CHORAL EVENSONG

The Observance of
The Patronal Feast of Saint Martin
and Veterans Day

November 8, 2026 **4 p.m.**

In the Name of Christ Jesus, welcome to Choral Evensong at St. Martin's Episcopal Church!
May all who gather here be nourished by this service of prayer, scripture, sermon, and music.

A Prayer Before Worship

ALMIGHTY God, who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 833

Organ Prelude

"Voluntary on Shades Mountain" — K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)
"Nimrod" from *Enigma Variations* — Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

The People stand for the Hymn in Procession

Hymn in Procession

718



Words: Daniel Crane Roberts (1841-1907)
Music: *National Hymn,* George William Warren (1828-1902)

Opening Sentence

YE are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God.

Ephesians 2:19

Preces and Responses

Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.
Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Officiant: Praise ye the Lord.
Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

Setting by Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)

The People are seated as the Choir sings the Appointed Psalm

Appointed Psalm

Psalm 112

Beatus vir

BLESSED is the man that feareth the Lord: he hath great delight in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the faithful shall be blessed. Riches and plenteousness shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. Unto the godly there ariseth up light in the darkness: he is merciful, loving, and righteous. A good man is merciful, and lendeth: and will guide his words with discretion. For he shall never be moved: and the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance. He will not be afraid of any evil tidings: for his heart standeth fast, and believeth in the Lord. His heart is established, and will not shrink: until he sees his desire upon his enemies. He hath dispersed abroad, and given to the poor: and his righteousness remaineth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. The ungodly shall see it, and it shall grieve him: he shall gnash with his teeth and consume away; the desire of the ungodly shall perish.

All stand

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Setting by John Randall (1716-1799)

All sit for the first lesson

The First Lesson

Ecclesiasticus 2:7-18

YE that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; go not aside, lest ye fall. Ye that fear the Lord, believe him; and your reward shall not fail. Ye that fear the Lord, hope for good, and for everlasting joy and mercy. Look at the generations of old, and see; did ever any trust in the Lord, and was confounded? or did any abide in his fear, and was forsaken? or whom did he ever despise, that called upon him? For the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, longsuffering, and very pitiful, and forgiveth sins, and saveth in time of affliction. Woe be to fearful hearts, and faint hands, and the sinner that goeth two ways! Woe unto him that is fainthearted! for he believeth not; therefore shall he not be defended. Woe unto you that have lost patience! and what will ye do when the Lord shall visit you? They that fear the Lord will not disobey his word; and they that love him will keep his ways. They that fear the Lord will seek that which is wellpleasing unto him; and they that love him shall be filled with the law. They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and humble their souls in his sight, Saying, We will fall into the hands of the Lord, and not into the hands of men: for as his majesty is, so is his mercy.

Lector: Here endeth the lesson.

All stand for the Song of Mary

The Song of Mary

"Magnificat in D" George Dyson (1883-1964)

MY SOUL DOTH MAGNIFY THE LORD, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

All sit for the second lesson

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-21

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is

written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Lector: Here endeth the lesson.

All stand for the Song of Simeon

The Song of Simeon

"Nunc Dimittis in D" George Dyson

LORD, NOW LETTEST THOU THY SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lesser Litany

Philip Radcliffe

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
Choir: And with thy spirit.
Officiant: Let us pray.

The People kneel

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

OUR Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Suffrages

Officiant: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir: And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant: O Lord, save the State.
Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant: O Lord, save thy people.
Choir: And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Officiant: O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collect of the Day

LORD God of hosts, who didst clothe thy servant Martin the soldier with the spirit of sacrifice, and didst set him as a bishop in thy Church to be a defender of the catholic faith: Give us grace to follow in his holy steps, that at the last we may be found clothed with righteousness in the dwellings of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Collect for Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Collect for Aid against All Perils

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Authorized Intercessions

A Prayer for those in the Armed Forces of our Country

ALMIGHTY God, we commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thy abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

A Prayer for our Country

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

The Officiant continues

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen**.

Benedicamus Domino

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God**.

Sentence of Scripture

The Officiant continues

GLORY to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20,21

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn

579



Words: Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting (1825-1878, alt.; sts. 2-3, Robert Nelson Spencer (1877-1961), alt.
Music: *Melita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

Sermon The Rev. John R. Bentley Jr.
United States Marine Corps Reserve, Ret.

The Officiant bids the Offering

Undesignated offerings received this evening will be donated to the work of the Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries of the Episcopal Church

Anthem at the Offering

"Greater Love Hath No Man" John Ireland (1879-1962)

MANY waters cannot quench Love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater Love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who His own Self bare our sins in His own Body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are wash'd, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the Name of the Lord Jesus; Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, That ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath call'd you out of darkness into His marvelous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

During the Anthem, Ushers will come forward to collect member pledges and donations. While visitors are never expected to give, all donations are welcome. Offerings support Choral Evensong and St. Martin's ministries.

Contributions may also be made online by visiting smec.org/give or by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generous support!

The People kneel for the Benediction

Benediction

All Veterans and Active Duty service members are invited to come forward to the communion rail to be recognized as the Choir sings the song of their service branch of the United States Armed Forces

Army

First to fight for the right, and to build the Nation's might, And the Army goes rolling along. Proud of all we have done, Fighting till the battle's won, And the Army goes rolling along. Then it's hi! hi! hey! The Army's on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong; For wherever we go, You will always know That the Army goes rolling along.

Marine Corps

From the Halls of Montezuma To the shores of Tripoli; We fight our country's battles In the air, on land, and sea; First to fight for right and freedom And to keep our honor clean; We are proud to claim the title Of United States Marine.

Navy

Anchors Aweigh, my boys, Anchors Aweigh! Farewell to foreign Shores, we sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay; Through our last night ashore, drink to the foam, Until we meet once more, here's wishing you a happy voyage home!

Air Force

Off we go into the wild blue yonder, Climbing high into the sun; Here they come zooming to meet our thunder, At 'em now, Give 'em the gun! Down we dive, spouting our flame from under, Off with one helluva roar! We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

Coast Guard

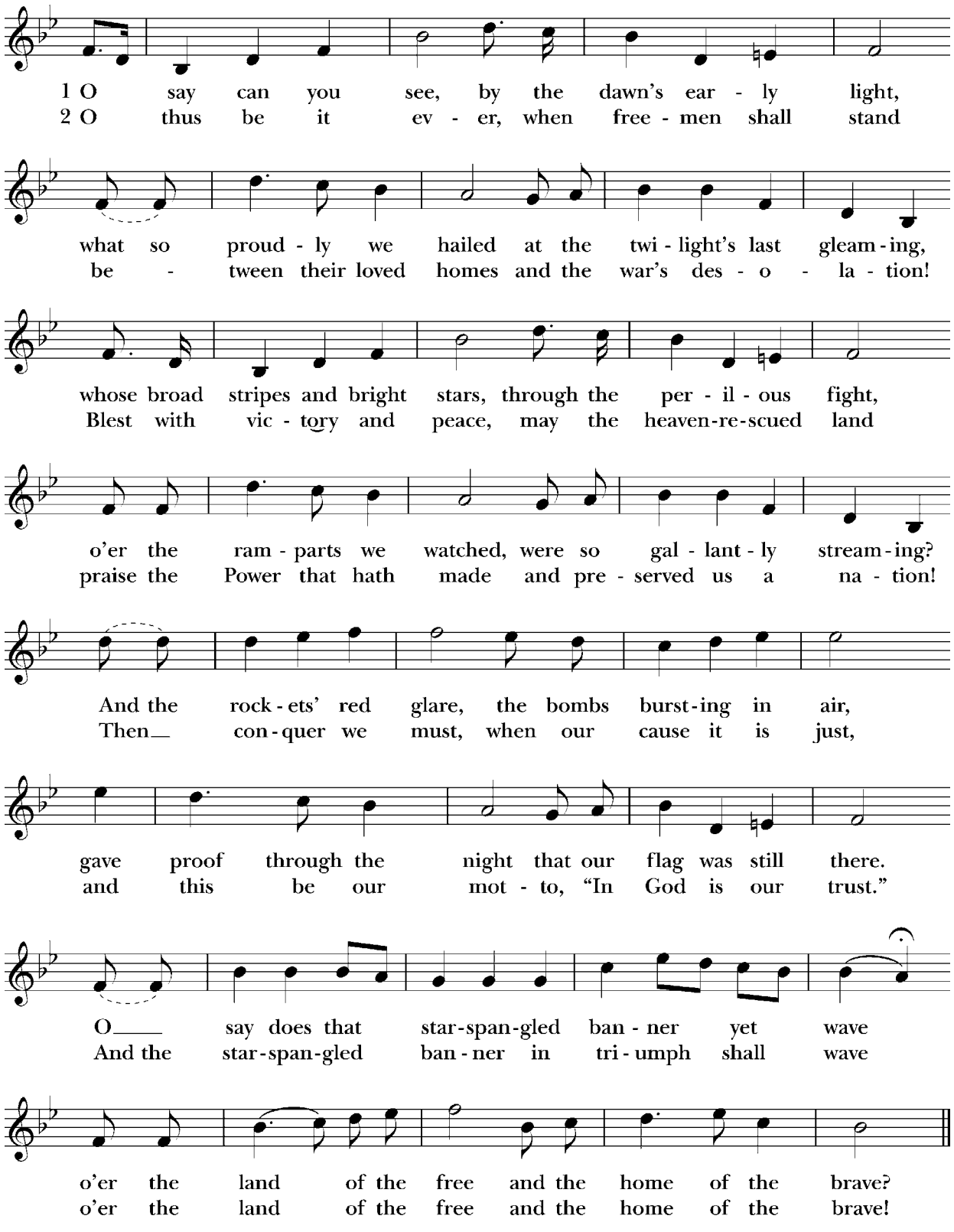
We're always ready for the call, We place our trust in Thee. Through surf and storm and howling gale, High shall our purpose be. "*Semper Paratus*" is our guide, Our fame, our glory too. To fight to save or fight and die, Aye! Coast Guard we are for you!

Space Force

We're the mighty watchful eye, Guardians beyond the blue, The invisible front line, Warfighters brave and true. Boldly reaching into space, There's no limit to our sky. Standing guard both night and day, We're the Space Force from on high.

Hymn

720



Words: Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)
Music: *National Anthem*, source unknown, ca. 18th cent.

Organ Postlude

"Ceremonial March" Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

The Ministers and Choir depart

The canticles sung by the choir following each lesson at this service of Choral Evensong were composed by **George Dyson** (1883-1964), a grenadier officer of the 99th Brigade of the Royal Fusiliers during the First World War and later a commissioned major in the newly formed Royal Air Force, where he served until 1920. Following his military service he would go on to a successful musical career teaching, composing, and conducting before being appointed director of the Royal College of Music in London in 1938. He received a knighthood in 1941 for public service and was later appointed a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order for distinguished service.

The organ postlude was written by **Herbert Sumsion** (1899-1995), another veteran of the First World War, who spent time in the trenches on the Western Front while serving in the 16th Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) from 1917-1919. After the war, he earned a degree in music from Durham University and became organist of Gloucester Cathedral, a post he would hold for nearly 40 years until his retirement in 1967. While at Gloucester, Sumsion was heavily involved with the Three Choirs Festival and used his influence to promote the work of British composers such as Gustav Holst, Herbert Howells, and Gerald Finzi.

Martin of Tours (316/336-397) was born in the Roman Diocese of Pannonia (modern Hungary) and grew up in northern Italy where his father had been given land on which to retire after service as a tribune in the Roman army. It was here that he first encountered Christianity spreading throughout the empire as a youth.

The legend of Martin dividing his cloak is said to have occurred some years later while he was stationed in Gaul as a member of a heavy cavalry unit. Upon seeing a begger dressed in rags, Martin immediately pulled off his cloak, a symbol of his military station, and cut it in half, giving one portion to the beggar. In a dream that very night, he saw Jesus wearing the half of the robe he had given away, and upon waking found his cloak had been made whole. This emboldened Martin to be baptized, and he left the army soon after.

Martin made his way to Tours and lived a life of piety until, in 371, he was made a bishop. One story tells that Martin hid in a barn to avoid being elevated to the position, but a cackling goose betrayed his location. It is for this reason that depictions of St. Martin often feature a goose, and it has been tradition in some places to eat roast goose on St. Martin's Day.

Since his death in 397, St. Martin's shrine has been a popular site of Christian devotion and pilgrimage, and his influence as a model for Christian charity persists throughout the world, and here at St. Martin's, to this very day.

Welcome to St. Martin's

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, welcome to St. Martin's Episcopal Church!

We are so grateful that you are worshipping with us today. Everything that this vibrant Parish does flows from the worship of our Lord. Our service times and styles may vary, but through the riches of our Anglican tradition, they are all offered for the same ultimate purpose: to glorify our God and Father, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ His Son, and to rejoice in the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit.

Whether you are here for the very first time or have been attending St. Martin's for decades, I invite you to explore our many daily and weekly opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship, and service. We are a community where people of every age and stage of life are met by Jesus and deepen their relationship with Him. Join us as we open God's Word in Bible studies large and small, gather in nourishing, nurturing care for one another, and reach out to show God's love in tangible ways to our brothers and sisters here in Houston, and around the globe.

Come, worship the Lord, and grow with us. Welcome to St. Martin's!

The Rev. Dane E. Boston, Rector

Evensong Staff

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Mark Your Calendar

Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist

Thursday, November 26 - 10 a.m. in the Church

Take a break from the turkey before the holiday season kicks into high gear with our service of traditional harvest-time hymns and Holy Communion around Our Lord's Table.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, November 29 - 4 p.m. in the Church

Ring in the New Church Year with scripture and music focused on the Advent season's joyful expectation of the coming of Christ into the world.

Houston Boychoir Winter Concert

Saturday, December 12 - 4 p.m. in the Church

This free concert will feature the youngest boys through the seasoned alumni singing a wide range of holiday music the whole family can enjoy.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 20 - 4 p.m. in the Church

Get into the Christmas spirit a few days ahead of the crowd at Lessons and Carols on the fourth and final Sunday of Advent.

Christmas at St. Martin's

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24

Family Table Christmas Eve Service
9:15 a.m. in the Parish Life Center

Christmas Pageant
11 a.m. in the Church

Riverway Christmas Eve Service
1:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center

Traditional Christmas Eve Services with Choir, Organ, and Brass
1 p.m. in the Church
3:30 p.m. in the Church
6 p.m. in the Church
8:30 p.m. in the Church

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25

Traditional Christmas Day Service with Choir and Organ
11 a.m. in the Church

Join Us for Worship

Traditional Services with Choir

Holy Eucharist: Rite One - *9 a.m. in the Church* - First Sunday of Every Month

Morning Prayer - *9 a.m. in the Church* - Second through Fifth Sundays of Every Month

Holy Eucharist: Rite One with Children's Chapel - *11:15 a.m. in the Church* - Every Sunday

Contemporary Worship

Family Table - *9:15 a.m. in the Parish Life Center* - Every Sunday

Riverway with Children's Chapel - *11:15 a.m. in the Parish Life Center* - Every Sunday

Spoken Holy Eucharist: Rite One

8 a.m. & 6 p.m. in the Church - Every Sunday

7 a.m. & noon in Christ Chapel - Every Wednesday

The Daily Office (Morning and Evening Prayer)

8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel - Monday through Friday

Our Vestry

Executive Committee

Mrs. Susan McConn*
Mr. David Leonard
Mrs. Kathy Bennett
Mr. Mike Fuqua
Mrs. Debbie Robinson
Mr. John Maclay Jr.
Ms. Sherrie Perkins
Mr. Andy Harvin

Members

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Mrs. Diane Campbell
Mr. Ed Frank
Mrs. Mary Williams
Mrs. Laurie Moreland
Mr. Jim Drew
Mr. Ted Carpenter

**Senior Warden*
†*Vestry Representative*

Our Clergy

Jesus Christ
The Head of the Church



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