

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 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 100 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.*

CONNECTING WITH ST. MARTIN'S

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 **smec.org/visitor-card**. 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

The Church is open for viewing Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For general questions, contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For pastoral concerns during Reception Desk hours, contact 713-985-3817 or pastoralcare@smec.org.

For pastoral emergencies when the Reception Desk is closed, 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 vriviera@smec.org.

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

HOLY EUCHARIST

As found beginning on page 323 in the Book of Common Prayer

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.

VOLUNTARY“Savior of the Nations, Come” Johann Sebastian Bach

The people stand as the procession begins.

THE GREAT LITANY

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

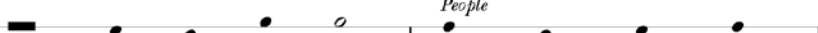
Cantor  *People* 
O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Cantor  *People* 
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Cantor  *People* 
O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Cantor  *People* 
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Cantor 
Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

People 
preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

Cantor 
From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the

 devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

People 
Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of
the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart,
and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from
plague, pestilence, and famine,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle,
and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and
submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by
thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and
Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour
of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may
please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the
right way,

People
b ————— • • •

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of St. Martin and all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

The musical notation is presented in four systems, each with a staff and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the staves, with 'Cantor' and 'People' parts indicated by labels above the staves. The first system shows the beginning of the prayer. The second system shows the 'O Lamb of God' prayer, with the Cantor part on the left and the People part on the right. The third system shows the 'O Lamb of God' prayer, with the Cantor part on the left and the People part on the right. The fourth system shows the 'O Christ, hear us' prayer, with the Cantor part on the left and the People part on the right.

Cantor Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.
People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Cantor O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.
People O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.

Cantor O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.
People O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.

Cantor O Christ, hear us. People O Christ, hear us.

Title: The Great Litany; Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1583?), alt.; Copyright: © 1927 by Wallace Goodrich, Secretary for the Joint Commission on Church Music.

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

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit. Either the Old Testament or the Epistle is read.

THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 2:1-5, KJV

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 13:11-14, KJV

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM.....Psalm 122, Coverdale
(said at 8 a.m., sung at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)

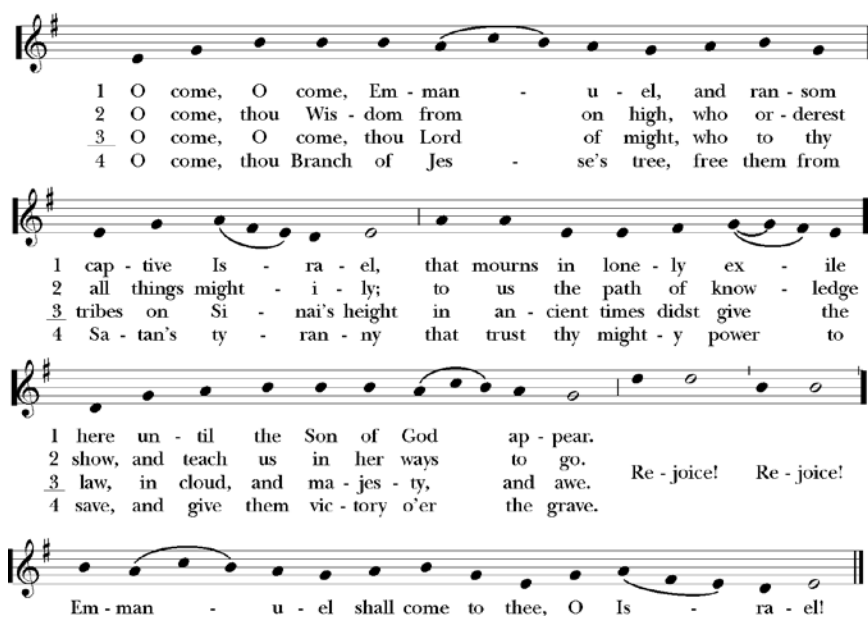


- 1 I was glad when they | said • unto | me,*
We will | go • into the | house of • the | Lord.
- 2 Our | feet shall | stand *
in thy | gätes, | O Je-| rusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is | built • as a | city *
that is at | uni- • ty | in it-| self.
- 4 For thither the tribes go up, even the | tribes of • the | Lord,*
to testify unto Israel, to give | thanks • unto the | Name
of • the | Lord.
- 5 For there is the | seat of | judgment,*
even the | seat • of the | house of | David.
- 6 O pray for the | peace • of Je-| rusalem;*
they shall | prosper • that | löve | thee.
- 7 Peace be with-| in thy | walls,*
and | plenteousness • with-| in thy | palaces.
- 8 For my brethren and com- | panions' | sakes,*
I will | wish | thee pro-| sperity.
- 9 Yea, because of the house of the | Lord our | God,*
I will | seek to | do thee | good.

All stand.

*HYMN 56 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(Verses 1-2 before the Gospel; verses 3-4 after the Gospel)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.; Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Public Domain.

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELMatthew 24:36-44, KJV

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Conclusion of Sequence hymn

THE SERMON

*THE NICENE CREED

**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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is observed.

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.

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM.....“Zion Hört Die Wächter Singen” Johann Sebastian Bach

Zion hört die Wächter singen, Das Herz tut ihr vor Freude springen, Sie wachet und steht eilend auf. Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig, Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig, Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf. Nun komm, du werthe Kron, Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn! Hosianna! Wir folgen all Zum Freudensaal Und halten mit das Abendmahl.

Zion hears the watchmen's voices, with gladness all her heart rejoices, she eager wakes to greet the day. See, her Lord from heaven descending, with grace and truth and power unending, her daystar dawns with brightest ray. O come, thou blessed One, Lord Jesu, God's own Son, Hosianna. We follow there Thy feast to share, and taste the joys beyond compare.

Text: Philipp Nicolai (1599), from the hymn *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*. English Translation by John Rutter. Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), BWV 140, Mvt. 4. (1731).

AT THE PRESENTATION

(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.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures 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 octave trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(stand)*

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 thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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.)

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 people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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

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 Fraction Anthem)

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

People: **Grant us thy peace.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the
sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God,
that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

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.

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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 priest administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

If you are unable to come to the Altar Rail, please alert an Usher and Communion will be brought to you.

ANTHEM “Never Weather-beaten Sail”
Thomas Campion

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
Never tired pilgrim’s limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast.
O come quickly, sweetest Lord and take my soul,
and take my soul to rest. Ever blooming are the joys
of heav’ns high paradise. Old age deafs not there our ears,
nor vapour dims our eyes; Glory there the sun outshines,
whose beams the blessed only see; O come quickly, glorious Lord,
and raise my sprite to thee.

Words and Music: Thomas Campion (1567-1620).

HYMN 65.....“Prepare the Way, O Zion”



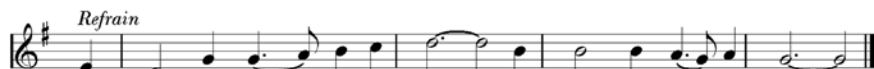
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



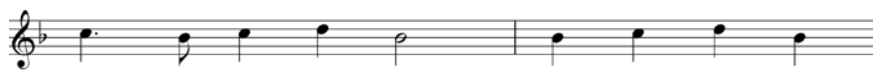
Refrain
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772–1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920); Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; Copyright: Words: © 1982, Charles P. Price.

HYMN 54.....“Savior of the Nations, Come”



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



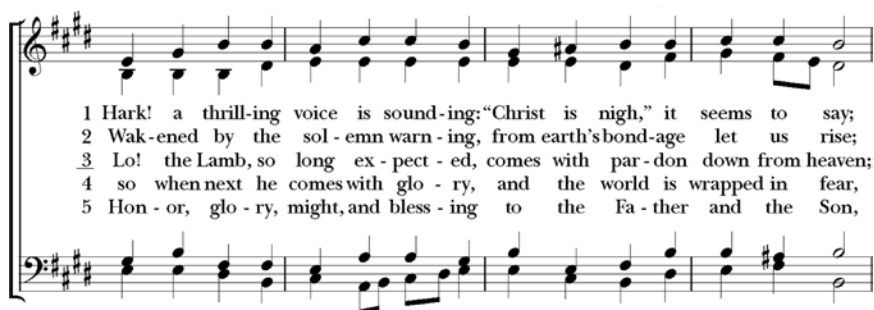
Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



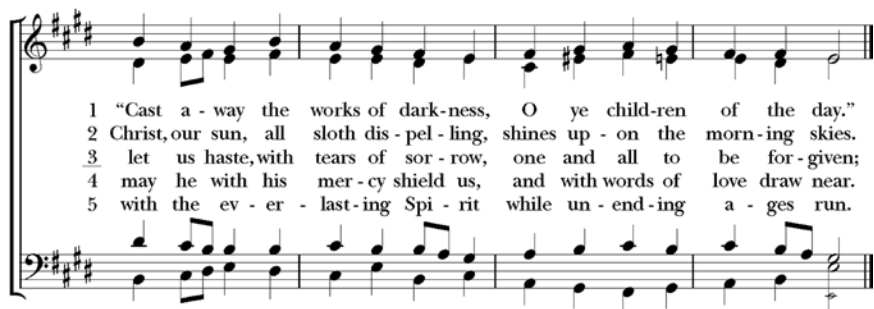
heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heav - en - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*; Martin Luther (1483–1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340–397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812–1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938); These words are in the public domain (Stzs. 1 & 2); Church Publishing Inc.

HYMN 59 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



1 “Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day.”
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - Rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt.; Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823–1889).

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

All kneel.

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 57.....“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788); Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710–1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), alt.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY “Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming”
Johannes Brahms

Personal prayers available at west Side Chapel near Baptismal font after service

SAVE THE DATE

Installation of our New Rector, the Rev. Dane Ethan Boston
Wednesday, Jan. 21 • 6 p.m. • The Church

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In memory of Olive Horne Becker on the anniversary of her birthday
by Linda Lester Griffin



BAPTISMS

Nov. 23 Hannah Lee Arning
Charles Barrett Monday IV
Millie Lahiere Monday
Sterling Collins O'Meara
Westley David Wright



WEDDINGS

Nov. 22 Brindley Elizabeth Mize and Thomas Custis Green

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

CONTINUING PRAYERS

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:

Crocket Abraham	John Love	Patel Vinod C.
Shelly Bain	Patrick Maehs	Mary Watters
Ken Beadell	James Masten	Cei Anne Whitlock
Cory Blackman	Jane McAfee	Bob Wright
Gary Browning	Barbara and Bob McClellan	Eric Zoerb
Julia Butler	Janet McDaniel	Angela
Karen Tomfohrde Carey	Adams McHenry	Atticus
Gene Cooley	Frank Melchor	David
Gail Cunningham	Kae Nakisa	Henry
Bobby de Sosa	Bob Paddock	Jane
Linda de Sosa	Kim Parshall	Lynne
Charlotte Dion	Colin Peoples	Mark
Stacey and John Elliott	Ophelia Pujol	Nancy
Susan Garrett	Mary Sommers Pyne	Sally
Judy Gerrish	Phyllis Reinhardt	Stephen
Nancy Gore	Blanca and Jason Rivera	Susan
Susan and Aart Gosma	John Roady	Wayne
Cynthia Graham	J.R. Rodriguez	
The Rev. Alex Graham	Maggie Rodriguez	
Bette Haidusek	Hank Roper	
Nancy Hall	Consuelo Saldana	
Wayne Hall	Angela Salinas	
Nancy Haywood	Margaret Salinas	
Muffi Henschel	Lynne Sanyoto	
Aaron Holbrook	Sherie Sardis	
Leota Mae Hopkins	Bill Schwaiger	
Laurie Howard	Helen and Jim Shaffer	
Denise Hunnell	Caroline Shanahan	
Wendy Hunt	Clif Shoemake	
Naomi Illeman	Terrie Smith	
Sara Jabbari	Marc Sony	
Mary and Jim Jennings	Mitch Starkey	
Susan and Chester Keeton	Dolly Steinman	
Dick Kilday	Michael Stern	
Diane Knutzen	Janis and James Stokes	
Alex and Trip Larzelere	Norma Taylor	
Rhea Latta	Betty Tutor	
Bruce Michael Lee	Scarlett and Luke Tyler	
Mary Lehman	Rose Vaile	
Julie Long	Van Valentine	

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.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

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

Col. Julian Benton	Lt. Jonathan Lesieur	CPO Brian Powell
1LT. Tom Cadwallender	Charles Lewis	1st Lt. S. Jeffers Shaper
1LT. Yonatan Cadwallender	Capt. Jack Mullen	CPO Evan Tomlin
Capt. Casey Gainer	Capt. Alex Mullen	
CDR Bradley Hoffman	PFC Parris F. Owen	
LTC Wesley J. Hunnell	SrA James W. Peoples	
1st Lt. Stephen A. Jeckovich	Lt. Paul Piana	
Major Blake J. Kidd	PFC Alex Pickett	
Cadet George N. Kinder	Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant	

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.

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.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer • 8:30 a.m.

Evening Prayer • 4:30 p.m.

Christ Chapel

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist • 7 a.m. and noon

Christ Chapel

NEXT TWO WEEKS AT ST. MARTIN'S

ADULTS

SUNDAY

- ▶ **8+** *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • 8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall*
- ▶ **Theology for Life** *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • 10:15 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall*

MONDAY

- ▶ **Saintly Stitches** *Dec. 1 and 8 • 10 a.m. • Activity Center Upper Hall East*
- ▶ **Global Prayer Group** *Dec. 1 and 8 • 1:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ **Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group** *Dec. 1 • 3 p.m. • Hope and Healing Center Room 103*

TUESDAY

- ▶ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** *Dec. 2 and 9 • 9 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room*
- ▶ **Rector's Bible Study** *Dec. 2 and 9 • Noon • Student Life Center*
- ▶ **Kids' Meals** *Dec. 2 • 4 p.m. • Parish Life Center Kitchen*

WEDNESDAY

- ▶ **Morning Prayer Group** *Dec. 3 and 10 • 8 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall C*
- ▶ **Blanket Ladies** *Dec. 3 and 10 • 10 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room*
- ▶ **Docent Tour**
Wednesday Dec. 3 and 10 • 11 a.m. • The Church Narthex
Sunday Dec. 7 • 12:30 p.m. • The Church Narthex
- ▶ **St. Clare's Guild** *Dec. 3 and 10 • Noon • Activity Center Upper Hall East*
- ▶ **Faith in Literature Day Group** *Dec. 10 • 1 p.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ **OSL Study Group** *Dec. 10 • 4:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ **St. Martin's 20s & 30s** *Dec. 3 and 10 • 7 p.m. • Children's Life Center*

THURSDAY

- ▶ **Deep Roots Book Study** *Dec. 4 • 6:15 p.m. • Student Life Center Living Room*
- ▶ **Parish Choir** *Dec. 4 and 11 • 7 p.m. • The Music Center Rehearsal Hall*

NEXT TWO WEEKS AT ST. MARTIN'S

MEN

THURSDAY

- ▶ **Men of St. Martin's** *Dec. 4 and 11 • 7 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall*
- ▶ **Dads' Bible Study** *Dec. 4 and 11 • 8 a.m. • Welcome Center*

WOMEN

TUESDAY

- ▶ **CLS Evening Group** *Dec. 2 and 9 • 6:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center*

WEDNESDAY

- ▶ **The Moms' Group** *Dec. 3 and 10 • 9:30 a.m. • Student Life Center Living Room*

THURSDAY

- ▶ **CLS Day Group** *Dec. 4 • 9:30 a.m. • Parish Life Center*

STUDENTS

SUNDAY

- ▶ **Sunday Get-Togethers** *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • 10:15 a.m. • Student Life Center*
- ▶ **Youth Choir** *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • 10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

WEDNESDAY

- ▶ **Life Groups** *Dec. 3 and 10 • 6 p.m. • Student Life Center*

CHILDREN

SUNDAY

- ▶ **Childcare** *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • 8 a.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ **Sunday School** *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • 10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ **Young Singers** *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 • 8:30 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

VISIT SMEC.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS



[smec.org/
learn](https://smec.org/learn)

Christian Education



[smec.org/
events](https://smec.org/events)

Upcoming Events



[smec.org/
outreach](https://smec.org/outreach)

Outreach Opportunities



SUNDAY, NOV. 30 | 4–6 P.M. | STUDENT LIFE CENTER

Pancakes will be served from 4–5:30 p.m.

Please join us for an Advent celebration! Advent wreath making, ornament crafts and a photo booth will be available.

Fresh evergreens and supplies will be available to make a family Advent wreath.

Contact: Rozlyn Cline • rmcline@smec.org • 713-985-3816

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, Dec. 6 • 10 a.m.–Noon • Parish Life Center

Hosted by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's

Come celebrate the true magic of the season — the birth of Jesus — with joy, laughter and wonder! This family-friendly celebration is perfect for kids 12 and under.

Join us for: A joyful reading of the Christmas Story • Creative Christmas crafts
Festive train rides and bounce house • Face-painting • A special visit from Santa Claus!



Contact: Valerie Rivera • vriviera@smec.org • 713-985-3817



INFORMATION SESSION

Spring Break El Salvador Family Mission Trip

SUNDAY, DEC. 7 • 10:15 A.M.
Activity Center, Family Room

Come hear about the El Salvador mission trip in March 2026 led by the Rev. Gregory Cross to serve with Kurt Ackermann's organization, Sus Hijos.

CONTACT

Courtney Kearns
worldmission@smec.org
713-985-3819



Taizé

PRAYER SERVICE

SUNDAY, DEC. 7
5 p.m. • Christ Chapel

Join us this fall to reflect and hear from the Lord through the contemplative sounds of Taizé Prayer. Through chant-like songs, Scripture and silent meditation, this quiet and prayerful time will nourish your soul!

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



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CELEBRATE

CHRISTMAS

AT ST. MARTIN'S

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES | Wednesday, Dec. 24

Family Table Service 9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

Christmas Pageant 11 a.m. • The Church

Traditional Services 1, 3:30*, 6 and 8:30 p.m. • The Church

Riverway Service 1:30 p.m., Carols Sing-along
2 p.m., Worship Service • Parish Life Center

*Christmas Eve childcare available for six-week-olds through three-year-olds
for all services except 8:30 p.m.*

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE | Thursday, Dec. 25

11 a.m. • The Church

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS | Sunday, Dec. 28

Traditional Spoken Service

8 a.m. • The Church

Combined Family Table and Traditional Service

9:15 a.m. • The Church

Combined Riverway and Traditional Service

11:15 a.m.* • The Church

The 6 p.m. service will not be offered in observance of the New Year's holiday.

Childcare available for six-week-olds through three-year-olds for all services.

** These service will be livestreamed.*

Visit smec.org/christmas for more details.

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. David Henning

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Mr. Keith Lathrom

Choral Director of the Adult Choir
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Ms. Hannah Cen

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Mrs. Rozlyn Cline

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Mrs. Kathy Johnson

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Mrs. Barbara Piana

Verger and Worship Coordinator
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ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Ms. Sherrie Perkins, *Senior Warden*
Mr. Logan Walters, *Junior Warden*
Mrs. Susan McConn, *Missions Chair*
Mr. David Leonard, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Courtney Schilling, *Clerk*
Mr. Dan Meyer, *Senior Council President*
Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*
Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor**

Vestry Members

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mrs. Hunter Bell
Mrs. Kathy Bennett
Mrs. Summer Craig
Mr. Mike Fuqua
Mr. Will Hedges
The Hon. Edith Jones
Mr. John Maclay, Jr.
Mrs. Debbie Robinson
Mr. Milton West

Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry**
Mr. Charles Kraft, *Senior Council Representative 2025-2026*
Mr. Steffen van Keppel, *Senior Council Representative 2025-2026*
Mrs. Moira Davis, *Altar Guild President 2025-2026*
Mrs. Whitney Gormley, *ECW President 2025-2026*
Mr. Jim Drew, *Men of St. Martin's President 2025-2026*
Mr. John Sutherland, *Usher Representative 2024-2026*

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



Ms. Sherrie Perkins
Vestry Representative
Morning



Mr. Will Hedges
Vestry Representative
Evening

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ
The Head of This Church



The Rev. Dane E. Boston
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lthough@smec.org



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The Rev. Martin J. Bastian
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The Rev. Gregory W. Cross
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The Rev. R. Wesley Arning
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The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr.
Pastoral Associate
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