



1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Preparation for Worship

*Defenseless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironic points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their messages:
May I, composed like them
Of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.*

- W.H. Auden

Voluntary

Variations on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Nos. 1-5)

Anton Heiller
(1923-1979)

Greeting

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

Introit

Medieval Gloria (excerpt)

Vijay Singh
(b. 1966)

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Glory to God in the highest

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

St. Philip Youth

✠ **Hymn 102** ([see page 11](#))

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILEND

✠ Prayer of Confession

Coming Christ,
 you herald the dawning of
 a new heaven and new earth.
 We confess we are too comfortable
 with life on earth at present.
 We tolerate poverty.
 We fund war.
 We pollute creation.
 Immigrants are terrified.
 Children are hungry.
 The sick are blamed for their choices.

Wake us up, God, with your forgiving love.
 Open our eyes to the signs of
 your new heaven and new earth.
 Use our hands and hearts
 to make all things new.

silent prayer

✠ Response

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

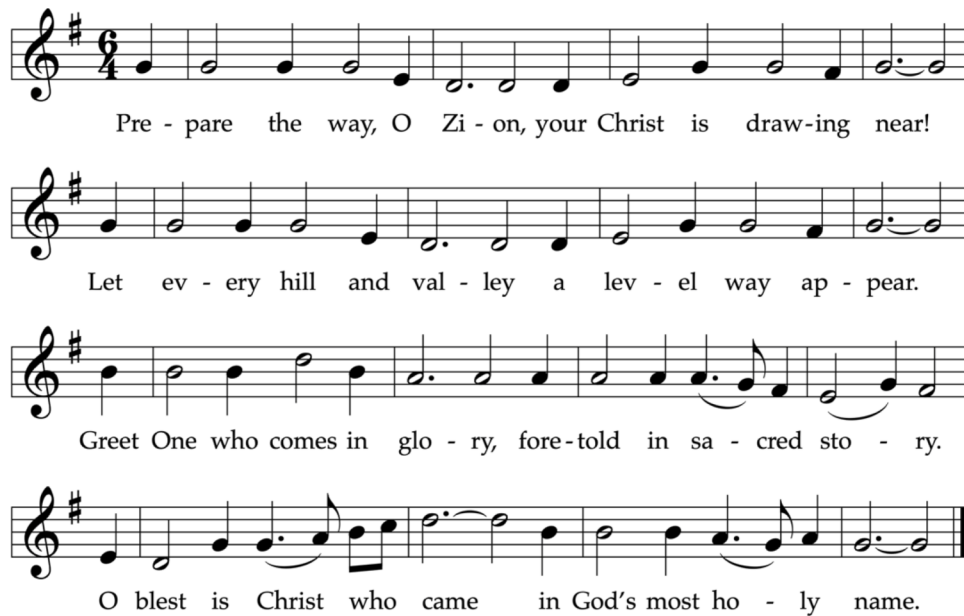
TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
 Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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.

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
 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.6

✦ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

O.T. pgs. 631-632

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Gloria in excelsis Deo

RV 589/1

Antonio Vivaldi
 (1678-1741)

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Glory to God in the highest

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

N.T. pgs. 27-28

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Reaching Hope

Keatan King

silence and stillness

✦ Hymn 357 [\(see page 12\)](#)

The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

✠ Affirmation of Faith

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!"

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.

Offering

Gifts may also be given any time at saintphilip.net

Offertory

Domine Deus
 RV 589/6

Antonio Vivaldi

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Lord God, King of Heaven,
Deus Pater omnipotens. God the Father Almighty.

✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

O Lord our God, we give you thanks
 for the hope and longing you instill in us through baptism.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
keep us awake and make us ready
for the coming of your glorious realm
of righteousness, justice, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ Hymn 94 [\(see page 13\)](#)

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

Congregational Meeting

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Variations on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (No. 6)

Anton Heiller

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Lee Ardell

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | John Lemen, djembe | St. Philip Choir | Tessa Larson, soprano
Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Isaiah 2:1–5 Turn swords into plowshares; walk in the light of the Lord.
- Psalm 122 I was glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
- Romans 13:11–14 Salvation is near: wake up; live honorably; put on Jesus Christ.
- Matthew 24:36–44 The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for **TODAY**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an elder for the Session Class of 2028; an elder for a one-year unexpired term in the Session Class of 2026; and a member to serve a two-year term on the congregational nominating committee. William Rowe is being nominated to serve on the Session in the Class of 2028; William Howard is being nominated to serve for the one-year term on the Session in the Class of 2026; Mary Grace Carter is being nominated to serve on the nominating committee. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

MUSIC NOTES

Longtime organ professor at the Vienna Academy of Music, Anton Heiller left a large body of music for the instrument, including a set of variations on the Advent chorale "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," which we sing this morning as "Savior of the Nations, Come." These variations, from which come today's **Opening** and **Closing Voluntaries**, epitomize Heiller's compositional style in their obsessive rhythms, thoroughgoing counterpoint, and gently modernist harmonic style.

To begin this season of Advent, we present the opening lines from the traditional Christian hymn, *Gloria in excelsis Deo* ("Glory to God in the highest") in two distinct styles: an excerpt from a Medieval, chant-like version as our **introit**, followed by the opening movement of Vivaldi's popular larger work *Gloria*, RV 589 as our **anthem**. Both versions of the ancient text offer glimpses of past musical styles—although the former was com-

posed in the late 20th century—and depict a joyful celebration in anticipation of the coming of Christ. This morning's service also represents the first of several that will highlight the Advent portion of the "Gloria" through RV 589, most of which will also be performed as part of our Christmas concert on December 7th at 5:00pm.

Also drawn from RV 589, today's **offertory** sets just two lines of text from the "Gloria," which comes at the end of the transition from the opening Advent section to the more Doxological. Vivaldi depicts the spirit of the text through a serene and peaceful mood with many pastoral features such as its meter (12/8) and a lilting oboe obbligato—a perfect way to open the season of Advent.

- Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

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IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kay Cash; Pam Taylor; Deb Burks; Sondra Sullivan; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Wilma Grether – mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family – sister-in-law of Pam Kever; Kathy Bailey and family – sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith – cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes – daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians – Greg Anderson – friend of Lorrie Castle; Ann Swanson – friend of Deborah Unruh; Kitty Manson and family; Sidney Roach, Lori Childers O'Connell, Joyce Freudenberg – friends of Stephen Paine; Chris Deflandre – friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood – friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende – friend of Beth Atkinson; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Mary Watters and Mindy Cooper-Smith – friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett – friends of Robin and Gary Willis; 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

PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO **5TH SUNDAYS** ON **NOVEMBER 30**

DEMOCRACIES DIE WITHOUT A LITERATE CITIZENRY
Dorcas Hand & Debbie Hall, Co-presenters

FOLLOWING WORSHIP | ROOM TBA
BOOK EXCHANGE, BOOK MARK CRAFT,
AND LITE BITES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

TO RSVP | QUESTIONS?
[EMAIL: DWILBORN55@GMAIL.COM]

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4807 SAN FELIPE, 77056 | SAINTPHILIP.NET

WE CHOOSE WELCOME

Duerr Lecture Series
2026

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Greensboro, North Carolina

Presenting Lectures
February 22, 23, and 24 2026




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 complete the form to the right or go to the website, saintphilip.net, and click on Make a Contribution. Choose fund *Flowers*. In the optional Note put "Point" and the individual or persons you are honoring or remembering. Questions? Call Church Office at 713-622-4807 or email Lorrie Castle at: lorrie@saintphilip.net.

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 place envelope in the offering plate or return it with your **payment** to the church office by Tuesday, **December 16**. Use additional space below if needed.

I have included a _____ check, _____ cash or
_____ will pay online.

**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 that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. 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 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

GODLY PLAY – Ages 3-Kindergarten – Room 103

ELEMENTARY – Grades 1-5 – Room 205

YOUTH – Grades 6-12 – meet again in January

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 a.m. We have completed our study of Ecclesiastes in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). We have started our study of Isaiah in Volume 2, *Prophets*, in Dr. Alter's *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary* (2019). All are welcome as we seek to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to all God's people.

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201 – Join us from 9:30 – 10:40 a.m. with presentations in person and by Zoom. Nov. 30 Presentation by Rabbi Steven Morgan entitled "It Takes Two to Relevate: A Modern Jewish Approach to Understanding the Prophets." To learn more about the classes offered at St. Philip visit our website at www.saintphilip.net.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP – This group meets for an hour once a month on Zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of concern in today's world. Our current topic is Christian Nationalism, one definition of which is "that America is God's chosen nation and should be defended and governed as such." Attitudes already influencing our legislators include opposition to gay rights, opposition to gun safety efforts, promotion of Christian religion in schools and libraries, book bans, etc. Our current study book is Brian Kaylor's *Baptizing America; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian Nationalism*. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson sjj10223@gmail.com.

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 at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly 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. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome to join us as we look at the lectionary passages for the coming Sunday! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting will be a social on Dec. 11 at 7:00 p.m. Please watch your email for details about location. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: 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 wrapping up studying "The Tears of Things" by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S
Christmas Luncheon

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 21**
AFTER 11 AM WORSHIP
[IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL]

*All women are invited
to participate in this
time of Fellowship.*

**CATERED
LUNCH: \$20**
*Please bring
DESSERT!*

RSVP & PAY BY DEC. 14


[PW CHRISTMAS LUNCH]



Advent at St. Philip

Praying toward Bethlehem

ADVENT SELF-DIRECTED PRAYER STATIONS

SUNDAYS | NOV. 30 - DEC. 21
9:15 - 10:50 AM | ROOM 205

A WEEKLY ROTATING SET OF SELF-DIRECTED PRAYER STATIONS
CENTERED ON GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE.
EACH STATION INVITES YOU TO PRAY AT YOUR OWN PACE
USING A VARIETY OF MEDITATION TECHNIQUES AND
SENSORY EXPERIENCES.

Lectio Divina

MONDAYS | DEC. 1-22 | 9-9:20 AM

CONTEMPLATIVE READING OF SCRIPTURE VIA ZOOM.

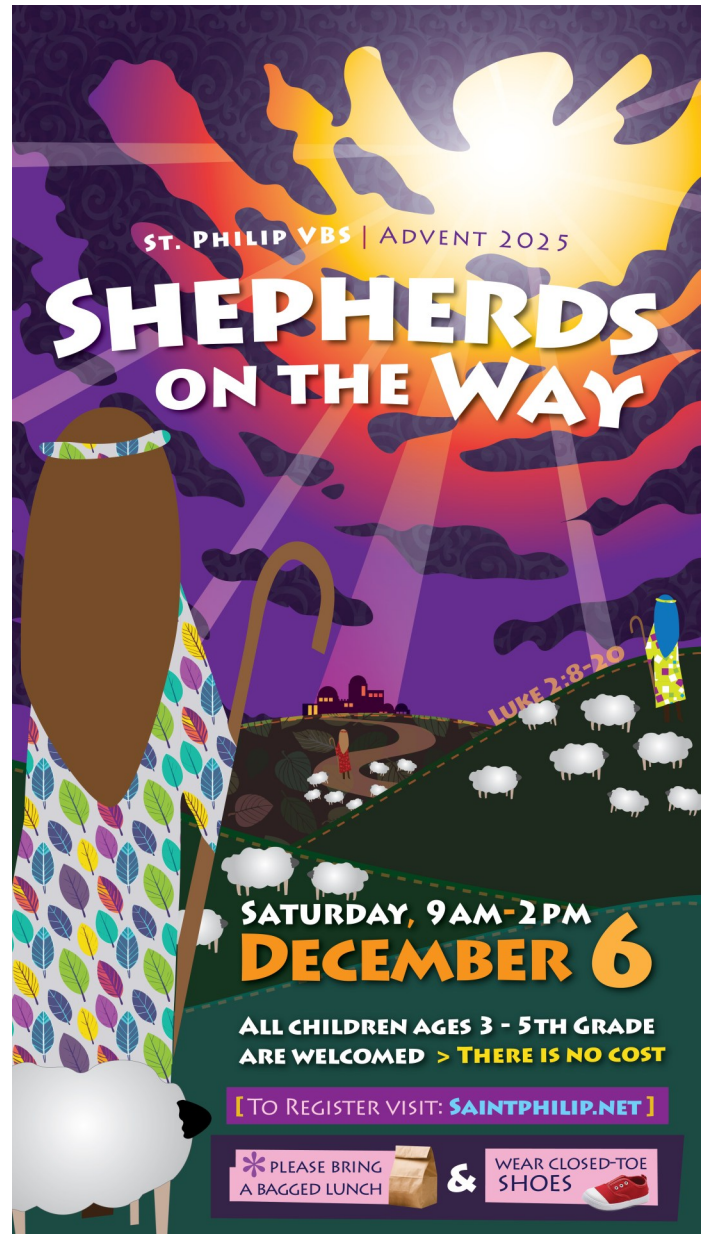
EMAIL **KEATAN KING** AT KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET
TO RECEIVE THE WEEKLY ZOOM LINK.

Advent Meditations

WEDNESDAYS | DEC. 3-17 | 12 PM

A WEEKLY OFFERING OF MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD
LUNCH AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS IN GATHERING AREA

SAINTPHILIP.NET



ST. PHILIP VBS | ADVENT 2025

SHEPHERDS ON THE WAY

LUKE 2:8-20

SATURDAY, 9AM-2PM
DECEMBER 6

**ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE
ARE WELCOMED > THERE IS NO COST**

[TO REGISTER VISIT: SAINTPHILIP.NET]

* PLEASE BRING
A BAGGED LUNCH

&

WEAR CLOSED-TOE
SHOES

ARS
LYRICA
HOUSTON

The
Watchmen's
Song

Tuesday, 12/2
7:30 PM



Ars Lyrica Houston is delighted to invite all St. Philip members to attend our upcoming holiday-season performance, **The Watchmen's Song, free of charge**, on **Tuesday, December 2 at 7:30 PM**, right here at St. Philip Presbyterian Church.

This program weaves together moving settings of the beloved German chorale *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (“Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing”) by composers spanning the 17th to 20th centuries — including Tunder, Buxtehude, J. S. Bach, Distler, Schütz, and Bruhns. It’s a beautiful exploration of reflection, anticipation, and hope through centuries of musical tradition.

To reserve complimentary tickets, simply use the code **STPHILIP** at checkout:

Ticket Link: <https://www.arslyricahouston.org/shop/thewatchmenssong> **Promo Code:** STPHILIP

[Click here to Learn more](#)

If you're inviting friends or family to join you, we kindly ask that **each household complete their own ticket reservation** using the same code. This helps us ensure everyone receives parking details, concert updates, and reception information ahead of time. We would be thrilled to share this special evening of music with you and your loved ones.



YOUTH CURRENTLY IN GRADES 8-12
ARE INVITED TO JOIN **St. PHILIP YOUTH'S**

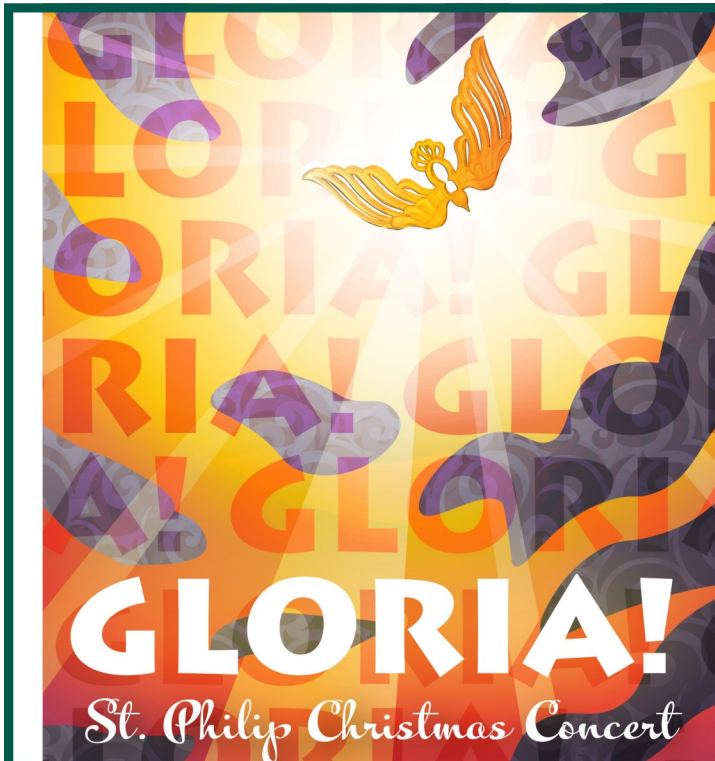
**2026 PILGRIMAGE
FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
IN JULY 2026**

Going to and from the Montreat Youth Conference (Week 5), visiting "holy sites" of the South significant to the Civil Rights movement. We welcome partnership with youth groups of congregations beyond the St. Philip community!

CONTACT

KEATAN KING OR OMAR ROUCHON

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
[KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET]
[OMAR@SAINTPHILIP.NET]



MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

GLORIA!

St. Philip Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7 | 5 pm

Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip 



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.

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 has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off the Gathering Area 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 BULLETINS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to 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 the Library 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. 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, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.



St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. To support the school, **please make all contributions directly to St. Philip Day School**, rather than to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Please make checks payable to “St. Philip DAY SCHOOL” You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

Lost & Found—did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.

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.



Nametags—Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.

Hymn 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;

English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;

English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006

MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594

English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND


7.7.7.7

[Return to page 2](#)


Hymn 357



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.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
 Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

LLANGLOFFAN
 7.6.7.6.D

[Return to page 4](#)

Hymn 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005

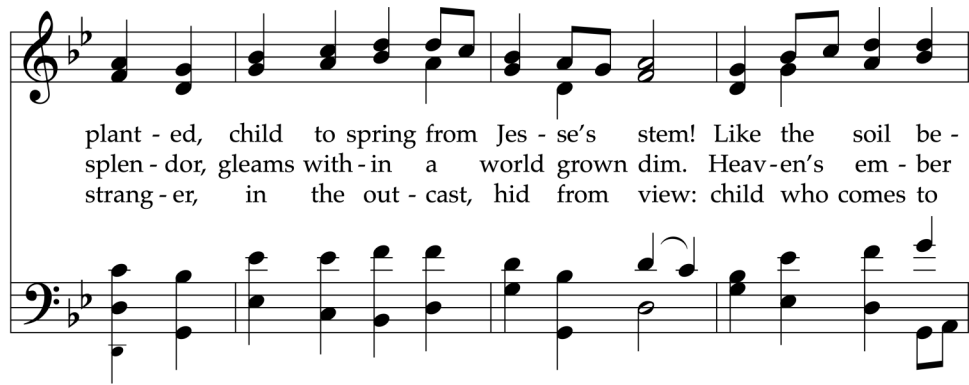
MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony*, 1818; harm. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music Harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

JEFFERSON

8.7.8.7.D



plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to



neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

[Return to page 5](#)