

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

---

*December 7, 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:vriviera@smec.org).

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

# HOLY EUCHARIST

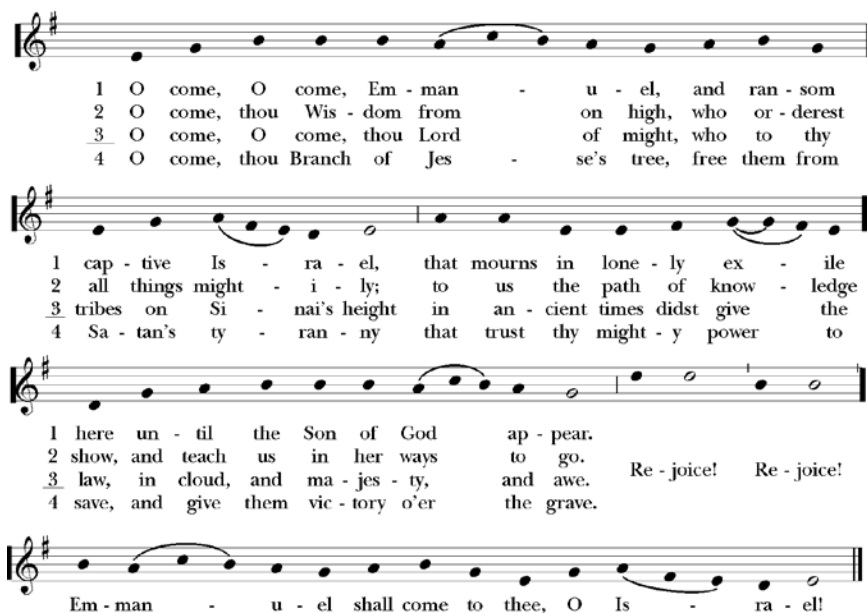
*As found beginning on page 323 in the Book of Common Prayer*

*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” Dietrich Buxtehude

*The people stand as the procession begins.*

## \*HYMN 56 .....“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



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.

**Celebrant:** Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

**People:** **His mercy endureth for ever.**

## 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.**

# KYRIE

(8 a.m.)

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

(9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)



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

# 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*

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

# THE OLD TESTAMENT ..... Isaiah 11:1-10, KJV

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth:

with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE ..... Romans 15:4-13, KJV

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God. Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM.....Psalm 72, Coverdale  
*(said at 8 a.m., sung at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.)*



- 1 Give the King thy | judgements, • O | God: \*  
 and thy righteousness | unto • the | King's | son.
- 2 Then shall he judge thy people acc- | ording • unto | right, \*  
 - | and de- | fend the | poor.
- 3 The mountains also | shall bring | peace, \*  
 and the little hills | righteous- • ness | unto • the | people.
- 4 He shall keep the simple folk | by their | right, \*  
 defend the children of the | poor, and | punish • the |  
 wrongdoer.
- 5 They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and | moon en- |  
 dureth, \*  
 from one gener- | ation | to an- | other.
- 6 He shall come down like the rain into a | fleece of | wool, \*  
 even as the drops that | wä- | ter the | earth.
- 7 In his time shall the | righteous | flourish, \*  
 yea, and abundance of peace, so | long as • the | moon  
 en- | dureth.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, even the | God of | Israel, \*  
 which only | doeth | wondrous | things;
- 19 And blessed be the Name of his | majesty • for | ever: \*  
 and all the earth shall be filled with his majesty. | Amen,  
 | Ä- | men.

*All stand.*

\*HYMN 66 ..... “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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

1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spi-rit rule in all our hearts a-lone;  
 from our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.  
 by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788); Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andſchttige und Schöne Gesange*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793–1870), alt.

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

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

THE GOSPEL ..... Matthew 3:1-12, KJV

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these



stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united  
in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory to the world.  
Lord, in thy mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of  
justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the  
common good. Lord, in thy mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as thy own creation, that we may  
use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy honor and  
glory. Lord, in thy mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially \_\_\_, and  
grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he  
loves us. Lord, in thy mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those in the hospital \_\_; and give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of thy salvation. Lord, in thy mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled, especially \_\_; and we give thee thanks for their lives and pray for their loved ones left behind. Lord, in thy mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

We pray for for Sarah, the Archbishop-elect of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector and Brian, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Church of Bangladesh; for persecuted Christians; for all bishops, priests and deacons. For Donald, our President, Greg, our Governor, John, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts; for all who serve in our armed forces and their families; for an end to war and conflict; for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers, \_\_\_\_.

I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

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

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **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..... “Rejoice in the Lord Alway”  
Anonymous

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men. The Lord is e’en at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in all prayer and supplication let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

Text: Philippians 4:4-7. Edited by E.H. Fellowes. Revised edition by Peter Le Huray and David Willcocks. Music: Anonymous. (16th c.)  
© 1966 Oxford University Press.

## 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 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 *(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.)*

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The first staff contains the words 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord'. The second staff contains 'God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy'. The third staff contains 'glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.'. The fourth staff contains 'Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the'. The fifth staff contains 'Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.'.

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.**

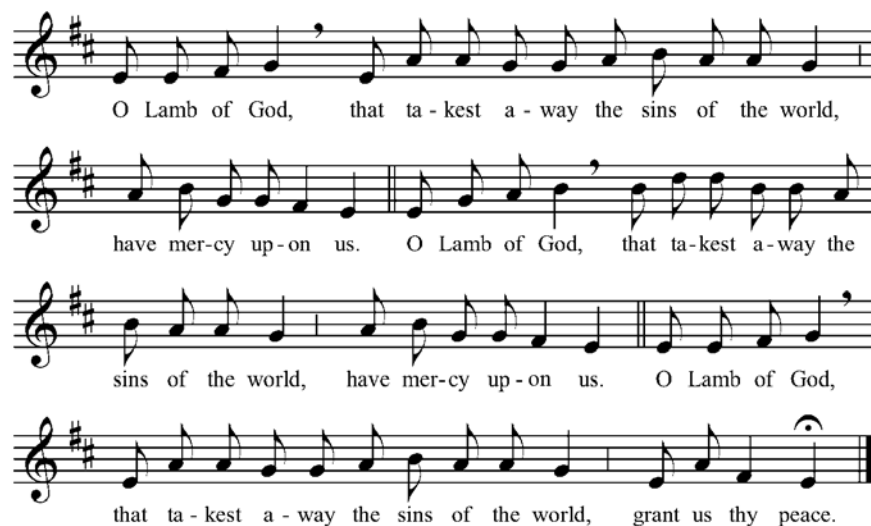
Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

**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.*

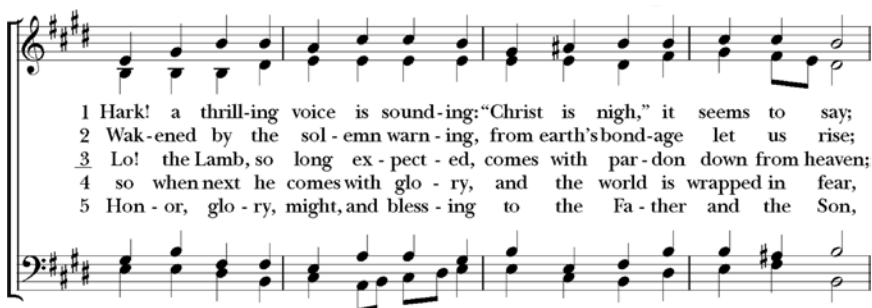
**If you are unable to come to the Altar Rail, please alert an Usher and Communion will be brought to you.**

A N T H E M ..... “A Tender Shoot”  
Kerensa Briggs

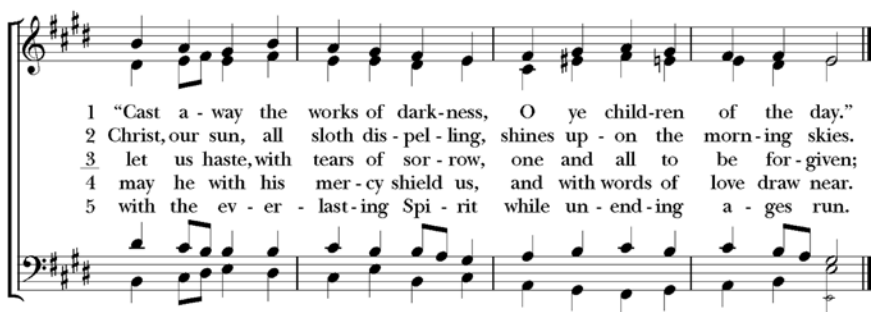
A tender shoot hath started up from a root of grace, as ancient seers imparted, from Jesse’s holy race, it blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter, turning our darkness into light. This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse’s root should spring; the Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing; our God of endless might gave her this child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.

Text: German 15th Century, versified by Otto Goldschmidt (1829–1907), translated by William Bartholomew (1793–1867). Music by Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991) © 2021 by Boosey and Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.

# 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-lemn warn-ing, from earth’s bond-age let us rise;  
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-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,



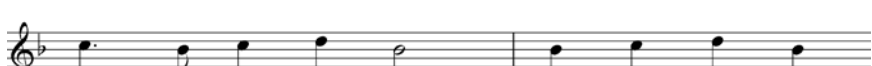
1 “Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day.”  
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;  
 4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
 5 with the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


# 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



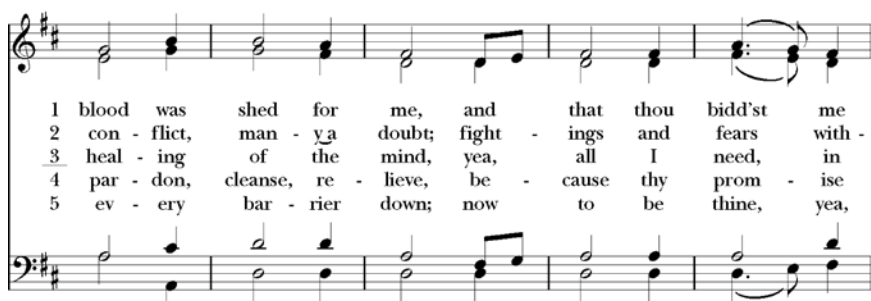
heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma-ry's son, ea-ger now his race to run!  
 hell de-scends, then the heav-en-ly throne a-scends.  
 king-dom be; grant that we its glo-ries see.

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 693.....“Just As I Am”



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya  
 \* 3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,  
 4 Just as I am: thou wilt re - ceive; wilt wel - come,  
 5 Just as I am, thy love un - known has bro - ken



1 blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me  
 2 con - flict, man - ya doubt; fight - ings and fears with -  
 3 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in  
 4 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause thy prom - ise  
 5 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,



1 come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 2 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 3 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 4 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 5 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am, of thy great love  
 the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
 here for a season, then above:  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789–1871); Music: *Woodworth*, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868).

*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 76 ..... “On Jordan’s Bank”

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944), after John Chandler (1806–1876); alt.; Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889); alt.

## THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY ..... “In Thee is Gladness”

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

# RECOGNITIONS

---



## FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In memory of Chase Gardner

by Anne and Jim Gardner and family



## BIRTHS

Nov. 6     Marjorie Mae Wooldridge

Daughter of Mary Carolyn Wooldridge

Granddaughter of Ann and John Wooldridge

Great-granddaughter of Marjorie Johnson

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

## SAVE THE DATE

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

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

---

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

---

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](mailto: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





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 services will be livestreamed.*

Visit [smec.org/christmas](https://smec.org/christmas) for more details.

# NEXT TWO WEEKS AT ST. MARTIN'S

---

## ADULTS

### SUNDAY

- ▶ **8+** *Dec. 7 and 14 • 8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall*
- ▶ **Theology for Life** *Dec. 7 and 14 • 10:15 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall*
- ▶ **Mission Trip Information Session** *Dec. 7 • 10:15 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room*
- ▶ **Contemplative Prayer** *Dec. 14 • 10:15 a.m. • Levenson Pastoral Care Center Bride's Parlor*

### MONDAY

- ▶ **Blood Drive** *Dec. 15 • 9 a.m. • Activity Center Game Room*
- ▶ **Saintly Stitchers** *Dec. 8 and 15 • 10 a.m. • Activity Center Upper Hall East*
- ▶ **Global Prayer Group** *Dec. 8 and 15 • 1:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ **Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group** *Dec. 15 • 3 p.m. • Hope and Healing Center Room 103*

### TUESDAY

- ▶ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** *Dec. 9 and 16 • 9 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room*
- ▶ **Rector's Bible Study** *Dec. 9 and 16 • Noon • Student Life Center*

### WEDNESDAY

- ▶ **Morning Prayer Group** *Dec. 10 and 17 • 8 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall C*
- ▶ **Blanket Ladies** *Dec. 10 and 17 • 10 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room*
- ▶ **Docent Tour** *Dec. 10 and 17 • 11 a.m. • The Church Narthex*
- ▶ **St. Clare's Guild** *Dec. 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. 10 and 17 • 7 p.m. • Children's Life Center*

### THURSDAY

- ▶ **Parish Choir** *Dec. 11 and 18 • 7 p.m. • The Music Center Rehearsal Hall*

# NEXT TWO WEEKS AT ST. MARTIN'S

---

## MEN

### TUESDAY

- ▶ Kids' Meals *Dec. 16 • 4 p.m. • Parish Life Center Kitchen*

### THURSDAY

- ▶ Men of St. Martin's *Dec. 11 • 7 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall*
- ▶ Dads' Bible Study *Dec. 11 and 18 • 8 a.m. • Welcome Center*

## WOMEN

### TUESDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

## STUDENTS

### SUNDAY

- ▶ Sunday Get-Togethers *Dec. 7 and 14 • 10:15 a.m. • Student Life Center*
- ▶ Youth Choir *Dec. 7 and 14 • 10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

### WEDNESDAY

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

## CHILDREN

### SUNDAY

- ▶ Childcare *Dec. 7 and 14 • 8 a.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ Young Singers *Dec. 7 and 14 • 8:30 a.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ Sunday School *Dec. 7 and 14 • 10:15 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

# 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](mailto:relhakam@smec.org) • 713-830-4146

*All women members of St. Martin's are invited to a*

## Christmas Coffee



HOSTED BY THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF ST. MARTIN'S

**Monday, December 8 • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**At the home of Lisa and Bob Heston**

*Christmas casual attire • Carpooling is highly encouraged • Valet parking will be offered*



In the spirit of the season, please bring an unwrapped gift for children ages 5–17 or gift cards.

For address, please RSVP to Valerie Rivera at [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org) or 713-985-3817.

# ADVENT

## QUIET DAY

**GATHER WITH THOSE AROUND THE MANGER**

SPONSORED BY THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING®

**SATURDAY, DEC. 13 | 9 A.M. – NOON**

**PARISH LIFE CENTER**

Gather at the manger for sacred reflections,  
silent prayer and Noonday Prayer as we await  
Christ's birth.



**The Rev. Sharron S. Cox**  
scox@smec.org • 713-830-4131



# HOUSTON BOYCHOIR



**SATURDAY, DEC. 13 • 4 P.M. • THE CHURCH**

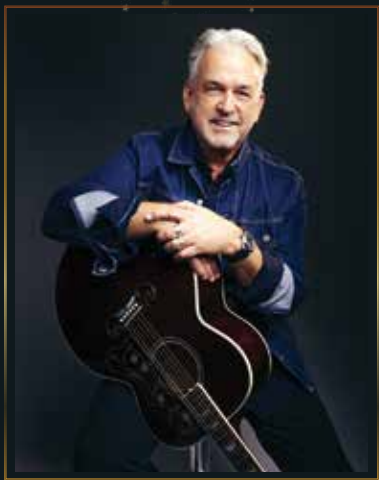
Celebrate the holiday season with the Houston Boychoir.  
Listen to traditional Christmas music from three choirs that  
make up the group: the precious Preparatory Choir, the  
delightful Chamber Choir and the amazing Olde Boys.



**Contact:** Carole Nelson  
cnelson@smec.org • 346-335-8677







## Come Celebrate Christmas with Wayne & Friends

Sunday, December 14  
7 p.m. Parish Life Center

Experience a beautiful, hope-filled night of Christmas music with Dove Award-winning Christian artist Wayne Watson, accompanied by some of Houston's finest musicians.

Join us for a free, unforgettable evening of music celebrating the Birth of Christ.

*Please bring Bibles and Christmas wrapping paper to donate to Houston International Seafarers Center.*

# BLUE CHRISTMAS

Thursday, Dec. 18  
6 p.m. • Christ Chapel

Our Blue Christmas service offers a sacred space to acknowledge the “blue” feelings of the season and offer them to God. Held near the winter solstice, the longest night of the year, we gather in prayer, candlelight, and quiet music — a community united in vulnerability and hope.

Together, we invite Emmanuel, God-with-us, to bring light into our darkness.



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

# 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

### **Mrs. Rozlyn Cline**

*Director of Children's Ministry*  
rmcline@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**

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*



**Mrs. Susan McConn**  
*Vestry Representative*  
*Morning*



**Mr. Scott Anderson**  
*Vestry Representative*  
*Evening*

# OUR CLERGY

---

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



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



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



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



**The Rev. Sharron L. Cox**  
*Associate for Spiritual Formation and  
Pastoral Ministries*  
scox@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. Gregory W. Cross**  
*Curate*  
gcross@smec.org



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



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

---

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

SMEC.ORG

