bring on thy re deem - ing wing 3 Spi - rit of truth and love. life - giv - ing, ho - lv Dove, 4 Ho ly and bless - ed Three, glo - ri - ous Trin i ty, 0 ÷ 0. took their flight; hum - bly pray, and, where and hear us, we the heal - ing and sight, health to sight the sick in mind, to the speed forth thy flight! Move on the wa - ters' face bear - ing the wis - dom, love, might; bound-less o - cean's tide. roll - ing in as Gos-pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light! in - ly blind, all there be light! now to hu - man - kind, let gifts of grace, and, in earth's dark - est place, let there be light! full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

Words: John Marriott (1780–1825), alt.; Music: Moscow, Felice de Giardini (1716–1796); harm. The New Hymnal, 1916, based on Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792–1872).

THE DISMISSAL

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

On the occasion of their marriage by Ann Weston Sistrunk and Charles Mitchell Cox, Jr. In thanksgiving for the baptism of Brodie Cole Marcin by Casey and Patrick Marcin In thanksgiving for the 11th birthday of Anneliese and Carsten by Meredith and Dean Huffman In memory of Bart Boyce by Alix Dunn



SYMPATHY

Dec. 10 Thomas Rambaut McDade

To mark any occasion with altar flower dedications, visit bit.ly/smecaltarflowers or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at relhakam@smec.org.

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

Sharon Wayne

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 vrivera@smec.org.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

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
Major 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 vrivera@smec.org.

OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES



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.



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**

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENTNehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

READINGS FOR THE DAY

ΤI	HE PSALM Psalm 19
1	The heavens declare the glory of God, *
	and the firmament shows his handiwork.
2	One day tells its tale to another, *
	and one night imparts knowledge to another.
3	Although they have no words or language, *
	and their voices are not heard,
4	Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
	and their message to the ends of the world.
5	In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
	it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
	it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
6	It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
	and runs about to the end of it again; *
_	nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
7	The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
	the testimony of the LORD is sure
0	and gives wisdom to the innocent.
8	The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *
0	the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
9	The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *
10	the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
10	sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
11	By them also is your servant enlightened, *
11	and in keeping them there is great reward.
19	Who can tell how often he offends? *
14	cleanse me from my secret faults.
13	Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
	let them not get dominion over me; *
	then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
14	Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
	heart be acceptable in your sight, *
	O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

THIS SUNDAY

ADULTS

8+ with the Rev. Sharron CoxDiscuss the lectionary readings of the day following the 8 a.m. service.8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

Adult Sunday School classes at 10:15 a.m. will not be offered so all may attend the Annual Parish Meeting in Bagby Parish Hall.

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

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



To view all our Christian education options, scan the QR code or visit **bit.ly/smecedu**.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 1, 2025

ALL ADULTS

Saintly Stitchers *Monday, 10 a.m.* • *Activity Center, Upper Hall East* Saintly Stitchers fill St. Martin's with pew kneelers and other gifts for worship spaces.

Blanket Ladies *Wednesday, 10 a.m.* • *Activity Center, Family Room* Make receiving blankets for newborn infants at local charity hospitals.

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. 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**.

RIVERWAY

Celebration Sunday and Jam Session!

SUNDAY, JAN. 26 Parish Life Center Narthex Following the 11:15 a.m. services

We invite everyone who has had a recent birthday or anniversary to join us in acknowledgement of your special day, and share a dessert or breakfast item with us. Bring your instrument or voice and jam with the band as well! Everyone is welcome.

Contact: Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam • 713-830-4146 • relhakam@smec.org

\mathcal{M} embership101

MONDAY, JAN. 27

Bagby Parish Hall and Online 6–8:30 p.m. • Dinner will be served



Join us in our mission to find your place in the life of the Church.

Reservations are required by 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26



CONTACT: Kathy Johnson membership@smec.org • 713-985-3834



For more information, contact Kathy Tellepsen at 713-301-4786 or kattellepsen@me.com.



ST. MARTIN'S Disaster Relief

Join St. Martin's in supporting our Disaster Relief Efforts.

Please support St. Martin's Disaster Relief Fund today. Your urgent gift will provide critical supplies such as food and water, pastoral care and other immediate needs to help those affected by the devastating fires in Los Angeles. Our Outreach ministry will distribute the funds collected to churches, community leaders and relief organizations.

Every donation counts! Tens of Thousands of people have lost their homes, businesses, churches and schools as the fires have ravaged structures and caused significant injuries.



Thank you for your contribution. To donate, visit **bit.ly/smecdisaster.**

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



DePelchin Tour

Wednesday, Jan. 29 | Noon 4950 Memorial Dr.

Tour DePelchin Children's Center and learn all about their programs and how they help the community beyond the Angel Tree Holiday Project.

Contact Tracee Tindol at outreach@smec.org or 713-985-3811 to sign up.

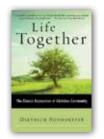


Good Books and Good Conversation

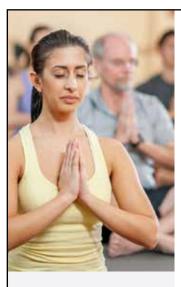
Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer JAN. 30 | 6:15–7:45 P.M CHAPEL RECEPTION HALL

Dietrich 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: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden jhylden@smec.org • 713-830-4106



"Life Together" is available wherever fine books are sold.



MOST CLASSES ARE FREE! For more information, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.

ACTIVITY CENTER RESTORATIVE YOGA

Fridays 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | Aerobics Room

Join Angela for a slow-paced yoga class that targets the deep connective tissues and helps restore body and mind.

Contact | Victoria Wilson activitycenter@smec.org • 713-985-3835





SATURDAY, FEB. 1 • 10 A.M. CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER

CASA DE ESPERANZA TOUR

We will meet in St. Martin's parking lot and carpool to Casa de Esperanza for a private group tour of their facilities.

Contact: Tracee Tindol • tmartin@smec.org • 713-985-3811



CELEBRATE SCOUT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEB. 2 9 A.M. • THE CHURCH

St. Martin's recognizes Scouts and leaders from Church-sponsored Scout Troup 354 and Cub Scout Pack 354 during this special worship service, in which Scouts will also participate. Former and current Scouts and Scout leaders are encouraged to wear their uniforms for this service.

Contact Barbara Piana, Verger bpiana@smec.org • 713-985-3836







C W W Zak



TOUR A GOTHIC-STYLE CHURCH WITHOUT LEAVING HOUSTON!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 Following the 11:15 a.m. service Meet in the Narthex

St. Martin's docents offer free, public and private tours. Everyone is welcome regardless of religious affiliation. To schedule a tour, please call St. Martin's Docent Guild at 713-830-4117 and leave a contact name and number for a return call.



St. Martin's small group ministry continues with a new series this February on the parables of Jesus.

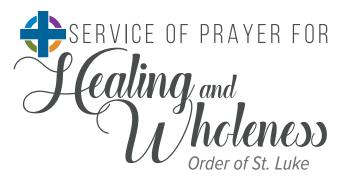
Our method is simple: we eat, we study and we pray! It's a great way to grow in faith while also building community with your Church family. Groups meet at Church or in homes once weekly for four weeks, following a study guide and videos produced by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden.



Join us at bit.ly/smecjustfor

Contact The Rev. Jordan Hylden and

Kathy Johnson smallgroups@smec.org



St. Martin's International Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing Community offers a service of prayer for healing and wholeness on the first Wednesday of each month. This short service is held for anyone in need of prayer for themselves, friends or family.

Next Service Wednesday, Feb. 5 | 5 p.m. Parish Life Center or via Zoom bit.ly/oslservice

Contact: The Rev. Sharron Cox • scox@smec.org • 713-830-4131

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.



Juli Browning, Worship Service Coordinator 713-985-3845 • 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 and Holy Scripture
	March 2	Outreach Sunday
	March 9	Spring Break
	March 16	The Book of Common Prayer, Prayer and Sacraments
	March 23	The Church and Ministry
	March 30	History of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church
	April 6	Holy Baptism and Confirmation
	April 13	Palm Sunday
	April 20	Easter Sunday
	April 27	Life in the Anglican Communion
	May 4	Final Lesson
Saturday, May 10 Confirmation with the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle		





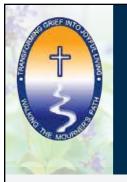
DAY GROUP

1–2:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Feb. 12 Children's Life Center, Room 132 and Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinlitdayzoom

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 "Old God's Time" by Sebastian Barry.

Contact: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden • 713-830-4106 • jhylden@smec.org



Walking the Mourner's Path Small Group Workshops

Wednesday, Feb. 12 *(8 Weeks)* 4–5:30 p.m.

Walking the Mourners Path is a series of small group workshops which are appropriate for those who are at least 6 months out from the death of a loved one. There will always be grief after a death and we want to walk with you to ease your pain. This class will be guided by lay and clergy facilitators who are trained at a Facilitator Training School.

Cost is \$30 • Class is limited to 12 participants

To reserve your space, contact

The Rev. Lisa Neilson • Ineilson@smec.org

The Rev. Gregory W. Cross' ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD By the Rt. Rev. Hector F. Monterroso Bishop Assistant of Texas

Wednesday, Feb. 12 7 p.m. • The Church

Please join us as our very own Gregory Cross is ordained to the Priesthood. This is a significant moment in his spiritual journey that you won't want to miss!

> Contact: The Rev. Gregory Cross gcross@smec.org • 713-985-3823





ON THE MENU: • Classic Italian Fettucine

- French Onion Soup
- Cherries Jubilee Flambé

Celebrate Valentine's!

Chefs Graham Gemoets and Robert Iris return to St. Martin's with a tantalizing cooking class menu to celebrate St. Valentine's.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13 PARISH LIFE CENTER, KITCHEN • 6–8 P.M.



Sign up at bit.ly/smeccooks Cost is \$75

Contact: Chrissy Kana • ckana@smec.org • 713-985-3806

MEMBERSHIP

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**. 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

ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU

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.

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.

For death notifications and funerals, contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or censign@smec.org.

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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@smcc.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

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



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. Milton West Vestry Representative Morning



Mr. Roy Nichol Vestry Representative Evening

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ The Head of This Church



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

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

