

THE COMMUNITY OF ST PHILIP
AT WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 2, 2021

Opening Voluntary

Toccata XII in B-flat major

Georg Muffat
(1653-1704)

Introit

I Am the Holy Vine

Leonard Bobrowski
(b. 1956)

I am the holy vine, which God my Father tends.
Each branch that yields no fruit my Father cuts away.
Each fruitful branch he prunes with care
to make it yield abundant fruit.

If you abide in me, I will in you abide.
Each branch to yield its fruit must with the vine be one.
So you shall fail to yield your fruit
if you are not with me one vine.

I am the fruitful vine, and you my branches are.
If you abide in me, I will in you abide.
So shall you yield much fruit, but none
if you remain apart from me.

— words by James Quinn, SJ (1919-2010)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 485 ([see page 6](#))

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in Jesus, our Risen Lord, we have seen your glory.
Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ.
We are quick to accuse and slow to confess.
We find faults easily in others, while ignoring our own shortcomings.
We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways.
We have ignored your Word.
Have mercy on us, compassionate God.
Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace
that day by day we might move closer to the people you would have us be,
as we seek to follow after Jesus, our Savior.

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the Good News. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

Response

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-11

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Paradise

Austin Lovelace
(1919-2010)

I bless thee, Lord, because I GROW
among thy trees, which in a ROW
To thee both fruit and order OWE.

What open force, or hidden CHARM
Can blast my fruit, or bring me HARM,
while the enclosure is thine ARM?

Enclose me still for fear I START.
Be to me rather sharp and TART,
Than let me want thy hand and ART.

When thou dost greater judgments SPARE,
And with thy knife but prune and PARE,
Ev'n fruitful trees more fruitful ARE.

Such sharpness shows the sweetest FRIEND:
Such cuttings rather heal than REND:
and such beginnings touch their END.

— words by George Herbert (1593-1633)

Sermon

A Good Word

John W. Wurster

Hymn 504 [\(see page 7\)](#)

We Come as Guests Invited

WIE LIEBLICH IS DER MAIEN

Affirmation of Faith

from *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe that the church must together
 come to know the height and the breadth
 and the depth of the love of Christ.
 We believe that together we are built up
 to the stature of Christ, the new humanity.
 We believe that we must together
 know and bear one another's burdens,
 thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.
 We believe that we are called
 to admonish and comfort one another;
 to suffer with one another
 for the sake of righteousness;
 to pray together;
 and together serve God in this world. Amen.

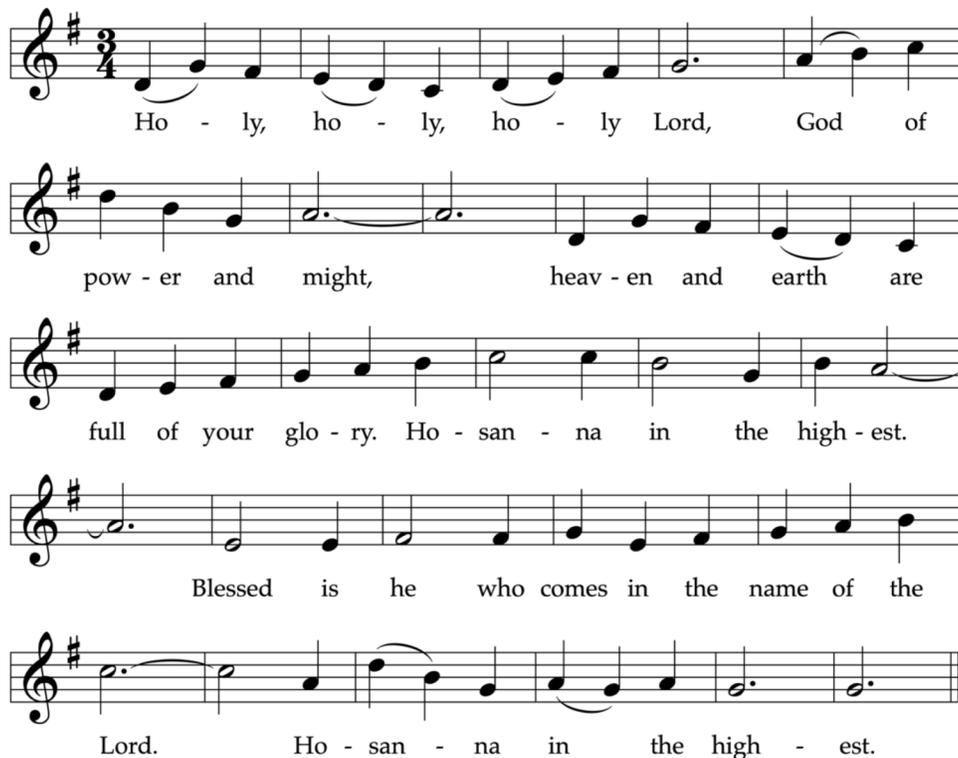
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

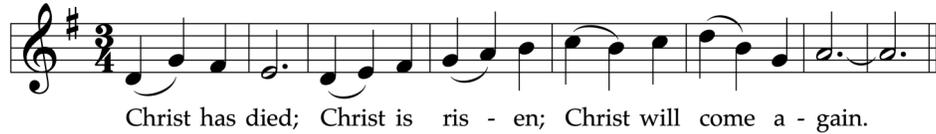
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you . . . we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All holy God . . . Great is the mystery of faith:



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Pavlechko)

Gracious God, . . . Almighty God, now and forever.



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

AMEN (Pavlechko)

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
for Thine is the Kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Communion Anthem

Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed

Peter Niedmann
(b. 1960)

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed,
for thy flesh is meat indeed;
ever may our souls be fed
with this true and living bread;
day by day with strength supplied,
through the life of him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give,
to thy cross we look and live:
Jesus, may we ever be
grafted, rooted, built in thee.

— words by Josiah Conder (1789–1855)

Prayer After Communion

Charge and Blessing

Closing Voluntary

Toccata in C major

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706)

SERVING TODAY

Liturgists

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon

Musicians

Julia Fox, Cecilia Duarte, Thomas Lewis O'Neill and Nicholas Rathgeb – choral quartet
Matthew Dirst – organist | Randall Swanson – music director

WORSHIP NOTES

- Acts 8:26–40 – *Philip meets an Ethiopian eunuch, who asks to be baptized.*
- Psalm 22:25–31 – *In the great congregation I will praise the Lord, my deliverer.*
- 1 John 4:7–21 – *Let us love one another; we love because God first loved us.*
- John 15:1–8 – *Jesus says: I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me.*

MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Today's organ music comes from two exact contemporaries, both born in 1653 and both enamored of the toccata, a kind of "touch piece" invented by Italian composers in the early 17th century. Georg Muffat's works in this genre all feature multiple short sections with distinct figuration, while Pachelbel's are more continuous, and often include pedal points that provide harmonic foundation for rapid finger movement. Muffat wrote about music as well: two treatises he published in the 1690s provide significant insight into the performance practice of this generation's music. Pachelbel acquired legions of students instead, and became one of the most influential of German organists before Bach.

Choral Music

This morning's **introit** is by Leonard Bobrowski, who is music director at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church in St. Louis, Missouri. A beautifully balanced unison setting of a text by James Quinn, *I Am the Holy Vine* is a preview of today's scripture passage from the Gospel of John.

Another reflection on this morning's gospel, today's **anthem** is an evocative setting by 20th-century American composer Austin Lovelace of the great poem *Paradise* by 17th-century Welsh-born poet, orator and Anglican clergyman George Herbert. The poem is a masterpiece in miniature, resulting from a particular challenge the poet set for himself: Each stanza consists of three lines of eight syllables, ending on a

monosyllabic accented word. The last word in the second line of each stanza is formed by dropping the first letter of the last word in line one, and the last word in the third line of each stanza is similarly formed by dropping the first letter of the last word in line two. Thus, in the first stanza, the final word of the first line 'grow,' becomes 'row' in the second line, and 'ow[e]' in the third line:

I bless thee, Lord, because I GROW
Among thy trees, which in a ROW
To thee both fruit and order OW.

The challenge of the composer – like the challenge of the poet – is somehow to use the artifice in a completely artless manner. Lovelace meets the challenge with seemingly effortless grace and beauty in his setting for a *cappella* four voices.*

Today's **communion anthem** is an appropriately gentle but rich and rewarding modern setting of Josiah Conder's familiar communion text *Bread of heaven, on thee we feed*. Like the other choral selections this morning, it too touches, briefly, on themes from this today's gospel. The four-part *a cappella* setting is by American composer Peter Niedmann, who serves as organist and music director at Church of Christ Congregational in Newington, Connecticut.

– Matthew Dirst, Randall Swanson,
and the *AAM Journal

Opening Hymn 485

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:



Al - le - lu - ia!

Beginning with an allusion to Romans 6:9, this exuberant baptismal hymn unfolds the implications of our incorporation into Christ's new life, making us "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The text was written to fit this expansive tune by a distinguished British composer.

TEXT: John Brownlow Geyer, 1967, alt.
 MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904
 Text © 1972 John Brownlow Geyer

ENGELBERG
 10.10.10.4

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1 We come as guests in - vit - ed when Je - sus bids us dine,
 2 We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing from Christ the grace we need,
 3 One bread is ours for shar - ing, one sin - gle fruit - ful vine,

his friends on earth u - nit - ed to share the bread and wine;
 and in our hearts be - liev - ing on him by faith we feed;
 our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing re - newed in bread and wine:

the bread of life is bro - ken; the wine is free - ly poured
 with won - der and thanks - giv - ing for love that knows no end,
 re - newed, sus - tained, and giv - en by to - ken, sign, and word,

for us, in sol - emn to - ken of Christ our dy - ing Lord.
 we find in Je - sus liv - ing our ev - er - pres - ent friend.
 the pledge and seal of heav - en, the love of Christ our Lord.

Without attempting to unravel the mystery of Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the central stanza of this text affirms that we are nourished by faith rather than by understanding. This hopeful text is reinforced by a gentle 16th-century tune created for a secular text.

Closing Hymn 246

Christ Is Alive

TRURO

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
LM

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IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Steve Adger; Judith Crain; Shirley Coffman; Travis Calhoun; Kay Cash; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Mezgebe Gebray; Erin Thackston – niece of Jacquie Colton; Warren & Gretchen Cash– brother and sister-in-law of Kay Cash; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Dixie Hahn – sister of Mary Sinderson; Brad Davis – nephew of Sam Fisher; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; Betty & Allen Grant – sister-in-law and brother of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher – sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Bessie Johnson – mother of Pat Lindsay; Mac & Beverly Wilson – parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family – daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family – cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron – sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe – mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound – Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; Mary Sinderson; George and Lorraine Scott; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians – Karen Stewart – friend of Roderick James; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff – friend of Jo Helland; Judith Tomaino, Bill McDonald and Jackson Tavel – friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III – friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email deacons@saintphilip.net.

Pledge payments, communion gifts and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>), text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE – Wednesdays at 11 am. This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you'd like to attend the midweek service in-person contact the church office.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE – We will offer outdoor worship opportunities on the church campus on a week-to-week basis. Worship services will begin at 9:00 am. Worshipers are asked to bring their own chairs or blankets. We will also have chairs available at the church for those who need them. Worshipers will be spaced on the lawn at appropriate distances. The lawn service will last about thirty minutes. Registration is required and will open the Monday before the service; link can be found in pastoral email updates or through MyStPhilip. If the event has reached capacity, the event sign-up closes, contact Lorrie Castle at 832-262-1244. [Register for lawn service.](#)

[Our website](#) has information a current list of **opportunities on Zoom** for fellowship and spiritual formation.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - 9:30 a.m. – May 9 – Spiritual Pilgrimage to Montreat - You are invited to hear St. Philip senior high youth tell the story of their travel in summer 2019 to the Youth Conference at Montreat, with this year's theme, "Let Love Lead." Also, the youth will describe their visits to Civil Rights Historical Sites to study the brave individuals and congregations who furthered the Civil Rights Movement as an expression of their Christian Faith. Presented by St. Philip Youth and Rev. Keatan King and Rev. Omar Rouchon. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.