



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024

Preparation for Worship

*Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.
Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert
as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Voluntary

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Greeting

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

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Introit

Comfort Ye, My People
From Messiah, HWV 56

G.F. Handel
(1685-1759)

Comfort ye, my people, saith your God;
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
And cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished,
That her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

- Charles Jennens (1741)

✠ Hymn 619 ([see page 13](#))

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

✠ Prayer of Confession

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

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 in Room 106.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

O.T. pg. 738

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.****Anthem***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

arr. Allan Robert Petker

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
 Born to set thy people free.
 From our fears and sins release us,
 Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
 Hope of all the earth thou art;
 Dear desire of every nation,
 Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
 Born a child and yet a king.
 Born to reign in us forever,
 Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

- Charles Wesley (1744)

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

N.T. pgs. 85-86

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

What Time Is It?

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✠ **Hymn 357** ([see page 14](#))*The Days Are Surely Coming*

LLANGLOFFAN

Offering**Offertory***Selections from Messiah*

G.F. Handel

HWV 56

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people:

But the Lord shall arise upon thee,
 And His glory shall be seen upon thee.
 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,
 And kings to the brightness of thy rising.

- Isaiah 60:2-3

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
 Upon them hath the light shined.

- Isaiah 9:2

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**Invitation to the Lord's Table****Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

SANCTUS (Pavlechko)

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. . . . Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Pavlechko)

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, . . . we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

AMEN (Pavlechko)

As the children of God, we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Communion Music *O Come, Emmanuel: Variations on an Advent Hymn*

Daniel Pinkham
(1923-2006)

✦ **Prayer after Communion**

Living Christ, Jesus of Nazareth,
Teacher and Friend, Savior and Lord,
we long for your presence.
**As we follow the story of your coming,
touch us by your Spirit,
that through the people we know
and through people we have yet to meet,
we may hear your voice and heed your call. Amen.**

✦ **Hymn 94** [\(see page 15\)](#)

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

✦ **Charge and Blessing**

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

Voluntary

Wachet auf

Emma Lou Deimer
(1927-2024)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Olga Piskor

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Zach Averyt, soloist | St. Philip Choir | David Le, soloist
Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

Advent Candle lighting is led this week by the Godly Play Sunday School class. Teachers are Omi Ford, Joyce Fox and Ruthie Waldrop.

To receive communion today, please come forward via the center aisle and receive a piece of bread. Gluten-free bread is also available. You may dip the bread in the chalice of grape juice and receive communion by intinction or you may take from the tray a small cup of grape juice. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Those who have difficulty coming forward may receive communion in their seats by signaling the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board

of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Gifts may be brought to the front basket during the final hymn. You may also make a secure contribution through [MyStPhilip](#) and choosing the Communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with “Communion” in the memo line.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Jeremiah 33:14–16—*The days are coming; God's promise of salvation will be fulfilled.*
- Psalm 25:1–10—*O Lord, teach me your paths; you are the God of my salvation.*
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13—*May God strengthen your heart until the coming of the Lord Jesus.*
- Luke 21:25–36—*Signs in the heavens show that the kingdom of God is near; be alert.*

MUSIC NOTES

Today's opening voluntary is J. S. Bach's organ setting of the Advent chorale *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* ("Sleepers, Wake"). His original setting of this famous trio may be found in his church cantata *Wachet auf*, where it's scored for violin obbligato, tenor, and continuo. The composer's arrangement for solo organ appeared in a collection of six such works published in 1748 by Johann Georg Schübler, long known colloquially as the "Schübler Chorales." Our closing voluntary treats the same hymn tune, though in a contemporary manner. Its composer Emma Lou Diemer taught for many years at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Prolific with keyboard music and hymn settings especially, Diemer was fond of updating familiar melodies with catchy rhythms and free mixing of modes and keys.

Throughout the season of Advent, we will be offering selections from Handel's timeless oratorio *Messiah* beginning with the opening recitative, "**Comfort ye, my people.**" Adapted from the first verses of Isaiah chapter 40, the text brings a message of comfort after a tumultuous period described in the first 39 chapters, foreshadowing a godly visitation in the coming of Christ. In a similar narrative, the recitative –along with the corresponding aria that you will hear next Sunday– in the

key of E major redeems the preceding drama of the orchestral overture, which is in the parallel key of E minor.

Our **anthem** is a subdued setting of the familiar hymn text "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Charles Wesley. In contrast to the more commonly sung version based on the joyous HYFRYDOL hymn tune, this version by Allan Petker leans into the mystery of the Advent season and the anticipation of the coming Christ. Each passing verse tells the story of hope and forgiveness yet to come, an assurance that is musically withheld until after the final chord.

In a similar vein as Handel's opening recitative, today's **offertory** consists of two selections that encompass the bringing of light into darkness, a transformation most clearly demonstrated as the opening text is transformed from minor to major mode at the arrival of the phrase "but the Lord shall arise." A natural pairing, both pieces are musically bonded in both melodic material and tonality (B minor) with the first piece ending in a dominant harmony that leads directly into the second.

—Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss

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IN OUR PRAYERS

Robert Estill and family upon the death of Susan Estill on November 26. Memorial service to be determined.

St. Philippians and their families – Elizabeth Cochran; Nancy E. Johnson; Jeremy Mattern; Carmen Stevenson; Nidhal Aldarraji, Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; Susan Estill; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Faith Fugit – daughter of Joyce Fugit; Raquel Calhoun-sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy E. Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians – Pete & Gloria Benevides, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte - friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Annette Covey – friend of Guy & Melissa Aldrich; Stephen Wedemeyer and Mary Watters - friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach- friends of Stephen Paine; 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

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.





YOUNG ADULTS are invited to Keatan and Nate's home for a Christmas Open House on Friday, **Dec. 13** from 5:30-9 PM. Please email Keatan to RSVP at keatan@saintphilip.net

ADVENT YOGA & CENTERING PRAYER—Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time. Join us for Saturday, **Dec. 14** from 10 AM-12 PM for gentle yoga and silent prayer during this busy season. We will enjoy the stretching, grounding and centering that comes with yoga, using chairs or your mats in the Gathering Area with Susan Lange. In the sanctuary, Meg Scott Johnson will instruct us 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. For more information, contact Betsy Boston (ehbluzerne@aol.com).

SAVE THE DATE: DEC. 22 at 1:15 PM, anyone filled with Christmas cheer is invited to attend a screening of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at Rooftop Cinema across the street on top of Whole Foods. You can purchase tickets (first come, first serve) online at <https://rooftopcinemaclub.com/houston/venue/uptown/>

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP

Advent Meditations

WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER AT 12 PM
A WEEKLY OFFERING OF MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD

DECEMBER 4:
RUSLAN BAIAZITOV, PIANO

DECEMBER 11:
INGRID GERLING, VIOLIN
AND ANDREEA MUT, PIANO

DECEMBER 18:
HOPE COWAN, HARP

LUNCH AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS
IN GATHERING AREA

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

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip    

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 10**. Use additional space below if needed.

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

Pay online by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *Flowers/Holiday* as the fund and putting **POINT** in the memo. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). *Email if you wish to honor/remember to* lorrie@saintphilip.net

It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. You have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 104

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-4—Room 105— for “**From the Manger**” Dec. 1-22 at 9:45-10:45 AM taught by Olga Piskor and Jon Martin: Hunger is a universal human experience, so it’s no wonder that the story of Jesus—the one who came to feed the hungry—begins, ends, and centers around food. We will see how the baby born in a bread town continues to feed a hungry world today. **Matching Advent Calendars** for children, families, and anyone else who wants them are a companion to the above curriculum.

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—Recess until January

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—On Dec. 8, we will begin our study of Proverbs in Dr. Robert Alter’s *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM 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—10:40 AM with presentations in person and by Zoom. Dec. 8 - *The Music for Advent at St. Philip* - Presented by Justin Langham. Come to C & S class for a time to get better acquainted with our St. Philip Director of Music, composer, performer, and educator - Justin Langham. Justin will give us a preview of “Festival of Carols” which will be on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:00 PM Festival of Carols features an evening of seasonal favorites such as Benjamin Britten’s “Ceremony of Carols,” a carol sing-along and more, with choir, handbells, harp and ukuleles! Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL—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 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 PM to read and discuss our faith responses to social justice issues. The current study book is Barbara McQuade’s *Attack from Within; how disinformation is sabotaging America*. Our next meeting on Monday, Dec. 2 will consider the author’s comments on why Americans, in particular, are vulnerable to disinformation. Join us! Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN’S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is Dec. 12 at 7:00 PM 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:

nml@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 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

MONDAYS IN ADVENT—LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM—Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 9:00-9:20 AM—*What is Lectio Divina?* The ancient desert fathers and mothers believed that scripture was like a love letter written to us by God. Thus, the meditative, guided scriptural reflection known as *Lectio Divina* (“divine reading”) assumes that God speaks to us intimately, God is already praying in us, and we’ll experience a profound encounter with the heart of God, rather than an intellectual study of scripture. Keatan King will guide the group through the four cycles of *Lectio* (read, reflect, respond, rest) for 20 minutes every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for the season of Advent. To prepare, you are encouraged to choose a comfortable place to sit wherever you are (at home, work, in the car) and all participants will have video off and sound off during the Zoom. If you would like to participate email Keatan at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER

Order your St. Philip t-shirt(s)
in the Gathering Area
or online at saintphilip.net
or in your ChurchLife app.



Festival of Carols

SUNDAY, DEC. 8TH AT 5 PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SEASONAL FAVORITES
SUCH AS BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S "CEREMONY OF CAROLS,"
A CAROL SING-ALONG, AND MORE!

WITH CHOIR, HANDBELLS, HARP, & UKULELES

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

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip

Facebook Instagram Twitter SoundCloud

A Festival of Carols will be presented by all the St. Philip choirs on December 8 at 5 pm. A congregational sing-a-long is part of the program. You can use [this link](https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/0Idk0Kw939ez) to request your favorite carols.

(<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/0Idk0Kw939ez>)

MISSION COMMITTEE

SEAFARER CHRISTMAS BOX WRAPPING AT ST. PHILIP—On Sunday, **Dec. 8**, from 10:30 - 11 AM in the Gathering Area, join us in wrapping the Seafarer boxes with Christmas paper. After church, the wrapping will continue in the Arts & Crafts room from 12 - 1 PM. Sign up in the Gathering Area at the mission table if you can help with the holiday service project.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PCHAS ANGEL TREE PROGRAM—Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is recruiting volunteers to sort and inventory all the Angel Tree gifts received. They have 3 time slots open right now. They need volunteers to help **Dec. 10** (shifts 10 AM-1 PM and 1-4 PM) and **Dec. 11** (1-3 PM.) The sorting and inventory will take place at PCHAS' Cypress office located at 10242 Greenhouse Road, #501. You can sign up to help by clicking [here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FA9AC22A6F9C34-51448868-houston#/). If you have family or friends that would like to help, please feel free to share this link with them. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FA9AC22A6F9C34-51448868-houston#/>

CCSC JINGLE BELL EXPRESS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY—St. Philip members are invited to distribute toys, books, and gift cards to clients on Saturday, **Dec. 14**, first shift 8:45-11:30 AM. The Jingle Bell Express event will take place at Bellaire United Methodist Church (4417 Bellaire Blvd.). Sign up in the Gathering Area on Sundays in November and December, or email mission@saintphilip.net if you can join us to spread Christmas cheer.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S
Christmas Luncheon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
AFTER 11 AM WORSHIP
[IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL]

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

CATERED LUNCH: \$20
Please bring COOKIES!

RSVP & PAY BY DEC. 8


[PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON]



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 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 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.

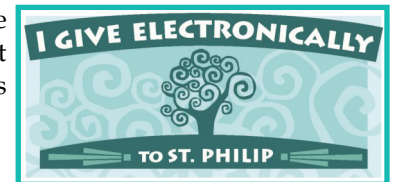
If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in 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. 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. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.

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.



Hymn 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

TEXT: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center, 1974

MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

Text Adapt. © 1974 Ecumenical Women's Center

LAUDA ANIMA

8.7.8.7.8.7

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

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Hymn 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

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.

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