



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

Opening Voluntary

Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, o Herr
BWV 1115

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 773 (see page 6)

Heaven Shall Not Wait

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you know our weaknesses.
Fearful of the future,
we forget what you have done in the past.
We see scarcity where you supply abundance.
We complain when conditions challenge us.
We begrudge others their success,
allow envy to divide us,
and live lives that are unworthy of the gospel.

Generous God, forgive us.
Help us to remember your wonderful works,
to trust your gracious provisions,
and to abide in your faithful presence.

silent prayer

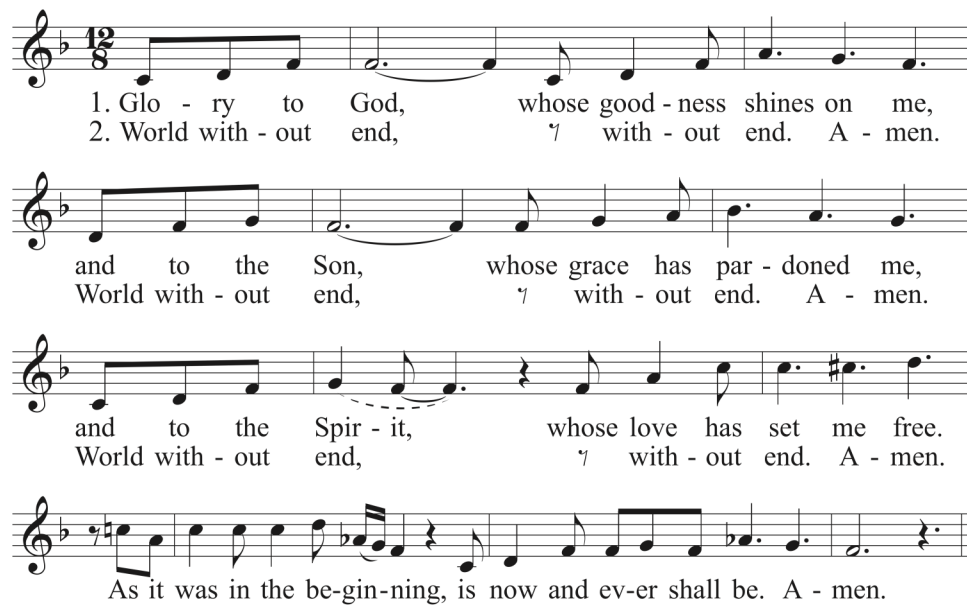
Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer**

Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Response

Paul M. Vasile



1. Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2. World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

Words of Peace

Solo

Auch mit gedämpften
(from Cantata 36 – *Schwingt freudig euch empor*, BWV 36)

J. S. Bach

SUNG IN GERMAN	TRANSLATION
<i>Auch mit gedämpften, schwachen Stimmen wird Gottes Majestät verehrt.</i>	Even with delicate, subdued voices is God's majesty honored.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Boundless Generosity

John Wurster

Solo

How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them
(from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel
(1685–1759)

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things.

— Isaiah 52:7 | Romans 10:15

Affirmation of Faith

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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 36 (see page 7)

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

Charge and Blessing

Closing Voluntary

Corrente from *Invenzione Quarta*

Francesco Antonio Bonporti
(1672–1749)

SERVING TODAY Liturgists

Kallie Pitcock and Omar Rouchon

Musicians

Julia Fox, soprano | Maria Lin, violinist | Matthew Dirst, harpsichordist
Cecilia Duarte and Nicholas Rathgeb, cantors | Randall Swanson, organist

WORSHIP NOTES

Lectionary Readings

- Exodus 16:2–15—*The people complain of hunger; God gives food in the wilderness.*
- Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45—*Give thanks to the Lord, who gave food and drink in the desert.*
- Philippians 1:21–30—*Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel.*
- Matthew 20:1–16—*The parable of laborers in the vineyard; the last will be first.*

MUSIC NOTES

Voluntaries — This morning's **opening voluntary** is a setting of a favorite German hymn melody, “Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, o Herr” (“Heartfelt Love I Have for You, O Lord”), which appears in an early collection of chorale preludes by J. S. Bach. Suitable for performance on any keyboard instrument, this prelude sets the lengthy chorale melody in two distinct ways: its first half features the melody in long notes in the soprano with contrapuntal figuration below, while the second transforms the concluding chorale phrases into a sprightly gigue. • The Italian composer and violinist Francesco Antonio Bonporti became a priest in 1695 and served parishes in Trento and Padua while composing numerous sonatas and inventions. His works in the latter genre found an admirer in Sebastian Bach, who transcribed several of them for keyboard. Today's **closing voluntary** is a lively dance movement from one of those works, scored for violin and continuo.

Solos — Today's **solos** are both excerpts from major works by Bach and Handel. Handel's *Messiah* needs no introduction, though the gorgeously limpid “How Beautiful Are the Feet of Them” may not be familiar to those who know only the “Christmas” portion of this beloved work. Bach frequently resorted to the same scoring of solo soprano, violin obbligato, and continuo in his many church cantatas. The aria “Auch mit gedämpften” from Cantata 36 asserts the primacy of God's majesty, even when proclaimed by “delicate, subdued voices.”

Harpsichord — A new German-style single manual harpsichord joins us in worship today. Modeled after the work of the Gräbner family of instrument builders in Dresden in the early eighteenth century, this harpsichord comes from the shop of John Phillips in Berkeley, CA, with characteristic decoration from his longtime collaborator Janine Johnson. It will live at St. Philip for the next month or so, for some videotaping for Ars Lyrica's Fall 2020 virtual season, which begins on Friday, September 25. After a wait of some eight years for my number to come up on John's waiting list, I'm delighted to welcome this new instrument to Houston!

— Matthew Dirst

As we continue to assess and monitor coronavirus data and the recommendations of local health leaders and then filter that information through our particular context at St. Philip, we remain convinced that we should continue to gather only online for Sunday worship for the coming weeks. **However, we are now able to have a limited number of people attend in-person our 11:00 a.m. daily prayer service (Monday-Saturday).** Currently, we have a limit of five persons per day, beginning with Monday's service. Advanced registration is required. For more information on conditions and to register click [here](#). The link will change weekly and is only available in the daily emails from the pastors. We hope that the opportunity to again worship in the sacred space of our Sanctuary will be a source of comfort and hope. Depending on circumstances, we can expand the number of worshipers per day as we go forward. If you have trouble with the registration or are not online, please call Lorrie Castle (832-262-1244).

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 27, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. The purpose of the meeting is the election of elders to serve on the Session in the class of 2023. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. The nominees are Gary Gardner; Susan Lange; Liz Miguez; Jeromy Murphy; Diana Weiss; Butch Wilson and Jennifer Wilson. More information about the nominees and the meeting procedure are available in the Philip-eye for 9/15/2020. <http://saintphilip.net/PhilpEYE/9.15.P.E.pdf>

IN OUR PRAYERS

Betsy Boston and family upon the death of her brother Tom who died on September 15.

St. Philipians and their families— Dick Howard; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Jan Ostendorf; Laney Miller; Susan Huffman; Joyce Fugit; Vicki McKay; Mary Sinderson; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Jeanne West; Greg Moore; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Katherine Crownover—daughter of Jane Malczewskyj; Gene Lindley—father of Janet Hess; Betty Grant—sister of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher—sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Liam Hunter—cousin of Mary Ann Thomas; John & Bessie Johnson—parents 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; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Miriam Kalmbach—aunt of Nancy Higgs; 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; Barbara German; George Helland; Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; and Penny Vieau.

Friends of St. Philipians: Cecil Trent—friend of Jane Cooper; Craig Slein—friend of Denise Ferrell and Steve Carmichael; Diane Morish and Melinda Penny—friends of Denise Ferrell; David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Clayton Amacker—friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; and Walter "Buddy" Hamman 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.

Joys—Carolyn & Paul Barrios welcomed Emmet Edward on August 28.

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/>) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

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

CHURCH & SOCIETY - September 27 - 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Darwin, Race, Slavery, and The Tree of Life - Charles Darwin always emphasized that he was a scientist, not a social reformer. But his theory of evolution quickly threw him into the midst of the hottest social and moral controversies of his day. Presented by Bruce Yaeger. To sign up for the Church and Society distribution list click [here](#).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Artwork by Micah Meyers.

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Opening Hymn 773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT



1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,
2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,
3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i-de-as,
4 Heaven shall not wait for tri-um-phant Hal-le-lu-jahs,



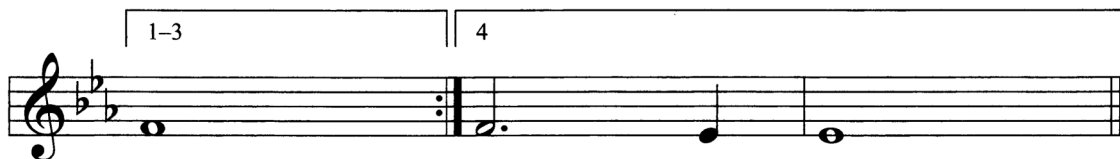
the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:
the proud to fall, the e-lite to tend the least:
thoughts of com-pas-sion di-vorced from cries of pain:
when earth has passed and we reach an-oth-er shore:



Je-sus is Lord; he has cham-pioned the un-want-ed;
Je-sus is Lord; he has shown the mas-ter's priv-ilege:
Je-sus is Lord; he has mar-ried word and ac-tion;
Je-sus is Lord in our pres-ent im-per-fec-tion;



in him in-jus-tice con-fronts its time-ly
to kneel and wash ser-vants' feet be-fore they
his cross and com-pa-ny make his pur-pose
his power and love are for now and then for



end. ev-er-more.
feast.
plain.

This stirring, prophetic hymn is organized around two recurring four-syllable phrases, the first of which introduces an idealized scenario of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer would call "cheap grace," while the second announces the "costly grace" of God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1987

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HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

12.11.12.11

Closing Hymn 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

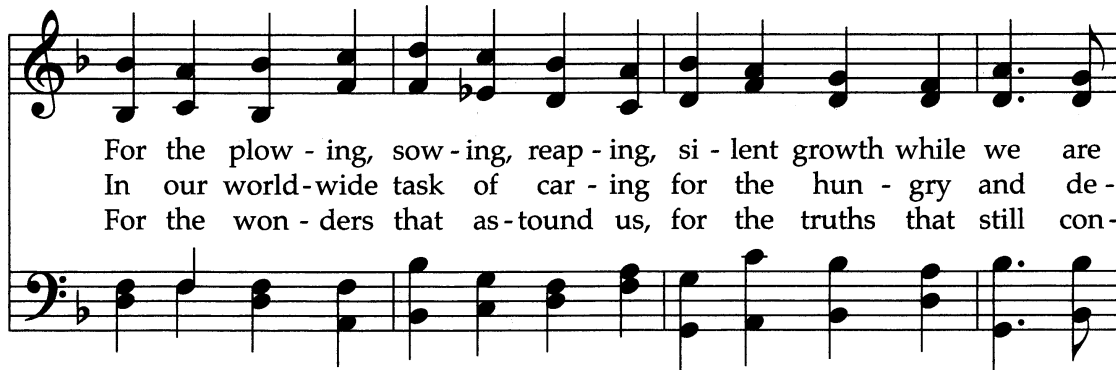
AR HYD Y NOS



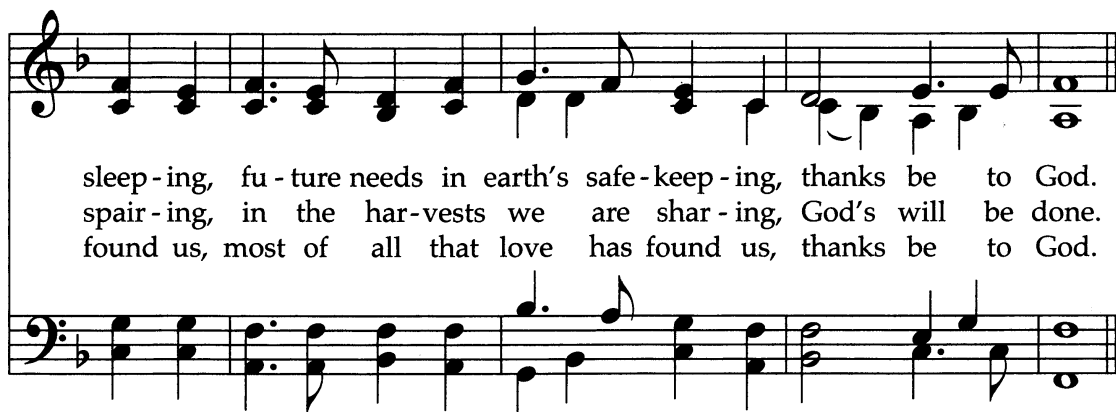
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."