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.
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.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your provision for our church family, especially the resources we need to expand and develop our church campus in order to further the work of Your Gospel in this place. Give us strength and grace as the construction takes place, that it would go as You will, for Your purposes and Your kingdom. Bless and keep safe all those who labor on our behalf. All this we ask through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
Voluntary ........................................... “Andante”
Felix Mendelssohn
Dr. David Henning, Director of Music

All stand.

Begin on page 323 of The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

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.

The Collect of the Day (BCP page 231)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And with thy spirit.
Celebrant: Let us pray. (kneel)

The Celebrant says the Collect
Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.
HYMN 657 (vs. 1 and 3).......................... “Love Divine”
Annamarie Zmolek, Christine Mahaffey, Patrick Perez and Joel Willliams,
St. Martin’s Parish Choir

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to
come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy

2 Almighty to deliver, let us all thy
life receive; suddenly return, and never, never let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfect

3 Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless
faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, ly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory,

pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our
There is no god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; for your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
HYMN 482 (vs. 1 and 4).........“Lord of All Hopefulness”

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
   whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
   be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
   your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
   whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
   be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
   your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
   your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
   be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
   your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
   whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
   be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
   your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901–1953); Music: Slane, Irish ballad melody; adapt. The Church Hymnary, 1927; harm. Hymnal 1982; Copyright: Words: By permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

All stand.

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.
Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Please be seated.
HYMN 470 (vs. 1 and 3) ........................... “There’s a Wideness”

1 There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
there’s a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.

2 There is no place where earth’s sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth’s fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.

3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of the mind;
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more gra-ces for the good;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer-cy with the Sa-vior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
there is joy for all the mem-bers in the sor-rows of the Head.

and our life would be thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

THE SERMON .......................... “God’s Justice for All”
  The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

THE NICENE CREED  (BCP page 327) (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 (BCP page 387, Form III) (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 our Anglican Communion; for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin; for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; for our Bishops, Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector; 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;
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;
That they may be delivered from their distress.
Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise thee for thy saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.*

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

For Donald, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor and the Congress and the Courts; for all who serve in our armed forces and their families; we pray for peace throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East; and we pray for the victims of terror attacks; and we remember before you, and pray for the protection of our Christian brothers and sisters who face danger or persecution for their faith; and we pray for victims of all natural disasters; For the many people who have contracted the coronavirus; for comfort for those grieving loved ones who have died and peace for those who are fearful as the virus spreads, for those in isolation, those who have lost their job or their business, and for all those in our communities involved in ministering to the sick, especially for all health care workers; We pray for the safety of all law enforcement agents, firefighters, paramedics and all first responders who provide security and protection to the citizens they serve, and we pray for those in the hospitals __; and those for whom our prayers have been requested__; and for those on our Continuing Prayer List; and for all the blessings of this life; and we remember before you the departed especially______; we give thanks for their lives and pray for their loved ones left behind.

I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

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

*Celebrant adds a concluding Collect (BCP page 394)*  
Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
Minister says
Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People (BCP page 331)
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 (BCP page 332)
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 be seated.
St Martin's Episcopal Church Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 21
Wednesday, July 22
Thursday, July 23

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
717 Sage Road
Bagby Parish Hall

Appointments are required to donate during this time. Please go online to schedule at www.giveblood.org or contact Michael Murry at Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center: 346-831-4215 or mmurry@giveblood.org
WAYS TO GIVE

TEXT TO GIVE
Text SMEC to 73256

ONLINE
stmartinseptiscopal.org/giving

MAIL
St. Martin’s Episcopal Church | 717 Sage Road, Houston, TX 77056

ESTATE PLANNING
Contact: Director of Parish Stewardship, Ashley Pratka:
apratka@stmartinseptiscopal.org or 346-335-8658

TRANSFER OF ASSETS
Pledging and setting up a recurring gift online helps you and the church budget.
Go online today: stmartinseptiscopal.org/giving

Please contact Accounting Supervisor, Debbie Hutchison
with questions or for assistance:
dhutchison@stmartinseptiscopal.org or 713-985-3803
Finding Shelter
An Autumn Companion
$16.95 | 9781640652699

“Whenever Russ speaks or writes, I listen or read. He has the heart of a pastor and the skill of a poet. So grateful for him and this book.”

– Max Lucado, Senior Minister of Oak Hills Church, San Antonio and Bestselling Author

“Russ Levenson’s Finding Shelter is a continuous gentle invitation to come to the table and to taste and see that God is good. Written with warmth and wisdom, these pages are good company on the journey of faith.”

– Amy Grant, Grammy Award Winning Recording Artist and Songwriter

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NEW BOOK BY THE REV. DR. RUSSELL J. LEVENSON JR.
A portion of proceeds goes to support Outreach Ministries at St. Martin’s

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020
Monday–Thursday, July 27–30
Registration not required.

St. Martin’s is teaming up with St. John the Divine and Christ Church Cathedral to offer a free, online VBS that will be open to everyone in the Diocese July 27-30.

Families who registered for the original program will receive kits containing inexpensive materials for crafts and lessons to use at home before the program starts.
REGISTRATION

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Just $50 provides an underserved child with a uniform, shoes and school supplies.

How to Use Text to Give
Our text-to-give system is easy to use. Simply text SMEC to 73256. You will be prompted to enter your chosen contribution amount and then select CCSC in the drop-down menu. You will also enter your credit card number. This is a secure mobile giving site. A confirmation text is sent immediately to your phone with a receipt number.

Other options:
If you would like to donate through the online website, visit stmartinseiscopal.org/giving-to-outreach.
If you prefer to mail a check, please address the check to St. Martin’s Episcopal Church and note in the memo area “CCSC Back to School.” You can mail it to St. Martin’s, Attn: CCSC BTS.

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

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL

Christian Life Study

CLS is a group of more than 300 women studying the Bible. We are committed to growing spiritually by seeking God and studying His Word.

Please register now at clsbiblestudy.com for the Day or Evening Bible study groups that begin in September and run through April.

DAY GROUP
Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:20 a.m.
Studies include 1 & 2 Thessalonians and James both by N.T. Wright, and Worship the King by Teddy Heard Orr.

EVENING GROUP - NOTE NEW DAY!
Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Studies include Hebrews, James and 1 & 2 Timothy.

Just $50 provides an underserved child with a uniform, shoes and school supplies.

How to Use Text to Give
Our text-to-give system is easy to use. Simply text SMEC to 73256. You will be prompted to enter your chosen contribution amount and then select CCSC in the drop-down menu. You will also enter your credit card number. This is a secure mobile giving site. A confirmation text is sent immediately to your phone with a receipt number.

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For more information, contact Outreach Ministries at 713-985-3811 or outreach@stmartinseiscopal.org.
We may not be able to meet in person right now, but we want to know if you are sick, hospitalized or need to speak with a member of the Clergy.
Don’t hesitate to call the church

General Questions
Contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests
Contact the Prayer Request Line at 713-830-4124 or Deb Tisch at 713-985-3817 or dtisch@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

After Hours Emergencies
Call 713-621-3040 and press 2 to reach the Priest on Call. Please leave your name, phone number and a brief message.

Death Notifications and Funerals
Contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or censign@stmartinsepiscopal.org.
THE OFFERTORY
ANTHEM ............................................. “He, Watching Over Israel”
Felix Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps. Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, He will quicken thee.

Published by Belwin, Inc., New York, N.Y.

AT THE PRESENTATION

DOXOLOGY .................................................. Old 100th

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637–1711); Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And with thy spirit.
Celebrant: Let us pray. (kneel)
THE LORD’S PRAYER (BCP page 336)

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.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Please be seated.
HYMN 344 (vs. 1 and 3).......................... “Lord, Dismiss Us”

1 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, thy love possessing,

joyful sound: may the fruits of thy salvation world away, fear of death shall not appall us,

triumph in redeeming grace: O refresh us, in our hearts and lives abound: ever faithful, glad thy summons to obey. May we ever,

O refresh us traveling through this wilderness.

ever faithful to thy truth may we be found; ever reign with thee in endless day.

Words: Att. to John Fawcett (1739/40–1817); Music: Sicilian Mariners, Sicilian melody; first published The European Magazine and London Review, 1792, alt.

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia. ORGAN VOLUNTARY
OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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ST. MARTIN’S VESTRY

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Mr. Titus Harris III, *Junior Warden*  
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Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Usher Representative 2018–2021*  

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

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