**Worship: Holiday Service Schedule**

**Holy Week**

***Palm Sunday – 7:45am, 9am, 11am***  
**What is it?** Palm Sunday is the service that commemorates Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and subsequent trial and crucifixion.

**How long?** About an hour

**What is it like?** Festive procession and reading of the passion, or a passion play

***Tenebrae – Wednesday before Easter, 7:30pm***  
**What is it?** Tenebrae, taken from the Latin word for shadows, is an extended meditation on Christ’s suffering and death. The service features readings interspersed with music and silent prayer. Light has a prominent role: candles are progressively extinguished until a single candle – representing Christ – remains. Then it too is briefly taken away, leaving the church in darkness. It is restored at the end of the service as a foretaste of the Resurrection.

**How long?** About an hour.

**What’s it like?** One parishioner called Tenebrae “One of the most moving services [he has] ever experienced.”

***Maundy Thursday – Thursday before Easter, 7:30pm***  
**What is it?** Maundy Thursday originates from the Latin mandatum, which refers to Jesus’ command “Love one another as I have loved you” and commemorates Jesus’ last supper with his followers. The service includes foot-washing of members of the congregation by clergy and church leaders and is followed by Communion with all gathered around the altar. The service ends with a procession to the “Altar of Repose” and the stripping of the altar, which symbolizes Christ’ abandonment by his followers preceding the Passion. An all-night watch will be held in the Nave.

**How long?** About an hour and a half

**What is it like?** Very moving, very humbling, very powerful.

***Good Friday (three services)***  
**What is it?** Traditional Stations of the Cross at noon with hymns. This traditional devotional practice was begun by Franciscan brothers in the middle ages and is still practiced every Friday in Jerusalem.  
 **How long?** Less than an hour

**What is it like?** There are traditionally 14 stations hung around the church. Participants can move from station to station participating in readings, prayers and a simple sung chant. The first station is Jesus’ Condemnation, the last his being laid in the tomb. The children’s Stations of the Cross is interactive and participatory.

**What is it?** Children’s Stations of the Cross at 6pm. This is a modified set of stations for children’s understating.  
 **How long?** 30 minutes,

**What is it like?** The Children walk around the church, stopping at each station while a short narrative is read.

**What is it?** The Good Friday Liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer is a service that commemorates Christ’s crucifixion and death.  
 **How long?** About an hour.  
 **What is it like?** The service includes the reading of a passion narrative, hymns, veneration of the cross, and communion from the “Pre-consecrated” sacrament. This is the last of the reserved sacrament from Maundy Thursday. There is no celebration of Eucharist on Good Friday. Simple, somber, and stark, this service can move you to the core of your being.

***Easter Vigil – Saturday before Easter, 7:30pm*  
What is it?** The Vigil is the Service of Light that ends Holy Week. It begins in darkness with the entry of the Paschal candle and the singing of the Exsultet, a song celebrating Christ’s rebirth. It continues with reading and Psalms, Baptisms, Proclamation of Christ’s Resurrection and the first Eucharist of Easter.  
 **How long?** About and hour and a half.  
 **What is it like?** This is the service upon which every Sunday Eucharist is based, filled with powerful symbols and the glorious welcome of the Easter miracle.

***Easter Day***  
**What is it?** Easter services celebrate Christ’s resurrection.  
 **How long?** About and hour.  
 **What is it like?** Making joyful noises to the Lord! Triumphant organ accompaniments, brass fanfares, festivity, and the choirs singing all-out. There is food as well!

**Christmas**

Christmas worship at St. Martin’s is traditionally focused on three major services on Christmas Eve. All of our choirs and the bell choir perform. Come hear the inspiring stories of the sacred birth of Christ and listen to the most beautiful music of the season. Come early to get a good seat.

[](http://churchofstmartin.org/wp-content/gallery/christmas-eve-childrens-pageant-2008/b0e4cb6f-cb2f-47ec-8014-584dc9785dce.jpg)

***Christmas Eve 4pm Christmas Pageant and Family Eucharist***

Children dress for the annual Christmas Pageant. Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and Wise men will all be there. Hear the story of the birth of Jesus and sing favorite carols. The church is decorated for the holiday season.

***Christmas Eve 7PM Christmas Eucharist with Sermon and Jazz Ensemble and St. Martin Contemporary Choir***

Music provided by professional Jazz Ensemble and some traditional carols on the pipe organ. St. Martin Contemporary Choir sings.

***Christmas Eve 11PM Choral Eucharist with Sermon, the St. Martin Choir, and the Pipe Organ.***

The St. Martin Choir will sing a Christ Choral Eucharist in the great Anglican tradition with grand hymns and anthems. There will be subtle use of incense during this service.

***Christmas Day 10am Eucharist and Sermon***

This is a simple service at 10am on Christmas Day. This service is informal with carols as the spirit moves us.