



## Preparation for Worship

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

—Matthew 6:19-21

## Opening Voluntary

*Praeludium in the Phrygian Mode*  
BuxWV 152

Dietrich Buxtehude  
(1637-1707)

## Greeting

*Please sign and pass the friendship folder.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## ✦ Opening Sentences

### ✦ Hymn 12 ([see page 9](#))

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

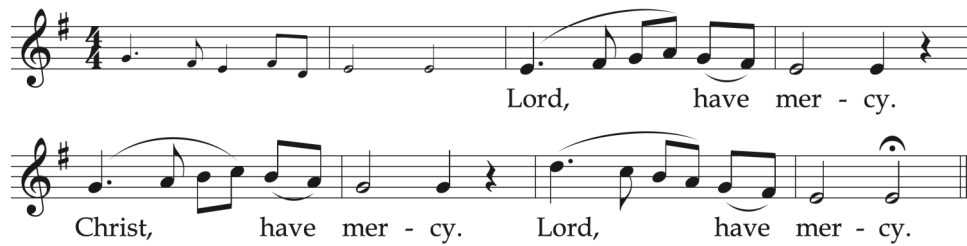
ST DENIO

## ✦ Prayer of Confession

Holy God,  
you are light and truth.  
We confess that we often dwell  
in darkness and falsehood.  
Sin drives us into ourselves and away from you.  
We almost come to believe that it is possible  
for us to make it on our own.  
But, when we are honest,  
we see the error of our ways.  
Walking away from you leads only to our ruin.  
Turn us around.  
Capture our hearts.  
Cleanse our spirits.  
In your light, may we see who we are.  
In your truth, may we see who we can become,  
as we seek to follow Jesus Christ.

*silent prayer*

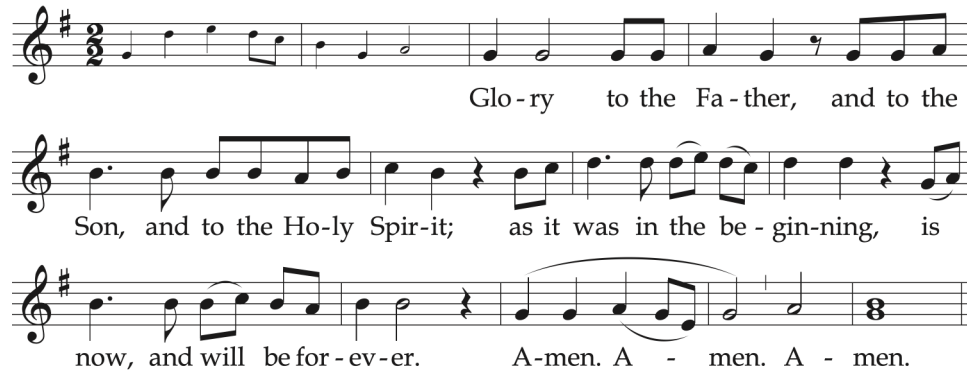
## ✦ Response



## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## ✦ Response



## ✦ The Peace

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

## Conversation with Children

*Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.*

*Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.*

## Prayer for Illumination

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

N.T. pg. 28

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## Anthem

*God Be In My Head*

Philip Wilby  
(b. 1949)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

(*Sarum Primer*, 1514)

## Sermon

Doing Church, Being Church

John W. Wurster

*silence and stillness*

✦ Hymn 771 ([see page 10](#))

*What Is the World Like*

NEW WORLD

## ✠ Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news which we have received,  
 in which we stand,  
 and by which we are saved,  
 if we hold it fast:  
 that Christ died for our sins  
 according to the scriptures,  
 that he was buried,  
 that he was raised on the third day,  
 and that he appeared first to the women,  
 then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
 and then to many faithful witnesses.  
 We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
 the Son of the living God.  
 Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
 the beginning and the end;  
 he is our Lord and our God. 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.

## Stewardship Reflection

### Offering

*The basket in the front is for our offering today and our 2024 pledges.*

### Offertory Anthem

*Keep Your Lamps!*

Victor C. Johnson  
 (b. 1978)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
 The time is drawing nigh.  
 Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
 Soon this journey will be over.

(Traditional Spiritual)

## ✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Dear God,  
 with hope and thanksgiving, we offer ourselves to you.  
**Bless our gifts and commitments,  
 deepen our faith,  
 strengthen us to follow in the way of Christ,  
 and inspire us to use well all that we have received. Amen.**

## ✦ Hymn 543 [\(see page 11\)](#)

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

## ✦ Charge and Blessing

*Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.*

### Voluntary

*Erfreue dich, Himmel*

Liselotte Kunkel  
 (b. 1975)

*If you haven't visited the Christmas Market and Mission Forum in the Fellowship Hall, it is open until 12:45 p.m.*

## SERVING TODAY

### Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

### Liturgist

Sam Fisher

### Musicians

St. Philip Choir | Jane Malczewskyj, pianist | Matthew Dirst, organist and interim choir director

## FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Russell and Caryn Bahruth to the glory of God and in honor of Sandra Truxillo for her time and talents organizing the weekly Chancel flowers.

## WORSHIP NOTES

Today's worship service includes traditional Negro Spiritual music. The Black composers of this music are unknown to history and therefore unable to receive royalties directed to their estates for the use of their songs. To remedy this inequity, a fund has been created and approved by the Session where we will collect voluntary "royalties" for using this music. Anyone may donate to the fund by going to the [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting Negro Spirituals as the fund. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). You may also contribute by writing a check with *Negro Spirituals* in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. This small gesture of reparation seeks to help heal the long history of injury to Black persons. Contributions received over the course of the year will be donated annually to a local organization supporting Black musical traditions.

Today's readings and prayers are borrowed from various sources such as:

- Amos 5:18-24 – *The day of the Lord is darkness; let justice roll down like waters.*
- Psalm 70 – *O Lord, make haste to help me, for I am poor and needy.*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – *The dead in Christ will rise first; then the living will meet the Lord.*
- Matthew 25:1-13 – *The parable of Ten Bridesmaids; keep awake, the Lord is coming.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

The Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6, Mark 16:9, Matthew 16:16, Revelation 22:13, and John 20:28.

Music reprints and online streaming by permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.

## MUSIC NOTES

Today's **opening voluntary** comes from Dietrich Buxtehude, the famed Lübeck organist who was a leading light of the North German Baroque. His non-chorale based organ works tend to feature multiple sections, alternating between rhapsodic figuration and short fugues. One of the more concise examples of this genre, the Praeludium BuxWV 152 features toccata-like opening and closing sections around two brief fugues on the same subject but in different meters.

This morning's **anthem** incorporates the words of one of the most familiar of Renaissance-era prayers: "God be in my head, and in my understanding." The concise setting by British composer Philip Wilby treats this text with simple elegance, first as simple melody then in four-part harmony.

At the **offertory** the St. Philip Choir offers an arrangement by Victor C. Johnson of a traditional African

American spiritual. A native of Dallas, Johnson is a prolific composer and arrangers with hundreds of choral works to his credit. He currently serves as Minister of Worship and the Arts at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, TX. His *Keep Your Lamps*, scored for mixed choir and piano accompaniment, reminds us in a straightforward yet jazzy manner of the brevity of the Christian year—and of life itself.

Liselotte Kunkel teaches composition and piano at the Würzburg Musikhochschule (conservatory). Her jazz-inspired organ works include a setting of *Erfreue dich, Himmel, erfreue dich, Erde* ("Be glad, heaven; be glad, Earth") that is today's **closing voluntary**. Its text, based on Psalm 148, celebrates all of God's creation.

— Matthew Dirst

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philippians and their families*—Velma Guy Tolbert; Susan Estill; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Pat Lindsay; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Shirley Coffman; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; John Palisin – brother of Peg Palisin; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Halley Delany – sister of Nina Lambright; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson.

*Homebound*—Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Breck Smith – friend of Kate Burkart; Caitlan Prescott – friend of Mary McGuire; Mary Watters – friend of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Tom Barnett – friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach – friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; and Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge.

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).



The Mission Committee invites you to stop at the Christmas Market and Mission Forum following the worship service

12:00 – 12:45 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Credit cards, personal checks & cash accepted.



**ST. PHILIP LIBRARY** – Through the gracious donations of many people, the library inventory has grown. Judith Hiott over sees processing new books and shelving. She is seeking assistance on Thursday, **November 16** from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. She will provide a lunch of salad and bread at noon. Bring a friend if you like. Interested parties should call or text Judith if they are coming at 832-277-8676.

**VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR A VERY SHORT TERM PROJECT** – PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, *On Eagles Wings*, on **March 23, 2024**, at The Lone Star Flight Museum! As we prepare for this momentous occasion, we invite volunteers to assist with our mailout process. This will involve assembling letters, stuffing, sealing and addressing envelopes. Lunch/snacks will be provided.

Date: **November 13 - 17; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** – Volunteers may sign up for either the morning or afternoon.

Location: St. Philip – Room 105

To register, stop by the POP booth at the Christmas Market or notify Lorrie ([lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net) or 713-622-4807)

**YOGA AND PRAYER** – Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time. Join us for a morning of gentle yoga and silent prayer on Saturday 12/9 from 10:00- 12:00. We will enjoy the stretching, grounding and centering that comes with yoga, using chairs or your mats in the Gathering Area, led by Susan Lange. In the sanctuary, Meg Scott-Johnson will offer instruction on centering prayer/lectio divina. Then we will open our hearts and minds to God's presence with us in the quiet. All are welcome. No experience required. Babysitting available. Sponsored by the Christian Ed Commit-

tee. For more infor-



**SATURDAY, DEC. 2<sup>ND</sup> 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.**  
**ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE ARE WELCOMED > THERE IS NO COST**  
**ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4807 SAN FELIPE - EDUCATION BLDG.**

\*PLEASE BRING A BAGGED LUNCH & WEAR CLOSED-TOE SHOES

[ FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER ]  
**VISIT: SAINTPHILIP.NET**

### NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

**GODLY PLAY** – Ages 3 – Kindergarten – Room 104

**ELEMENTARY** – Grades 1-5 – Room 105

**YOUTH** – Grades 6-12 – Room 205

**FAITH & LIFE** – Room 200 – An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. Using the short stories in *The Gift of Hard Things: Finding Grace in Unexpected Places* by Mark Yaconelli, participants will read a short text in class and then engage in conversation as a group. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** – Room 204 – We resume our study of the Kingdom of Judah at 2 Kings 18 with the story of King Hezekiah in Dr. Robert Alter's *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to God's people from Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

**CHURCH & SOCIETY** – Room 201 – Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Nov. 19** - "My Great Grandfather's Story - Emir Abdelkader al-Jazairi" - Emir Abdelkader al-Qadir al-Jazairi (1808-1883) was a venerated Algerian Islamic scholar and a military leader who led a collective resistance against the mid-nineteenth century French colonial invasion of Algeria. . Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

[churchsociety\\_stphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net).

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL – TODAY** – We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays after *Conversation with Children*. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing, and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn.

### ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

**LAMBETH STUDY** – Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at:

[keatan@saintphilip.net](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP** – This reading and discussion group meets on the first Monday, 7-8 p.m., by zoom. As an activity of the Peacemaking/Social Justice Committee, the group provides a forum for the study and discussion of social justice topics (racism, immigration, globalism, climate change, current events, etc.) within the framework of the church and guided by our faith. The current study book is *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, by Emmanuel Acho. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at [sjj10223@gmail.com](mailto:sjj10223@gmail.com).

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY** – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster **meets weekly**. The class meets at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to [john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net). Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB** – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Dec. 14** at 7:00 p.m. and it will be a social. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at:

[nnl@lambrightlaw.com](mailto:nnl@lambrightlaw.com).

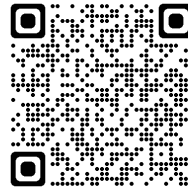
**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP** – Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m. We are studying *They Walked With God* by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that he has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at [ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com).

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** – All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate; to be directed to a group leader please email [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net).

*Monday Morning Saints* – 2nd Mon. of each month  
@ 10:00 a.m.

*Sunday Circle* – 3rd Sun. of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

*Thursday Evening Circle* – 1st Thurs. of each month  
@ 7:00 p.m.



### Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net).

**AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,**  
**we seek to be an inclusive,**  
**grace-filled community,**  
**engaging the world with open minds,**  
**willing hands and generous hearts.**

**WE LONG**  
**for deeper faith,**  
**vibrant hope**  
**and boundless love**  
**for everyone, every day, everywhere.**

**Thank you for joining us today!** We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

**Nursery care** is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

**A Hearing Loop** is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your “T switch” to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY’S HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

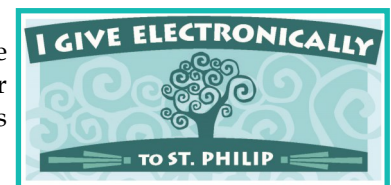
**Connect with St. Philip** through [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net).

**If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church** by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

**Worship with us, whenever, wherever.** Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net). We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

**Contributions**, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

**I Give Electronically**—in response to parents’ hopes that their children might be able to see their ongoing commitment to St. Philip and with the intent to better represent the totality of our giving as a congregation, we have available in the pews giving cards that can be placed in the offering plate by our electronic givers.





## Hymn 12

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST DENIO

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.  
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO  
 11.11.11.11

[Return to page 1](#)

## Hymn 771

## What Is the World Like

NEW WORLD



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive;  
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;  
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;  
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,  
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.  
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2009  
 MUSIC: Sally Ann Morris, 2009  
 Text and Music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

NEW WORLD  
 10.10.10.10

[Return to page 3](#)

## Hymn 543

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

TEXT and MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004  
 Text and Music © 2004 This Here Music, Worldmaking.net

GREEN TYLER  
 9.8.9.5.5

[Return to page 4](#)