



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP
AT WORSHIP
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 12, 2020

Voluntary

Serenade

Franz Joseph Haydn
(1732-1809)

Opening Sentences

Opening Hymn 407 (see page 6)

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

NUN DANKET ALL' UND BRINGET HER'

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

silent prayer

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

Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Response

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
 10.8.10.8

Words of Peace

In Christ, God is reconciling the whole world,
 and God is entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
 We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ. God's appeal is being made through us.
 Peace be with you. Peace be with all.

Response

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
 As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -
 laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you.
 laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

Both being Semitic languages, Arabic and Hebrew have many similar words, as can be heard here in *Salaam*, which sounds much like *Shalom*. This setting uses the same words and music in all but one phrase, making this brief song easy to learn in either English or Arabic.

TEXT: Arabic greeting
 MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004
 Music © 2004 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ (admin. The Pilgrim Press)

AS-SALAAMU LAKUM
 6.6.4.6

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9

Solo

As with Rosy Steps the Morn
(from *Theodora*) | HWV 68/18

George Frideric Handel
(1685–1759)

As with rosy steps the morn,
Advancing, drives the shades of night,
So from virtuous toil well-borne,
Raise Thou our hopes of endless light.
Triumphant saviour, Lord of day,
Thou art the life, the light, the way!

— words by Thomas Morell (1703–1784)

Sermon

Sowing Hope

John W. Wurster

Hymn 226 (see page 7)

There in God's Garden

SHADES MOUNTAIN

Affirmation of Faith

from the *Confession of Belhar*

We believe

**that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells,
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience
which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

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.**

Closing Hymn 450 (see page 8)

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Charge and Blessing

Closing Voluntary

Moment Musical

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

SERVING TODAY

Liturgists

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon, and Randall Swanson

Musicians

Cecilia Duarte, vocalist | Matthew Dirst, organist

Ann Frautschi, flutist | Lily Frautschi, pianist

WORSHIP NOTES

Lectionary Readings

- Genesis 25:19–34 Esau trades his birthright to Jacob for bread and lentil stew.
- Psalm 119:105–112 Your word is a lamp to my feet; I have promised to observe it.
- Romans 8:1–11 The Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death.
- Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23 Jesus tells and explains the parable of the sower and the seeds.

MUSIC NOTES

This morning's **solo** comes from Handel's *Theodora*, his second-to-last oratorio, which was first performed in 1750. Apparently his favorite work in this genre, it left his London public wanting, despite considerable musical charms. The libretto by Thomas Morell, a frequent collaborator and stern moralist, sets a story borrowed from earlier sources. Its principal roles are the Christian martyr Theodora, a Roman soldier named Didymus (who converts out of love for her and suffers the same cruel fate), and her faithful companion Irene. In Act I Theodora has been taken captive by Valens, the Roman governor of Antioch. Irene and their Christian friends, recognizing the inevitability of a tragic outcome, pledge their continued faith, even in the face of evil. Her aria "As with rosy steps the morn" expresses hope that the rising sun, evidence of the Lord's constancy, will "drive the shades of night" toward the "endless light" of eternity.

— Matthew Dirst

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artwork by Micah Meyers.

Declaration of Forgiveness Response music © Hal H. Hopson. All rights reserved. Words of Peace Response music © Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ (administered by The Pilgrim Press). All rights reserved. Hymn 226 text © Hinshaw Music, Inc. All rights reserved. Hymn 226 music © Birnamwood Publications (a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.). All rights reserved. All reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.

IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Donna Host, who died on Saturday, June 27 in her home.

Alice Pennington and family upon the death of her husband Paul on Sunday, June 28 in their home.

Larraine Lyter-Reed and family upon the death of her sister Linda Lucille Lyter Lacrosse on June 25.

Rev. Paul Debenport and family upon the death of his wife, Nona Debenport, July 5 in Tucson, Arizona. Paul served as associate pastor at St. Philip from 1971 to 1981.

Congratulations to Omar Rouchon who welcomed his first niece Elodie Rouchon on June 20.

Congratulations to Caryn & Russell Bahruth who were blessed with granddaughter Sophia on June 28 to Julia and Mike.

St. Philippians and their families— Mary Sinderson; Marion Takehara; Peg Palisin; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Jeanne West; Greg Moore; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Vera Moore—mother of Chuck Johnson; Barney Haley—uncle of Lorrie Castle; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family—daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family—cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; David Block—brother-in-law of Nancy Lomax; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Tom Martin—father of Jon Martin; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Jack & Pauline Kindig—brother/sister-in-law of Ginny Camfield; Shirley and Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandparents of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

Homebound: Sue Baier; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Arlette Keene; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Toto McGehee; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians: David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Kathleen Davies and family—friend of Chuck Johnson; Craig and Jamie Slein—friends of Steve Carmichael; Melissa and Sela Calvert—friends of Kay Cash; Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; Dave Olson and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; and Walter "Buddy"

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 and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

To join the Zoom Coffee Hour following the service, e-mail Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net.

Opening Hymn 407

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

NUN DANKET ALL'UND BRINGET HER'

1 Spir - it di - vine, at - tend our prayers, and make this
 2 Come as the light. To us re - veal our emp - ti -
 3 Come as the fire and purge our hearts like sac - ri -
 4 Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of
 5 Spir - it di - vine, at - tend our prayers. Make a lost

house your home. De - scend with all your
 ness and woe. And lead us in those
 fi - cial flame. Let our whole soul an
 peace - ful love. And let the church on
 world your home. De - scend with all your

gra - cious powers. O come, great Spir - it, come!
 paths of life where all the righ - teous go.
 of - fering be to our Re - deem - er's name.
 earth be - come blest as the church a - bove.
 gra - cious powers. O come, great Spir - it, come!

The subtle changes between the first and last stanzas here are important; they reveal how the gift of the Holy Spirit transforms and widens our concern from ourselves to the world around us. The tune is named for the text it first set, "Now let all thank and bring honor."

TEXT: Andrew Reed, 1829, alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger, c. 1647

NUN DANKET ALL' UND BRINGET EHR'
CM

1 There in God's gar - den stands the tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - fering;
 our greed has starved it; our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

tree of all knowl - edge, tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness; give me all your

pas - sion, tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row; I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending;
 this, my resurrection;
 into your hands,
 Lord, I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heaven is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it; take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; translated by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; version by Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Irish ballad