

APRIL 24, 2022 | 9:00 AM

LOVE, SHARE, & SERVE BOLDLY.

*No matter where you find yourself on your faith journey—join us!  
Here you have found a church home where believers congregate to encourage each other and grow spiritually in an abundant relationship with the Lord. At St. Martin's, we promote and value an inclusive fellowship. Whether you are young, old, gay, straight, single, married, partnered—from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures—we welcome you!*



# EARTH DAY

*In worship, the Holy Spirit gathers us around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.*

*This type of note offers directions about the service. The people's responses are in **bold**.*

*We welcome you to our family worship, a casual and reflective service of togetherness. Please feel free to sit and stand as you feel called to throughout the service.*



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 W 15<sup>TH</sup> Street, Austin, Texas | [www.saintmartins.org](http://www.saintmartins.org)

*The service begins with a piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.*

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME

## GREETING

May God, creator, redeemer and guide be with us as we worship today.

*Please take a moment to greet those near you.*

## READING

**Psalm 96**

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
He will judge the peoples with equity."  
<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
<sup>13</sup>before the LORD; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

## REFLECTION

"Trees" by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in Summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree

## PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, we come before you to give you praise for all of creation. Redeemer God, we give you thanks for giving us life in abundance. Sustaining God, we ask your guidance to care for all of your creation. Thank you for your love, mercy and grace. Amen

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## READING

**Job 12:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Then Job answered:

<sup>2</sup>"No doubt you are the people,  
and wisdom will die with you.

<sup>3</sup>But I have understanding as well as you;  
I am not inferior to you.

Who does not know such things as these?

<sup>4</sup>I am a laughingstock to my friends;  
I, who called upon God and he answered me,  
a just and blameless man, I am a laughingstock.

<sup>5</sup>Those at ease have contempt for misfortune,  
but it is ready for those whose feet are unstable.

<sup>6</sup>The tents of robbers are at peace,  
and those who provoke God are secure,  
who bring their god in their hands.

<sup>7</sup>"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

<sup>8</sup>ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

<sup>9</sup>Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the LORD has done this?

<sup>10</sup>In his hand is the life of every living thing  
and the breath of every human being.

## REFLECTION

*"The Waterfall" by Mary Oliver from  
New and Selected Poems, Volume I*

For all they said,

I could not see the waterfall

until I came and saw the water falling,

its lace legs and its womanly arms sheeting down,

while something howled like thunder,  
over the rocks,  
all day and all night ---  
unspooling

like ribbons made of snow,  
or god's white hair.

At any distance it fell without a break or seam, and slowly, a  
simple  
preponderance --

a fall of flowers --- and truly it seemed  
surprised by the unexpected kindness of the air and  
light-hearted to be  
flying at last.

Gravity is a fact everybody  
knows about.

It is always underfoot,  
like a summons,  
gravel-backed and mossy,  
in every beetled basin --  
and imagination ---

that striver,

that third eye ---  
can do a lot but

hardly everything. The white, scrolled  
wings of the tumbling water

I never could have

imagined. And maybe there will be,  
after all,

some slack and perfectly balanced

blind and rough peace, finally,

in the deep and green and utterly motionless pools after all that  
falling?

## READING

John 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

## REFLECTION

*"Peonies" by Mary Oliver from  
New and Selected Poems, Volume I*

This morning the green fists of the peonies are getting ready

to break my heart

as the sun rises,

as the sun strokes them with his old, buttery fingers

and they open ---  
pools of lace,  
white and pink ---  
and all day the black ants climb over them,

boring their deep and mysterious holes  
into the curls,  
craving the sweet sap,  
taking it away

to their dark, underground cities ---  
and all day  
under the shifty wind,  
as in a dance to the great wedding,

the flowers bend their bright bodies,  
and tip their fragrance to the air,  
and rise,  
their red stems holding  
all that dampness and recklessness  
gladly and lightly,  
and there it is again ---  
beauty the brave, the exemplary,

blazing open.

Do you love this world?

Do you cherish your humble and silky life?

Do you adore the green grass, with its terror beneath?

Do you also hurry, half-dressed and barefoot, into the garden,  
and softly,  
and exclaiming of their dearness,  
fill your arms with the white and pink flowers,

with their honeyed heaviness, their lush trembling,  
their eagerness  
to be wild and perfect for a moment, before they are  
nothing, forever?

*The children come forward for the children's message.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## MESSAGE

## PRAYERS

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

Offerings may be placed in the basket in the narthex, or you can donate at [saintmartins.org/giving](https://saintmartins.org/giving) or text "luther" and your gift amount to 73256. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

luther \$100

## MUSICAL OFFERING

## OFFERING PRAYER

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION** *Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion regardless of age or denomination. Acolytes will offer hand sanitizer as you pass. You will receive the bread in your hands and the wine by dipping the bread in the bowl. Please consume while walking back to your seat. Gluten free wafers are available if requested. If you prefer to remain in your seat, please pick up a communion cup in the narthex or ask an usher to bring one to you.*

## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Thank you for the gift of your body and blood that strengthens us to be your presence in our world. Amen**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*

Linda Zander - *assisting minister*

Debbie Alkire, Danny Powell - *communion ministers*

Darin Layne, guitar - *musicians*

Eddie Jennings - *video*

Norm Hummell, chair - *ushers*

## ST. MARTIN'S PRAYERS

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Terry Adcock; Audrey and Jane; Judy Balentine; Patti Ball; family and friends of LaNell Brown; Richad Coyle; Stan Cravatt; Bob Crouch;Carolynn Elmshaeuser; Cathie Ferguson and family; Tom Harris; Deb Johnson; Jeannine and Laura; Joy, Carla, and Paul; Rita Naes; Jenny Ohrstrom; Peggy and Raven; Glen Ratliff; wholeness and healing of all God's creation.

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR

Bob Aus; Emily Berggren; Eric Bittner; Travis Bohmann; Patricia Byous; Eleanor and Dave; Ellen; Sam Gourley; Dean Haynie; Ronnie Johnson; Peter Jordahl; Betsy Knauff; Walt Knauff; Arvid Larson; Pat Larson; Doris McGaughy; Helen Pegg; Jeff Puskos; Betty Staehr; Christie Tietjen; Ukrainian citizens and refugees.

## APRIL BENEVOLENCE: RIVER CITY YOUTH FOUNDATION

River City Youth Foundation (RCYF) is Austin's longest running locally founded youth organization, providing programs and services for the underserved community of southeast Austin's Dove Springs. RCYF provides youth and family oriented programs focused on technology training, college and career readiness, mentoring, wellness, and community development. Donate this month during offering time, or anytime online at [saintmartins.org/giving](http://saintmartins.org/giving).

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *This Week at St. Martin's*

#### **Sunday, April 24—Earth Day**

- 9:00 am Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Faith Formation Hour
- 11:00 am Holy Communion
- 4:00 pm Balcones Community Orchestra Concert

#### **Monday, April 25**

- 7:30 pm Heart & Mind Gospel Study (Zoom)

#### **Tuesday, April 26**

- 9:00 am WELCA Tack & Pack
- 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Education

#### **Wednesday, April 27**

- 1:00 pm Pastor's Book Class
- 7:00 pm Music Rehearsals

#### **Saturday, April 30**

- 8:30 am Mop & Hammer

#### **Sunday, May 1**

- 9:00 am Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Faith Formation Hour
- 11:00 am Holy Communion

### **Volunteers Needed for the Welcome Center**

Serve the Church by Smiling and Being Friendly

Contact: Mamie Hickerson and Virginia Haas

maymejewel@aol.com | 512-970-2259

### **Stephen Minister Continuing Education | Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm on Zoom**

Topic: Resources for Caregivers Guest speaker: Mary Etuk from AGE of Central Texas All

congregants are welcome to attend. For a Zoom invitation contact Fred Aus at [fredaustx@gmail.com](mailto:fredaustx@gmail.com)

**Food & Fellowship** | Please stay after the service today and enjoy conversation, a cup of coffee, and snacks provided by our wonderful volunteers! All bakers and other lovers of great snacks can sign up to help this ministry by bringing food for fellowship after worship. Storebought or homemade, sweet or savory: all snacks welcome! Thank you to all those helping with this ministry of hospitality. To sign up, speak to Abby Adams or email at [adams.abigail.m@gmail.com](mailto:adams.abigail.m@gmail.com).

### **Balcones Community Orchestra Concert**

The Balcones Community Orchestra presents soloist Yeyoung Yoo, cello performing Haydn:

Concerto in C Major on Sunday, April 24th, at 4:00 pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W.

15th 78701. Dr. Robert Radmer conducts the 1-hour concert including: Marcello: Introduction, Aria,

and Presto. Glazunov: "in Hungarian Style" from Five Novelettes, Mendelssohn: String Sinfonia

No. 2 in D Major. Free to the public. [BCOrchestra.org](http://BCOrchestra.org). An exciting experience for the whole family!