



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **St. Martin's Episcopal Church Expands Sunday Worship Schedule Beginning Sept. 13**

*New weekly Choral Evensong, Children's Chapel and the return of Sunday Morning Prayer create a fuller schedule designed to welcome worshipers of all ages.*

Houston, TX — August 14, 2026 — St. Martin's Episcopal Church will expand its Sunday worship schedule beginning Sunday, Sept. 13, offering new opportunities for worship, music, fellowship and formation while preserving the parish's existing services.



The Rev. Dane E. Boston  
Fifth Rector,  
St. Martin's Episcopal Church

The expanded schedule reflects St. Martin's commitment to providing a rich and diverse life of worship for a growing parish community. From traditional Anglican liturgy and choral music to contemporary worship and family-centered gatherings, the new Sunday schedule offers people of every age and stage of life more opportunities to worship, learn and grow together.

"Worship is the beating heart of Christian life," said the Rev. Dane E. Boston, St. Martin's Fifth Rector. "Our prayer is that these new opportunities will draw people closer to God and to one another and strengthen the Body of Christ in faith and service."

### **New Sunday Offering and Schedule Changes**

Beginning Sept. 13, the **9 a.m. Traditional service in The Church** will return to **Morning Prayer with a sermon, hymns and the Parish Choir**, on most Sundays. The service will continue to be Holy Eucharist on the first Sunday of each month. The return of Morning Prayer offers a historic Anglican form of worship while providing a service that reliably lasts one hour, helping worshipers participate in Sunday School and other formation opportunities beginning at 10:15 a.m. The service will also create additional opportunities for young people to participate in the leadership of worship as acolytes, lectors, choristers, prayer leaders and ushers.

At **11:15 a.m.**, both the **Traditional Holy Eucharist in The Church** and **Riverway Contemporary Holy Eucharist in the Parish Life Center** will introduce **Children's Chapel for children in kindergarten through fifth grade**. Children will begin worship with their families before being invited to join adult leaders for an age-appropriate message just before the sermon. Following Children's Chapel, they will return to worship with their families for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. "The new offering is intended to allow families to worship together while giving children an opportunity to hear and engage with the Gospel suited to their age," explained the Rev. Boston.

The parish will also introduce a new weekly **4 p.m. Choral Evensong in The Church**. Featuring the Parish Choir, led by Music Director Keith Lathrom, with Principal Organist John Meier playing the Gloria Dei organ, the service will include hymns and anthems, chanted



Psalms, Scripture readings, prayers and a special sermon series. Drawing on the rich musical and liturgical tradition of Anglican Evensong, the inaugural Evensong series, “Teach Us to Pray: Sermons on the Lord’s Prayer,” will begin this fall.

Following Evensong, St. Martin’s will offer a new **5 p.m. fellowship and formation gathering in Bagby Parish Hall**, providing an opportunity for conversation, community-building and spiritual growth before the 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist. To support the musical resources devoted to weekly Choral Evensong, the **6 p.m. Holy Eucharist will become a simple spoken service without music**, similar to the 8 a.m. service. “This change will allow St. Martin’s to offer the musical richness of Evensong while continuing to provide a quiet, traditional Eucharist service in the evening,” stated the Rev. Boston.

### What Remains the Same

While the Sunday schedule is expanding, most of St. Martin’s existing Sunday worship offerings will remain unchanged.

8 a.m. — Traditional Holy Eucharist without music in The Church

9:15 a.m. — Family Table Holy Eucharist with contemporary music in the Parish Life Center

10:15 a.m. — Sunday School for children, youth, and adults across campus

11:15 a.m. — Traditional Holy Eucharist with hymns and choir in The Church

11:15 a.m. — Riverway Holy Eucharist with contemporary music, Parish Life Center

The only substantive changes to existing Sunday services are the **shift in format at 9 a.m. and the addition of the 4 p.m. Choral Evensong**. The 11:15 a.m. services will also now include Children’s Chapel, while the 6 p.m. service will be offered without music.

### A Place for Everyone

St. Martin’s emphasizes that all worship services are open to everyone. While individual liturgies may be designed with particular members of the community in mind, the parish welcomes people of every age and stage of life across its worship offerings. Infants and young children participate throughout the Sunday schedule, while children, teenagers, young adults, families, empty-nesters and older adults contribute to and participate in worship across the parish’s traditional and contemporary services.

The expanded schedule is intended to make it easier for worshipers to engage in multiple aspects of parish life throughout the day — from Sunday morning worship and formation to afternoon Evensong, fellowship and evening Eucharist. “Our hope is not simply to offer more services, but to create more opportunities for people to praise God, encounter Scripture, grow in faith and build community together,” said the Rev. Boston. “All are welcome to join our family of faithful followers of Christ.”

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### About St. Martin’s

St. Martin’s is an Episcopal Parish committed to worship, formation, fellowship and service in the name of Jesus Christ. Since its founding in 1952 by the Rev. J. Thomas Bagby, St. Martin’s has grown to become the largest Episcopal congregation in North America, serving more than 10,000 members. The Rev. Dane E. Boston began his ministry at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church on Aug. 1, 2025 after moving to Houston from Columbia, South Carolina where he was the sixth Dean of Trinity Cathedral.