

RIVERWAY AND TRADITIONAL SERVICE

December 28, 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 Riverway Band

The people stand as the procession begins.

*HYMN 93 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854), alt.; Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813–1879).

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 11:15 a.m.*)



Words: Joachim Neander (1650–1680); tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.; Music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*kneel*)

The Celebrant says the Collect

Almighty God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of 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 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive

adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM.....Psalm 147, Coverdale



- 1 O praise the Lord, for it is a good thing to sing praises | unto
• our | God; *
- yea, a joyful and pleasant | thing it | is to • be | thankful.
- 2 The Lord doth | build up • Je- | rusalem, *
- and gather to- | gether • the | out-casts • of | Israel.
- 3 He healeth those that are | broken • in | heart, *
- and giveth | medicine • to | heal their | sickness.
- 4 He telleth the | number • of the | stars, *
- and calleth | them all | by their | names.
- 5 Great is our Lord, and | great is • his | power; *
- yea, | and his | wisdom • is | infinite.
- 6 The Lord setteth | up the | meek, *
- and bringeth the un- | godly | down to • the | ground.
- 7 O sing unto the | Lord with • thanks- | giving, *
- sing praises upon the | harp un- | to our | God;
- 8 Who covereth the heaven with clouds, and prepareth | rain
• for the | earth; *
- and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains, and |
herb • for the | use of | men;
- 9 Who giveth fodder | unto • the | cattle, *
- and feedeth the young | ravens • that | call up- | on him.
- 10 He hath no pleasure in the | strength of • an | horse; *
- neither delighteth | he in | any • man's | legs.

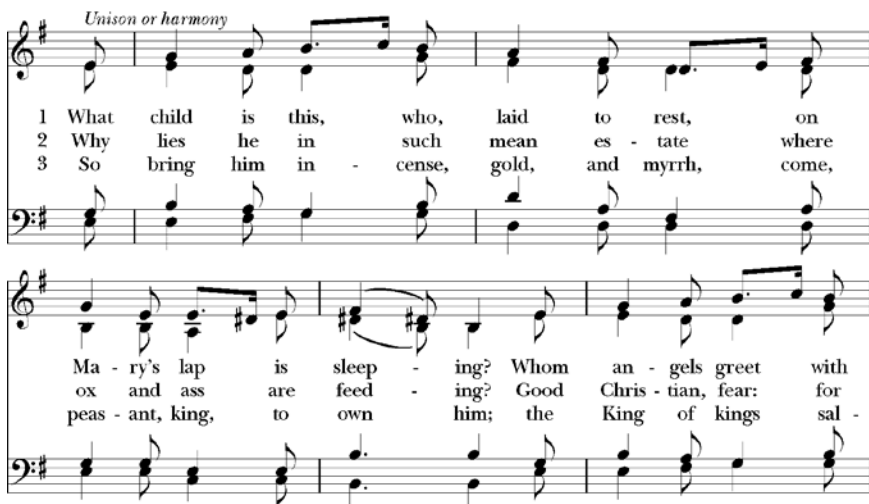
- 11 But the Lord's delight is in | them that | fear him, *
and put their | trust | in his | mercy.
- 12 Praise the | Lord, • O Je- | rusalem; *
praise thy | Göd, | Ö | Sion.
- 13 For he hath made fast the | bars of • thy | gates, *
and hath | blessed thy | children • with- | in thee.
- 14 He maketh | peace in • thy | borders, *
and filleth thee | with the | flour of | wheat.
- 15 He sendeth forth his | commandment • upon | earth, *
and his | word • runneth | very | swiftly.
- 16 He giveth | snow like | wool, *
and | scattereth • the | hoar-frost • like | ashes.
- 17 He casteth forth his | ice like | morsels: *
who is | able • to a- | bide his | frost?
- 18 He sendeth out his word, and | melteth | them: *
he bloweth with his | wind, • and the | waters | flow.
- 19 He sheweth his | word • unto | Jacob, *
his | statutes • and | ordinances • unto | Israel.
- 20 He hath not dealt so with | any | nation; *
neither have the heathen | knowledge | of his | laws.

All stand.

*HYMN 115 "What Child is This"

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

Unison or harmony



1 What child is this, who laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: W. C. Dix; Music: *Greensleeves*, English Melody.

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELJohn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Conclusion of Sequence hymn

THE SERMON

*THE NICENE CREED



I be-lieve in God The Fath-er al-migh-ty and in Christ His on-ly Son, our Lord.

5



Con-ceived by the Spir - it born of the Vir - gin

9



Ma-ry, His moth-er acc - cor-ding to God's word He suf-fered un-der Pi-late,

13



cru-ci-fied and bur-ied, de - cen-ded in - to hell, then a - rose and conquered death

16



He as - cen-ded in - to hea-ven to the right hand of the Fa - ther and

19



one day He will come to judge the quick and the dead. And I be-lieve in the

23



Ho-ly Ghost, One ho-ly church the gath-ring of the saints, the for-give-ness of sin.

27



And I be-lieve one day we will rise to a life ev-ver

33



last - ing with Him. to a life ev - er - last - ing with Him

Words and Music by Wayne Watson. PUBLISHED by Five Blade Fan Music ASCAP 2023.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kneeling, let us pray to the Lord.

Christ, born for us, Son of God, given for us: Teach us in all your ways so that we may know you, worship and serve you with all our hearts. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Wonderful Counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: Fill your Church with the Spirit of truth and discernment, and empower us to proclaim the goodness of your love. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: Guide the leaders of the nations, and of this nation; may they work for peace and justice until the day you usher in your kingdom of righteousness in its fullness. May your Kingdom come. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: In your great compassion mend broken hearts, and bring about reconciliation to those who long for it; bless our families and renew our communities through the power of your Spirit. May your will be done. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, you bring redemption through your cross: By your healing power, give to those who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those in the hospital, especially _____. We pray for those who have died, especially _____. We pray for those remembered with Altar flowers, especially _____.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **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 also with you.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of man’s desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright, Drawn by Thee our souls aspiring, Soar to uncreated light. Word of God our flesh that fashioned, With the fire of life impassioned. Striving still to Truth unknown, Soaring, dying, round Thy throne. Through the way where Hope is guiding, Hark, what peaceful music rings, Where the flock in Thee confiding, Drink of joy from deathless springs. Theirs is beauty’s fairest pleasure, Theirs is wisdom’s holiest treasure. Thou dost ever lead Thine own, In the love of joys unknown.

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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. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a -

bove ye heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Refrain

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

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

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711); Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. Ralph Vaughan William (1872-1958).

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 give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

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 11:15 a.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 lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics '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.

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

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM



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.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Then may be said together

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 “Strange Way to Save the World”
arr. Wayne Watson

I’m sure he must have been surprised at where this road had taken him. ‘Cause never in a million lives would he have dreamed of Bethlehem. *And standing at the manger, he saw with his own eyes the message from the angel come to life and Joseph said,* “Why me? I’m just a simple man of trade. Why Him with all the rulers in the world? Why here inside this stable filled with hay? Why her? She’s just an ordinary girl. Now, I’m not one to second guess what angels have to say, but this is such a strange way to save the world.” To think of how it could have been if Jesus had come as He deserved. There would have been no Bethlehem, no lowly shepherds at His birth. *But Joseph knew the reason love had to reach so far. And as he held the Savior in his arms he must have thought,* “Why me? I’m just a simple man of trade. Why Him with all the rulers in the world? Why here inside this stable filled with hay? Why her? She’s just an ordinary girl. Now, I’m not one to second guess what angels have to say, but this is such a strange way to save the world. Now, I’m not one to second guess what angels have to say, but this is such a strange way to save the world. Such a strange way, this is such a strange way, a strange way to save the world.

Songwriters: Mark R. Harris / Donald A. Koch / David Allen Clark © 1993 New Spring Publishing Inc., New Spring Publishing, Inc. ASCAP.

INSTRUMENTAL..... “Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming”

HYMN.....“Agnus Dei”



A - le - lu - ia A - le - lu - ia For the Lord God Al - migh - ty
reigns. A - le - lu - ia
A - le - ia for the Lord God Al - migh - ty reigns
A - le - lu - ia Ho - - ly Ho -
ly Are You Lord God Al - migh - ty Wor - thy is the Lamb Wor - thy is the
Lamb You are Ho - ly Ho - ly Are You Lord God Al - migh - -
ty Wor - thy is the Lamb Wor - thy is the Lamb A - men.

Words and Music by Michael W. Smith; 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music.

HYMN.....“I Surrender All”



All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der all to Him I free - ly give
All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der make me Sav - ior whol - ly thine
All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der Lord, I give my - self to thee
I will ev - er love and trust Him in His pre - sence dai - ly live
Let me feel the Ho - ly Spir - it Tra - ly know that thou art mine
Fill me with thy love and pow - er Let thy bless - ing fall on me.
I sur - ren - der all I sur - ren - der all
All to Thee my Bless - ed Sav - ior I sur - ren - der all

Words and Music by Judson Van DeVenter; 1896 Public Domain.

HYMN “Goodness of God”



I love you Lord O your mer - cy ne - ver fails me. all my
I love your voice you have led me through the fire (in'the) dark - est
days I've been held in your hand From the mo - ment that I wake up un-till I lay my
night You were close like no other I have known you as a Fath-er I've known you as-a
head I will sing of the good -ness of God All my life you have been faith -
friend I have lived in the good -ness of God.
ful All my life you hae been so, so good With ever - y breath that I am a -
ble I will sing of the good - ness of God.

Words and Music by Jason Ingram, Ed Cash, Ben Fielding, Jen Johnson, Brian Johnson; 2018 Bethel Music Publishing ASCAP / Fellow Ships Music SESAC / So Essential Tunes SESAC / Alletrop Music BMI / SHOUT! Music APRA.

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.

THE BLESSING

All stand.

HYMN 100.....“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts; Music: *Antioch*, G.F. Händel.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY Riverway Band

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for Jennifer, Ron, Parker and Larson, Jones and Sara, Brandon and Bradley Stelleges

by Mr. and Mrs. Rod Barnes

In thanksgiving for Margaret and Jim Hutton on their birthdays

by the family, Heather and Jeff Namendorf

In memory of Kathryn and Dr. Benjamin F. Barnes and Ruth and the Rev. Robert G. Dickson

by Mr. and Mrs. Rod Barnes

In memory of Jane and Marvin Moreland

by Robert, Imma, Ana and Jamie Moreland



BIRTHS

Dec. 1 Rosemary "Rosie" McIlhenny Gibbs

Daughter of Aly and Tracy Gibbs



BAPTISMS

Dec. 21 Claire Athena Donnelly

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	Dick Kilday	Michael Stern
Shelly Bain	Diane Knutzen	Janis and James Stokes
Ken Beadell	Alex and Trip Larzelere	Norma Taylor
Cory Blackman	Rhea Latta	Betty Tutor
Gary Browning	Bruce Michael Lee	Scarlett and Luke Tyler
Julia Butler	Mary Lehman	Rose Vaile
Karen Tomfohrde Carey	Julie Long	Van Valentine
Gene Couley	John Love	Patel Vinod C.
Lynne Couste	Patrick Maehs	Mary Watters
Linda Craig	James Masten	Cei Anne Whitlock
Gail Cunningham	Jane McAfee	Grant Wilborn
Bobby de Sosa	Barbara and Bob McClellan	Eric Zoerb
Linda de Sosa	Janet McDaniel	Angela
Charlotte Dion	Adams McHenry	Atticus
Sydney Eickenroht	Kae Nakisa	David
Stacey and John Elliott	Bob Paddock	Henry
Nancy Ellison	Kim Parshall	Jane
Susan Garrett	Colin Peoples	Kay
Judy Gerrish	Ophelia Pujol	Lynne
Nancy Gore	Mary Sommers Pyne	Mark
Susan and Aart Gosma	Phyllis Reinhardt	Nancy
Cynthia Graham	James Reiss	Sally
The Rev. Alex Graham	Blanca and Jason Rivera	Stephen
Jeffrey "Shea" Guinn	John Roady	Susan
Bette Haidusek	J.R. Rodriguez	Wayne
Nancy Hall	Maggie Rodriguez	
Wayne Hall	Hank Roper	
Nancy Haywood	Consuelo Saldana	
Muffi Henschel	Angela Salinas	
Aaron Holbrook	Margaret Salinas	
Judy Holcomb	Lynne Sanyoto	
Leota Mae Hopkins	Sherie Sardis	
Laurie Howard	Bill Schwaiger	
Brett Hudson	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	

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

The Daily Office is not offered Dec. 24-Jan. 5.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist • 7 a.m. and noon

Christ Chapel



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BY THE GRACE OF GOD
THE PEOPLE, VESTRY AND WARDENS OF
ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
INVITE YOU TO

THE INSTALLATION
OF OUR NEW RECTOR

The Rev. Dane Ethan Boston

The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle
Bishop of Texas, Presiding



Wednesday, the 21st of January
Two Thousand Twenty-Six
Six O'clock in the Evening
St. Martin's Episcopal Church

717 SAGE RD., HOUSTON, TX 77056

Reception to follow in Bagby Parish Hall
Clergy: Green Stoles | *Childcare Available*

Your presence and participation will be a blessing to our entire
Church family as we embark on this new chapter.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11*

NEXT TWO WEEKS AT ST. MARTIN'S

St. Martin's Campus closes at noon Wednesday, Dec. 31 and remains closed through Friday, Jan. 2, in observance of the New Year holiday.

ADULTS

SUNDAY

- ▶ 8+ *Jan. 4 • 8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall*
- ▶ Theology for Life *Jan. 4 • 10:15 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall*
- ▶ Docent Tour *Jan. 4 • Following 11:15 a.m. services • The Church Narthex*

MONDAY

- ▶ Sainly Stitches *Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 • 10 a.m. • Activity Center Upper Hall East*

TUESDAY

- ▶ Prayer Shawl Ministry *Jan. 6 • 9 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room*
- ▶ Rector's Bible Study *Jan. 6 • Noon • Student Life Center*
- ▶ Kids' Meals *Jan. 6 • 4 p.m. • Parish Life Center Kitchen*

WEDNESDAY

- ▶ Morning Prayer Group *Jan. 7 • 8 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall C*
- ▶ Blanket Ladies *Jan. 7 • 10 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room*
- ▶ Docent Tour *Jan. 7 • 11 a.m. • The Church Narthex*
- ▶ St. Clare's Guild *Jan. 7 • Noon • Activity Center Upper Hall East*
- ▶ OSL Healing Prayer Service *Jan. 7 • 5 p.m. • Parish Life Center*
- ▶ St. Martin's 20s & 30s *Jan. 7 • 7 p.m. • Children's Life Center*

THURSDAY

- ▶ Parish Choir *Jan. 8 • 7 p.m. • The Music Center Rehearsal Hall*

NEXT TWO WEEKS AT ST. MARTIN'S

MEN

THURSDAY

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

WOMEN

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

- ▶ The Moms' Group *Jan. 7 • 9:30 a.m. • Student Life Center Living Room*

THURSDAY

- ▶ CLS Day Group *Jan. 8 • 9:30 a.m. • Parish Life Center*

STUDENTS

SUNDAY

- ▶ Sunday Get-Togethers *Jan. 4 • 10:15 a.m. • Student Life Center*
- ▶ Youth Choir *Jan. 4 • 10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

CHILDREN

SUNDAY

- ▶ Childcare *Dec. 29 and Jan. 4 • 8 a.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ Young Singers *Jan. 4 • 8:30 a.m. • Children's Life Center*
- ▶ Sunday School *Jan. 4 • 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

YEAR- END GIVING



The Internal Revenue Service requires that, in order to be tax deductible in 2025, cash, check or credit card contributions to St. Martin's Episcopal Church must be received by the Church or postmarked by the United States Postal Service no later than **Wednesday, Dec. 31**; this includes any payment to your 2025 pledge, prepayment of your 2026 pledge and payment of your Building for the Ages pledge.

The Finance staff is required to check the postal cancellation dates on all receipts in early January to ensure our legal compliance to this rule.



Debbie Hutchison
dhutchison@smec.org
713-985-3803

WORLD MISSIONS MONTH *January 2026*



All Month: Sole Hope Shoe Cutting At-Home Project

Sign-up required at smec.org/sole-hope

Sunday, Jan. 4: Decorate Prayer Postcards

10:15 a.m. • Activity Center Gym

Sunday, Jan. 11: Drü Collie, Co-founder Sole Hope

Family Table and Riverway Services

Sole Hope Shoe Pattern Cutting

10:15 a.m. • Activity Center Gym

Sunday, Jan. 18: Mission Trip Information Session

10:15 a.m. • Activity Center Family Room



Contact: Courtney Kearns • worldmission@smec.org



THE HUMBLE KING

The Life and Teachings of Jesus

Sundays, Jan. 4–Feb. 15

10:15–11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

Continuing with the story of the Bible we began last fall with Genesis, during Epiphany, we'll focus each week on key aspects of the life and teachings of Jesus. The King of God's kingdom has arrived in Israel — what does He reveal about life together in God's kingdom? How does it help us better understand His atoning work on the Cross, which we'll study together in Lent?

Contact: Haley Lynch

hlynch@smec.org • 713-830-4110

THEOLOGY
 LIFE



FEAST OF LIGHTS

SUNDAY, JAN. 11

6 P.M. • THE CHURCH

This beautiful service takes the light of Christ into the world, literally with our actions and symbolically through candles. During the service, acolytes will be commissioned and recognized for their contributions to enhancing services and helping to glorify God.

*The Acolyte Appreciation Dinner takes place before the service.
For more information and to RSVP, please visit smec.org/students.*

ACTIVITY CENTER



Join us during the week for a variety of classes. Our most popular classes often fill up!



Learn more at
smec.org/activity

*Strength Training • Walk-it-Off
Core and More • Tai Chi
Line Dancing with Britt • Zumba
Watercolor Painting • Chair Yoga
Total Body Stretch*

Contact: activitycenter@smec.org
713-985-3835

CAFÉ

ST. MARTIN'S

Enjoy **hot grab and go meals**
Monday–Wednesday and **lunch plate**
entrées on Thursdays.

*Come by and discover delicious
specialties prepared daily by our
café team.*

Questions?
Contact cafe@smec.org.



HOURS

Monday – Thursday
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bagby Parish Hall



View the menu at
smec.org/cafe

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

Mrs. Hannah Fox

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. Summer Craig
Vestry Representative



Ms. Sherrie Perkins
Vestry Representative

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

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