



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
OCTOBER 25, 2020

**Opening Voluntary**

Chorale Fantasie on *Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*  
(A Mighty Fortress Is Our God) BWV 720

J. S. Bach  
(1685–1750)

**Introit**

*Christ Be with Me*

Noel Rawsthorne  
(1929–1919)

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to guide me, Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in care of friend and stranger.

— words attributed to St. Patrick (c. 387–c. 460)  
translated by C. F. Alexander (1818–1895)

**Opening Sentences**

**Opening Hymn 275** (see page 5)

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

**Prayer of Confession**

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*silent prayer*

**Response**

John Weaver

Lord, have mer - cy.  
Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Declaration of Forgiveness**Believe the Good News. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.****Response**

John Weaver

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the  
Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is  
now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men. A - men. A - men.

**The Peace**Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.****Anthem***A New Commandment*Thomas Tallis  
(c. 1505–1585)

A new commandment give I unto you, saith the Lord:  
that ye love together, as I have loved you,  
that e'en so you love one another.  
By this shall everyone know that ye are my disciples:  
if ye have love one to another.

— John 13:34-35

**Prayer for Illumination****Scripture Reading**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!****Psalm Response** (*choir alone first time, then all*)

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Refrain  
May the gra - cious - ness of the Lord our God be up - on us.

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 22:34-46

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

**Sermon**

Will I Ever Get There?

Kallie Pitcock

**Hymn 316** (*see page 6*)*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

TWENTY-FOURTH

**Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.**

## Charge and Blessing

## Closing Voluntary

*Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*

Johann Gottfried Walther  
(1684–1748)

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon and John Wurster

### Musicians

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

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Lectionary Readings

- Deuteronomy 34:1–12—*After seeing the promised land from Mount Nebo, Moses dies.*
- Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17—*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8—*We came to you to share the gospel; we also share ourselves.*
- Matthew 22:34–46—*Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor as yourself.*

## MUSIC NOTES

**Organ music** — Bach's single organ setting of the familiar chorale tune "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott," today's **opening voluntary**, dates from fairly early in his career as an organ virtuoso. A youthful desire to both impress and please is evident in the various ways this hymn melody is treated in diverse ways: first as a piece of two-part counterpoint, then with steadily fuller textures until the tune appears in long notes in the pedal just before the end. At the **closing voluntary** we hear from Bach's cousin and good friend Johann Gottfried Walther, who also composed an organ setting of "Ein' feste Burg." His rigorously contrapuntal treatment features the melody in long-note *cantus firmus* style at the top and bottom of busy inner parts.

**Choral music** — This morning's **introit** *Christ be with me* is by the late British composer Noel Rawsthorne, who was organist of Liverpool Cathedral for 25 years from 1955 to 1980. One of the finest organists of his generation, Rawsthorne was also a prolific composer of choral and organ music, as well as a highly regarded transcriber of classical orchestral works in arrangements for the organ. *Christ be with me*, set by a number of other composers under the title *Prayer of St. Patrick*, features a simple unison melody shared between high and low voices, and crowned with a lovely descant at the end. • Today's **anthem** *A New Commandment* is by Thomas Tallis, who was among the rare English composers (William Byrd was another) who were able to bridge the reigns of several British monarchs and their shifting religious allegiances during the time of the English Reformation, from Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, through Elizabeth I. Like many of Tye's anthems, *A New Commandment* was originally composed for the lower voices of the all-male choirs of his time (we present it this morning in a higher transposition suitable for mixed-voice choirs), beautifully setting the words of Christ's Mandatum, the mandate that we are to love one another as he loved (loves!) us.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art by Micah Meyers.

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## Opening Hymn 275

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

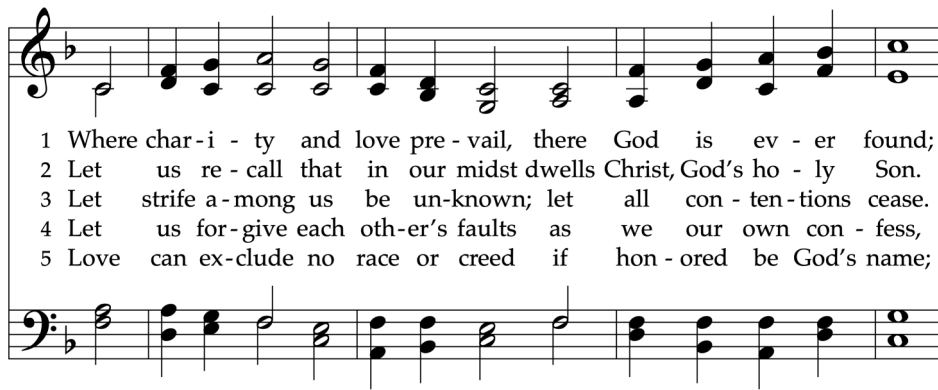
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

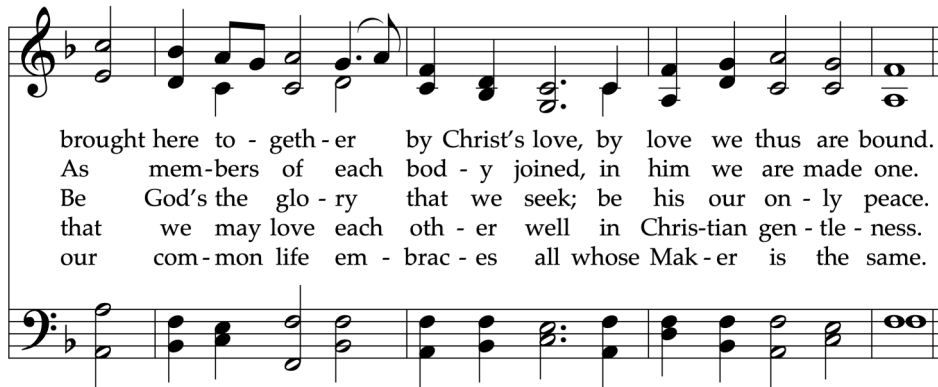
mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and  
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from  
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for  
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.  
 3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.  
 4 Let us for-give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,  
 5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.  
 our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

## Closing Hymn 766

*The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*

McKEE

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by  
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and  
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when  
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to  
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and  
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek  
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the  
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the  
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and

love are found, there can the church be known.  
 out the poor, and ask to wash their feet.  
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.  
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.  
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwritng competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005

MUSIC: African American spiritual; *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940  
 Text © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc.

MC KEE  
 CM

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philippians and their families*— Ellen MacDonald; 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; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; 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; 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; 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. Philippians:* Charlie McCarthy—friend of Bonnie Moore; Cecil Trent—friend of Jane Cooper; Craig Slein—friend of Denise Ferrell and Steve Carmichael; Melinda Penny—friend 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.*

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

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**We continue to invite you to attend our daily prayer services at 11:00 a.m. (Monday-Saturday).** Currently, we have a limit of five persons per day. Advance registration is required. For more information on conditions and to register click [here](#). We hope that the opportunity to again worship in the sacred space of our Sanctuary will be a source of comfort and hope. If you have trouble with the registration or are not online, please call Lorrie Castle (832-262-1244—cell).

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

**CHURCH & SOCIETY - November 1 - 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.** - Save Your Connection to Nature - How can we use our love of nature to help raise the political will to mitigate climate crisis that is altering the world as we know it? Learn about the policies and actions supported by Citizens Climate Lobby to build a broad, sustainable foundation for implementing national solutions to the climate crisis. The best first step for this is a market-based approach to converting our fossil-fuel economy into one which relies on renewable energy. Presented by Mark Herranen - Citizens Climate Lobby, a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that advocates bipartisan climate crisis solutions in the United States Congress.