

THE HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

January 1, 2023



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

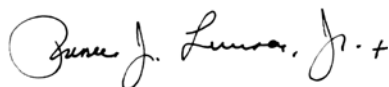
FROM THE RECTOR

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 77 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.

I want to personally invite you to participate in our worship services and as many of our activities and ministries as your own commitments and time will allow.



The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr., Rector

Prayers 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.

St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

JANUARY I

Christian Education for Adults, Children's Ministry and 7-1-7 Students will not be offered today in observance of the New Year holiday. Please join us next Sunday, Jan. 8, when Christian Education classes resume.

St. Martin's Campus will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of the New Year holiday.

JANUARY 3-7

Adults

Church Tours

Wednesday, Jan. 4

10:45-11:15 a.m. | Christ Chapel

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | The Church

The Church and Christ Chapel will be open for visitors. The Docent Guild offers a formal tour of The Church at 11:30 a.m. To schedule a group tour, please contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at scox@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Noon-3 p.m. | Activity Center, Upper Hall East

St. Clare's Guild undertakes a variety of needlepoint projects in worship spaces and for outreach programs. For more information, contact the Rev. Lisa Neilson at lnilson@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

Sterling's Market - Fresh Goods for a Fresh Start

Saturday, Jan. 7 | Rain or Shine

9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Corner of Woodway and Sage

The mission of Sterling's Market at St. Martin's Episcopal Church is to glorify God through sharing the Gospel and the bounties of the earth with Parishioners, neighbors and visitors. For more information and to volunteer, contact info@sterlingsmarket.org.

Men

Dads' Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 5

8-9 a.m. | Welcome Center

Join dads with children of all ages for coffee, fellowship and Bible study. No registration is necessary to attend the discussions. For more information, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning at rwarning@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

HOLY EUCHARIST

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.

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

VOLUNTARY "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Austin Lovelace

The Celebrant greets the People. Following the greeting, all stand.

*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,

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:

Refrain

**indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshippers*



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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.

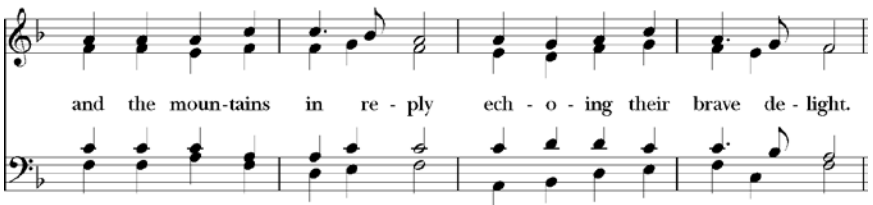
The Celebrant says

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 *Gloria*



An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.



Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex-cel-sis De-o. Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.; Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958);
 Copyright: Words: By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.

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

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE OLD TESTAMENTNumbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

THE PSALM Psalm 8

O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the world! Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens. You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, to quell the enemy and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, what is man that you should be mindful of him? The son of man that you should seek him out? You have made him but little lower than the angels; you adorn him with glory and honor; you give him mastery over the works of your hands; you put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea. O Lord our Governor, how exalted is your Name in all the world!

THE EPISTLE Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

HYMN 79“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893); Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908).

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELLuke 2:15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

HYMN 79“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893); Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908).

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *Mr. Eric Priest*

THE NICENE CREED *(stand)*

Celebrant and People

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 *(kneel)*

Minister and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly
serve thee;

That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our
Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our bishops; the Clergy
of this Parish; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the
diocese of ___; for all bishops, priests and deacons.

**That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word
and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the
world; especially for Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester,
our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts.

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do thy will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in thy sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; for
those who are hospitalized, especially ___; for those for whom our
prayers have requested, especially ___; for those on our continuing
prayer list, especially ___;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially ___;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We give thee thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers, ___; and we praise thee for thy saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

In this moment of silence, let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

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

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People

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.

Priest stands and says

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 *(stand)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 29 for upcoming events.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “Nativity Carol”

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago; Born ‘neath light of star He who loved us so. Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear Angel hosts fill the sky. Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Wise men from distant far land, Shepherds from starry hills Worship this babe so rare, Hearts with his warmth he fills. Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming babe, Make me thy love to know. Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

Words and Music by John Rutter. © 1967 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..... *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise him all crea - tures 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.

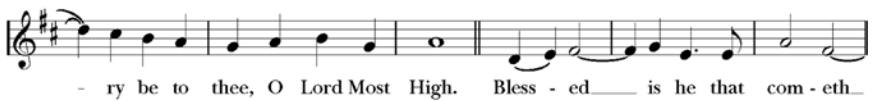
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

Celebrant and People (said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.)



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968); Copyright: By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Celebrant continues (kneel)

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

People and Celebrant

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*St. Louis*

Cantor sings

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

Congregation sings

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Then may be said

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

People and Celebrant

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.

The Celebrant says the Invitation.

All Christians who have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father, the Son and 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.

ANTHEM “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
Arr. Walford Davis

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you; ye shall find the Babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by: Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him still. The dear Christ enters in. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today! We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

© The Trustees of the late Sir Walford Davies. The Royal School of Church Music. Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks; Music: Walford Davies.

HYMN 105 “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 “Fear not, then,” said the an - gel, “Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might.”
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: *London Carol*; Music: *God Rest You Merry*, Melody, *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850.

HYMN 87 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.; Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915).

HYMN “Away in a Manger”

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the Ba - by a - wakes, But
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay Close

lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus— no cry - ing he makes. I
 by me for - e - ver, and love me, I pray. Bless

stars in the sky— looked down where He lay; The
 love Thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky, And
 all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care, And

lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay;
 stay by my side un - til mor - ning is nigh.
 fit us for hea - ven, to live with Thee there.

Text: Anon. (v. 1-2 Kirkpatrick, 1885; vs. 3 Charles H. Gabriel, 1892); Music: *Mueller*; arr. John Weaver.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

People and Celebrant

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
 repeat 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

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Personal prayers are available at the west Side Chapel after this service.

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for the birth of Catherine Louise Semlinger
by her parents, Greg and Lauren Semlinger
and her grandparents, Jim and Susie McCulloch



BIRTHS

Dec. 16 Catherine Louise Semlinger
 Daughter of Lauren and Greg Semlinger
 Granddaughter of Susie and Jim McCulloch



SYMPATHY

Dec. 11 H. Dane Grant, Jr.

To mark a special occasion with an altar flower dedication,
visit bit.ly/smecaltarflowers or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam
at relhakam@stmartinsepiscopal.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:

Bobbie Adams	Stan Leong	Sue Uthe
Carolyn Alban	McKenna Letsos	Randy Vander Nailen
Harvey and Katie Altmann	Shawn Levenson	Mae Joyce and Grant Wagner
Patsy Angel	Nancy Liles	Janice Waits Murphy
Shelly Bain	Ryan Logan	Charles Werlla
Anne Berry	Marie Lord	Roger Williams
Cory Blackman	Greg Martin	Eric Zoerb
Dianne Brock	Pat Marymee	Angela
Don Cheatham	Janet McDaniel	Anne
Higdon Compton, Jr.	Patricia McDonald	Barbara
Beth Costa	Shannon McNally	Betsey
Gail Davis	Christine Nguyen	Dean
Mac Davis	Nwora Onwuzulu	Elizabeth
Sue Davis	Jim Paddock	Eric and Family
Tommy W. Davis	Russell Pae	Henry
Bobby deSosa	Jimmy Prentice	Jana
Rosemary Doupe	Michael Reade	Landry
Ross Dunn	Ted Reed	Laura
Kiersten Dyke	Susan Rovello	Leslie
Jim Easterling	Baker Rudolph	Marilyn
Stacey and John Elliott	David Samuelson	Mary Jane
Mayfield Family	Molly Scarbrough	Naomi
Charles Flores	Helen and Jim Shaffer	Willie
Brad Gallion	Caroline Shanahan	
Catherine Gonzales	Megan Sharkey	
Nancy Gore	Clif Shoemake	
Shea Guinn	Ryan Smith	
Gladys Halbouty	William and Betsy Smith	
Connie Haney	Mark Solomons	
Susie C. Hatfield	Bob Spencer	
Mollie Hill	Jim and Jan Stokes	
Jeff Holden	James Swann	
Nicole Jabbari	Nancy Talbot	
Ronnie Jacobs, Jr.	Martin Taylor	
Lynda Jones	Paul Therrien	
Mary Anne Kannard	Mimi Thobae	
Muriel Kearby Albaral	Carlotta Thomas	
Paige Laird	Millie Tonn	
Sherman Lasker	Jane Touchstone	

Please be advised that we will be updating the Continuing Prayers list twice a year in the weeks before Easter and All Saints' Day. Names will remain on the prayer list for six months. To put someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vriviera@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Names we have received of those in the Armed Forces:

SSgt Clint Bahme
Lt. Col. Julian Benton
1st Lt. Benjamin Brown
Lt. Col. Chris Davis
Wesley Dodd
Sgt. James Drury III
James Eilers
Major Parker Firestone
Capt. Dom Flatt
1st Lt. Will Golinkin
LCDR Bradley R. Hoffman

Capt. Cody Horr
Maj. Wesley J. Hunnell
Dallas Wayne Hunter
Staton Jobe
Lt. Cmdr. Kory Krebs
Krystal Martinez
PV2 Wills Masterson
1st Lt. Ben Matthews
Ensign Ben Morris
1st Lt. Jack Mullen
2nd Lt. Alex Mullen

Lt. Cmdr. Holly E. Pace
James W. Peoples
Lt. Paul Piana
LCMR David A. Pilko
Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant
PO1 Brian M. Powell
SPC Joel Rowell
Maj. Christian Schleider
1st Lt. Grant Suter
1st Lt. Luke Voss

SERMON NOTES

DEPELCHIN CHILDREN'S CENTER'S



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our Church family who donated and sponsored 250 children from DePelchin Children's Center. You brightened Christmas for these precious children!

For more information, please contact Outreach at 713-985-3811 or outreach@stmartinsepiscopal.org.



Activity Center

BRIDGE PLAY

Mondays, beginning Jan. 9
1-3 p.m. | Upper Hall West

BRIDGE LEVEL 2

Mondays, Jan. 23-March 6
10 a.m.–noon | Upper Hall West

Tom Jahnke returns to teach a seven-week class, "Making More Hands, Going Down Less," and an ongoing supervised play session. Bridge Level 2 costs \$125/person and Supervised Bridge Play costs \$10/class.

For more information about this class and the extended Activity Center calendar, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.



SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR

Healing and Wholeness



St. Martin's International OSL Healing Community offers a service of prayer for healing and wholeness on the first Wednesday of each month. This short service is held for anyone in need of prayer for themselves, friends or family.

Next Service

Wednesday, Jan. 4 | 5 p.m.
Parish Life Center or via Zoom
bit.ly/oslservice

For more information, please contact Amanda DeViney at adeviney@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

The Order of the Daughters of the King



SATURDAY, JAN. 7 | 10 A.M.
CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER

Small Group Activity

DOK Vice President Suzanne Miller will lead the group in an activity using high-quality color images to invite personal reflection and small group dialogue about prayer and its significance in our daily lives.

For more information, please contact Tracee Tindol at tmartin@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

ALL - ADULT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JAN. 8
10:15 – 11 a.m.
Bagby Parish Hall

Hear more about former Secretary Baker's service under three U.S. Presidents and Jean Becker, who covered the 1988 presidential election for USA Today before going to work in the Bush White House. Jean Becker will engage James Baker in a thoughtful conversation that will touch on his faith, career and relationship with the Bushes.



The Honorable
James A. Baker, III
61st Secretary of State



Jean Becker
Former Chief of Staff for
President George H.W. Bush

A photograph of a young woman with long, wavy blonde hair, wearing a white acolyte robe, holding a lit candle. The background is dark with warm, bokeh light effects.

FEAST OF LIGHTS

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

ACOLYTE CELEBRATION
4:30 P.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL

CANDLE-LIT WORSHIP SERVICE
6 P.M. • THE CHURCH

Acolytes and their families are invited to a dinner honoring their contributions to worship services prior to the worship service. All Parishioners and guests are invited to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with this special candle-lit service, led by our acolytes.

To register for the Acolyte Dinner, please visit bit.ly/acolytedinner

A Change of Heart



Women are invited to this study group on the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship. If yours is difficult, we can offer hope; if yours is great, we can learn from you.

Wednesdays

**Jan. 11 – March 1 • 10:30 a.m. – noon or 1–2:30 p.m.
Student Life Center, Room 201**

Each class is limited to the first 20 who register.

To sign up or for more information, contact Graham Neuhaus at geneuhaus@aol.com.

“A Change of Heart” is available for purchase in St. Martin’s Gift Shoppe.
Session one should be completed for the first meeting.

FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

How Precinct 2 Assists and Enriches the Lives of Seniors and Those Who Care

Presented by:



Connie Assiff, Manager of Health Services
for Harris County Commissioner Adrian
Garcia in Precinct 2.

JANUARY 19

Thursday @ Noon CT
Available In-Person & Online

HHCI CARES

Register today at hhci.org/events

Witness to Dignity

*The Life and Faith of
George H.W. and Barbara Bush*

Just Published.

This book offers a personal insight into the life and faith of St. Martin's Parishioners President George Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush by our Rector, Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

Available at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe or anywhere you purchase Christian books.



WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT

Text SMEC to
73256



MAIL

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
717 Sage Rd.
Houston, TX 77056



ONLINE

bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

Contact: Director of Parish
Stewardship, Ashley Pratka at
apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org
or 346-335-8658



TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Pledging and setting up a
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OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

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Ms. Carole Nelson

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The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson

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Mrs. Ashley Monachelli

Director of Children's Ministry
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Mrs. Kathy Johnson

Director of Membership
kjohnson@stmartinsepiscopal.org

ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. Matt Anderson, *Senior Warden*
Mrs. Diane Campbell, *Junior Warden*
Mrs. Casey Hedges, *Missions Chair*
Mr. Tommy Ford, *Treasurer*
Mr. Gib Surles, *Clerk*
Mr. Jim Hibbert, *Past Senior Warden*
Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*
Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor**

Vestry Members

Mrs. Michelle Bain
Mrs. Nancy Bynon
Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes
Mrs. Whitney Gormley
Mr. Ryan LaRue
Mr. Dan Meyer
Mr. Matt Mogas
Mr. Roy W. Nichol
Mr. Bob Parkey
The Hon. John Wooldridge

Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry**
Mr. Jon Clarkson, *Senior Council Representative 2022-2023*
Mr. Richard Nelson, *Senior Council Representative 2022-2023*
Mrs. Janet Hoover, *Altar Guild President 2022-2023*
Mrs. Dee Frappier, *ECW President 2022-2023*
Mr. Jim McCulloch, *Men of St. Martin's President 2022-2023*
Mr. Bob Porter, *Usher Representative 2022-2023*

*Chancellor and Special Counsel are associate positions, filled at the discretion of the Rector.



Mr. Bob Parkey
Vestry Representative
Morning



Mr. Roy W. Nichol
Vestry Representative
Evening

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ
The Head of This Church



The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.
Rector
lthough@stmartinseiscopal.org



The Rev. Sharron L. Cox
Associate for Outreach, Pastoral Care and Women's Ministries
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The Rev. Martin J. Bastian
Vice-Rector
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The Rev. Naomi Sundara
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The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson
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The Rev. Richard (Dick) H. Elwood
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The Rev. Gillian (Gill) B. Keyworth
Deacon
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WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

*717 Sage Road
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