



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP

AT WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Opening Voluntary**

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

**Introit**

*I Lift Up My Soul*

Chant

Unto thee, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in thee have I trusted;  
let me not be confounded,  
neither let mine enemies triumph over me;  
for all they that look for thee shall not be ashamed.  
Show me thy ways, O LORD,  
and teach me thy paths.

— Psalm 25-1-3

**Greeting**

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

**Hymn 105** (see page 6)

*People, Look East*

BESANÇON

**Prayer of Confession**

**Coming Christ,  
you may not find us as you hoped.  
We've looked away from what we do not wish to see.  
We've stopped listening to what we do not wish to hear.  
We are numb to inconvenient truths.**

**Wake us up, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.  
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.  
Sharpen our minds clouded by worry.  
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.  
Be born in us,  
that we may be filled with your purpose.**

*silent prayer*

## Response

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!' The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/2.

TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WAIT FOR THE LORD

8.8

## Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## Response

Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems. The first system has a treble staff with lyrics: 'Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!' The second system has a treble staff with lyrics: 'Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.' The third system has a treble staff with lyrics: 'Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.' The fourth system has a treble staff with lyrics: 'O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.' The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; translated by Augustus Nelson, 1958;

adapted by Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

7.6.7.6.7.6.6

## The Peace

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

**Solo**

*Prepare Thyself, Zion*  
(from *Christmas Oratorio* • BWV 248)

J. S. Bach

Prepare thyself, Zion, the purest, the fairest, this day to receive.  
Thou must greet him with a heart with love o'erflowing!  
Haste then, with ardor the Bridegroom to welcome.  
Thou must greet him with a heart with love o'erflowing!

**Prayer for Illumination****First Reading**

Isaiah 64:1-9

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

**Anthem**

*The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

Howard Helvey  
(b. 1968)

The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills,  
and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child  
to bear, and fight, and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun  
that lights the morning sky.

The King shall come when morning dawns,  
and earth's dark night is past;  
O haste the rising of that morn,  
the day that aye shall last.

And let the endless bliss begin,  
by weary saints foretold,  
when right shall triumph over wrong,  
and truth shall be extolled.

The King shall come when morning dawns,  
and light and beauty brings;  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray,  
come quickly, King of kings!

— words translated from the Greek by John Brownlie (1857–1925)

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

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

**Sermon**

Keatan King

**Hymn 349** (see page 7)

*"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us*

WACHET AUF

**Affirmation of Faith**

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

**The Spirit of God 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 all people to all ministries of the Church.  
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."**

## 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.**

**Hymn 357** (see page 8)

*The Days Are Surely Coming*

LLANGLOFFAN

### Charge and Blessing

### Closing Voluntary

Toccata on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Hugo Distler  
(1908–1942)

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Kallie Pitcock and John Wurster

### Musicians

Julia Fox, Cecilia Duarte\*, Thomas Lewis O'Neill, and Nicholas Rathgeb — vocalists  
Matthew Dirst, organist | Randall Swanson, conductor *\*soloist*

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Lectionary Readings

- Isaiah 64:1–9—*Tear open the heavens and come down; save us from our sin.*
- Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19—*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us.*
- 1 Corinthians 1:3–9—*God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ's coming.*
- Mark 13:24–37—*In those days the stars will fall from heaven; keep awake.*

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. Beginning right away you have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this. You can go to the website, [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) and click on "Make A Contribution". Choose *Flowers/Holiday*. Include in the optional memo "Point". Email your honor/memorial designations to Lorrie Castle at [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net). Otherwise, you will receive an email, within a few days asking for names of people you want to recognize. Questions? Call Church Office at 713-622-4807.

### *Christmas Poinsettias*

*Donations of any amount accepted*

(circle one) **I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season

(circle one) **in honor of / memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

Donor - Your Name(s) (Please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return it with your payment to the church office by Tuesday, December 16.  
Payments can be made online—please note 'Point'. Use additional space below if needed.*

## MUSIC NOTES

**Organ music** — Today's **opening voluntary** is based on the German Advent chorale *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (Sleepers, Wake! a Voice is Calling), which can be found at No. 349 in our hymnal, and which we sing as this morning's middle hymn. Bach's setting originated in his Cantata 140 as a trio movement scored for violin obbligato, tenor, and continuo. The composer's own arrangement of this delightful piece for organ solo appeared in a collection of six such works published in 1748 by Johann Georg Schübler, which have long been known colloquially as the *Schübler Chorales*. • In early 1931 Hugo Distler became organist of the Jakobikirche in Lübeck. He wrote most of his organ music for the two instruments in that venerable Gothic church, especially the smaller of the two instruments, whose origins date from the fifteenth century. Four years into his Lübeck tenure, he composed two works on the *Wachet auf* chorale melody: a motet and an organ partita. Considered by many his strongest work for the organ, the partita exemplifies Distler's neo-Baroque compositional aesthetic in its intricate yet dancelike counterpoint, rhythmic vitality, and fidelity to Philipp Nicolai's 1599 chorale. Its opening Toccata serves as today's **closing voluntary**.

**Vocal & choral music** — This morning's **solo** is one of the mezzo-soprano arias from Bach's monumental *Christmas Oratorio*, a collection of six cantatas for Christmas, New Year's and Epiphany composed and first performed in 1734/35. *Prepare thyself, Zion (Bereite dich, Zion)* is the alto aria from the first of the cantatas — *Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage* (Triumph, rejoicing, rise, praising these days) — for Christmas Day. This aria is often sung separately during the season of Advent, since it echoes themes of watching and preparation heard in the scripture readings of the season. • Today's **anthem** is a brilliant setting by American composer and organist Howard Helvey of words translated from an early Greek hymn by Scottish clergyman and prolific hymnodist John Brownlie. The music of *The King shall come when morning dawns* was composed by Helvey in 2017, and the anthem was the winner of the 2018 Sewanee Church Music Conference Choral Composition Prize. The overall musical form is ABABA (plus a short coda at the end), with the "A" section essentially being a newly-composed Common Meter (86.86) hymn tune. Multiple rhythmic meters are applied throughout the work, serving to underscore the natural scansion, or syllabic stresses, of the text.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art by Micah Meyers.

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View the curated group of our mission partners, representing each of Mission Committee's focal areas of Caring, Feeding, and Teaching that are participating in the Market online at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net). The Market allows you to make a single payment to St. Philip, and your donation will be distributed to the organizations in the market as you designate. You may donate in any amount to one or more of these organizations, using either the secure giving portal on the website, in MyStPhilip, or by printing out this Alternative Marker list and sending it, with your check, to the church office.



Mission Partner	Contribution
The Beacon	\$
Christian Community Service Center	\$
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Kids Against Hunger	\$
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Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services	\$
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## Opening Hymn 105

## People, Look East

BESANÇON

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more  
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look  
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:  
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.  
 Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.



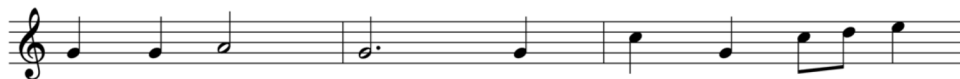
1. "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, The  
 2. Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; Her  
 3. Lamb of God, the heav'ns a - dore you; Let



shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -  
 heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, She  
 saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, As



wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their  
 wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her  
 harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the



cry has bro - ken, Their ur - gent sum - mons  
 Bride-groom glo - rious In strength of grace, in  
 cit - y's por - tals: Through them we stream to



clear - ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
 truth vic - to - rious: Her star is ris'n, her light grows bright.  
 join th' im - mor - tals As we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; The Bride - groom is in  
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate  
 No eye has known the sight, No ear heard such de -



sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare And  
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all And  
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing To



has - ten there, That you the wed - ding feast may share."  
 heed your call To come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
 greet our King; For ev - er let our prais - es ring.

This text is based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13), but contains allusions to many other New Testament passages. Because one person created both text and tune, they combine majestically to form what is often called "the king of chorales."

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,  
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom-ised one,  
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.  
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.  
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land  
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,  
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.  
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.  
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.



## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Ben, Cindy, and Piper Dees upon the birth of daughter/sister Elsie Maren Dees on November 17.*

*St. Philipians and their families*— Casey Lambright; Sondra Sullivan; Mary Benson; 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; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Philip and Becky Karper—parents of Kallie Pitcock; Meredith and Louis Pitcock—parents of Justin Pitcock; Ricardo and Mary Adame—brother and sister-in-law (and Mary's mother Yvonne Dominguez) of staff singer Ofelia Adame Williams; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Betty Grant—sister 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; 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 Boggus—grandmother 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; George Helland; Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; and Penny Vieau.

*Friends of St. Philipians*—Shirley Graff—friend of Sondra Sullivan; Ruth Duncan and Melerie Langford—friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; 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; Hyam Ashoo and Clayton Amacker—friends 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 - 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.—December 6 - *How Churches Can Work for Racial Justice*** This session will explore how religious commitments can shape ethical and political practice and inspire social change. Using South Africa as a case study, we will explore how South African Christians have imagined and worked towards a more racially just and equitable world, and what lessons US churches can learn from them in our current social moment—presented by Dr. Rachel C. Schneider, Postdoctoral Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program at Rice University. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes—[mmcgm63@gmail.com](mailto:mmcgm63@gmail.com).