



Voluntary

Sleepers, Wake! a Voice Is Calling
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 Second Advent Candle

Introit

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Jacques Berthier
(1923-1994)

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

— Isaiah 40:3b | 52:10b

† Opening Sentences

A voice cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Lift every valley; lift every voice.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

† Hymn 83 [\(see page 14\)](#)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

† The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

Bidding Prayer

First Lesson**THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**Isaiah 11:1-10
O.T. p. 640**Choir Carol***Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*GENEVAN 42 | Louis Bourgeois, 1551
arr. David Ashley White (b. 1944)

Comfort, comfort ye my people;
 speak ye peace, thus saith our God.
 Comfort those who sit in darkness
 mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
 Speak ye to Jerusalem
 of the peace that waits for them;
 tell her that her sins I cover,
 and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth
 in the desert far and near,
 calling us to new repentance
 since the kingdom now is here.
 O that warning cry obey!
 Now prepare for God a way;
 let the valleys rise to meet him
 and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked;
 make the rougher places plain.
 Let your hearts be true and humble,
 as befits his holy reign.
 For the glory of the Lord
 now o'er earth is spread abroad,
 and all flesh shall see the token
 that the word is never broken.

— Isaiah 40:1-5 | Johann Loearious, 1671

Second Lesson**THE PROMISE OF PEACE**Luke 1:68-79
N.T. p. 58**Choir Carol***The Apple Tree*

David Ashley White

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
 laden with fruit, and always green:
 the trees of nature fruitless be
 compared with Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
 and pleasure dearly I have bought:
 I missed of all, but now I see
 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
 by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
 the glory which I now can see
 in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
 here I will sit and rest awhile:
 under the shadow I will be,
 of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
 it keeps my dying faith alive;
 which makes my soul in haste to be
 with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

— anonymous, New Hampshire, 1784

Third Lesson**THE PROMISE OF A CHILD**Luke 1:26-38
N.T. p. 56

Choir Carol*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)

Fourth Lesson

THE PROMISE OF PRESENCE

Matthew 1:18-25
N.T. p. 1**Choir Carol***The Angel Gabriel*Basque carol GABRIEL'S MESSAGE
arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail!" said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

— original Basque text paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould
(1834–1924)

Fifth Lesson

THE PROMISE OF LIGHT

Revelation 21:22 – 22:5
N.T. p. 260† Hymn 79 ([see page 15](#))*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

TEMPLE OF PEACE

Offering

Offertory Carol

Lighting the Way

Will Todd
(b. 1970)

In the stars I see you; in a flower, you're there;
in a song I hear you; you are everywhere;
You are the light that starts the day
and with you I'm lighting the way.

When I'm lost you find me; when I cry you hear;
when I fall you bind me and you calm my fear;
You are the path I take each day
and with you I'm finding my way.

In a lighted candle; in a window fair;
in an ancient building; you are everywhere;
You are the beacon of each day
and for you I'm lighting the way.

In a friend I touch you; in a smile you're there;
in a prayer you're near me; you are everywhere;
Help me to follow you each day,
for with you I'm lighting the way.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

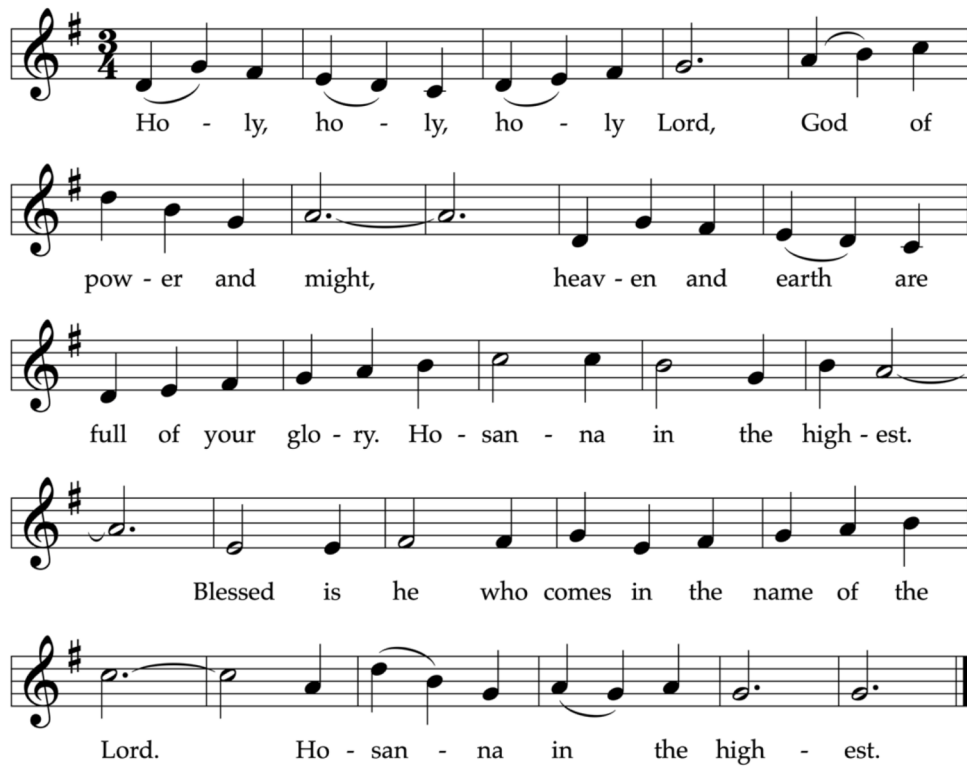
Lift up your hearts!

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:

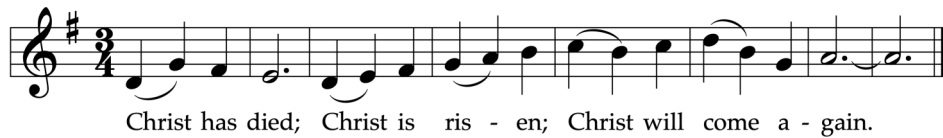


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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, let us pray together:

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 Carol

Lost in the night

Finnish folk tune
 arr. Kyle Haugen
 (b. 1973)

Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
 longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
 plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish.
 Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?
 Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,
 giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?
 Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?

Sorrowing wanderers, in darkness yet dwelling,
 dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,
 death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling.
 Christ is coming soon. Christ is coming soon!

— traditional Finnish text, translated by Olav Lee

† Prayer after Communion

† Hymn 106 ([see page 16](#))

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

† Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Toccata on WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME

Hugo Distler
 (1908-1942)

LITURGISTS

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon, John Wurster, Deb Burks and John Webster

MUSICIANS

St. Philip Choir | St. Philip Staff Singers | Matthew Dirst, organist | Randall Swanson, director of music

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Wayne and Sandra Truxillo to the Glory of God and in remembrance of Wayne's sister Linda and Sandra's brother Emil.

WORSHIP NOTES

To receive communion, please come forward via the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, and take a small cup of grape juice. Gluten-free bread is also available. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Those with 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.

Today's lectionary readings:

- Isaiah 11:1-10 – *From Jesse's root, a child will come with the spirit of the Lord.*
- Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 – *May the king rule with righteousness and defend the poor.*
- Romans 15:4-13 – *Trust God's promises in Scripture; rejoice and live in hope.*
- Matthew 3:1-12 – *John calls for repentance: prepare the way of the Lord.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover Art by Micah Meyers.

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IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Susan Huffman; Mary Benson; Mary Sinderson; Eleanor Grant; Sondra Sullivan; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Lane Fletcher; Renee Wright; Austin Lippincott; Richard Johnson; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Betsy Johnson – mother of Pat Lindsay; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Jann Everhart – sister-in-law of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Warren Cash – brother of Kay Cash; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Donna Harris – sister of Joyce Fugit; Alma Fonseca – mother of Angelina Fonseca; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Mac Wilson – father of Butch Wilson; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Alan Rowe – father of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound – John Bobbitt; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians – Jackie Childers – friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Sharla Hotchkiss, Delores Wheeler, and Kevin Andress – friends of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email:

deacons@saintphilip.net.

MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Today's **organ voluntaries** are both 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 the hymnal. 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 closes our service of Lessons & Carols.

Choral Music

Today's **introit** is a joyful four-part canon by French composer and organist Jacques Berthier. Born into a musical family (both of his parents were musicians, his father organist of Auxerre Cathedral), Berthier was approached in 1955 to compose music for the then-fledgling monastic community of Taizé, some 200 miles southwest of Paris. Six years later he became organist at the Church of the Jesuits in Paris, Saint-Ignace, where he worked for the rest of his life. In 1975 Berthier was again asked to write music for Taizé, this time for increasing numbers of young people from around the world coming to worship there. By the time of his death in 1994, he had composed some 232 songs in 20 different languages. *Prepare the Way of the Lord* is one of these, written for the Taizé Community in 1984.

This morning's **first choir carol** was arranged in 1994 by University of Houston professor of composition David Ashley White, who served as director of the UH Moores School of Music from 1999 to 2014. David also serves as composer-in-residence at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, his home parish. *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* is his setting of a familiar Advent tune from 1551 attributed to Louis Bourgeois. The congregational version of this carol may be found in the hymnal at No. 87.

Our **second choir carol**, also by David Ashley White, was composed in 1997. Featuring an original melody with familiar words, combined voices sing the first verse in

unison, then the second verse appears in canon, with the upper voices following and employing some slight rhythmic alterations to keep the mixed-meter tune aligned between the parts. True harmony appears in the third verse, although it slips in and out of a unison line, creating the feeling of the harmony emerging. A new melody appears in the fourth verse ("I'm weary with my former toil..."), effectively heightening the impact of the words. The fifth verse returns to the main tune with a descant above. As the piece closes, echoes in the lower voice bring a calming sense of closure.

Today's **third choir carol** 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.

This morning's **fourth choir carol** is a Basque Noël reflecting the archangel Gabriel's Annunciation to the Virgin Mary that she is to be the mother of the Messiah. The choral arrangement from 2000 is by retired English composer, organist and conductor, Malcolm Archer, who served with great distinction at cathedrals in Norwich, Bristol, Wells, and St. Paul's in London, before retiring in 2017 as Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College.

Today's **offertory carol**, Will Todd's *Lighting the Way*, was "written for the 'Lighting the Way Festival' in Durham Cathedral in 2000, [and it was] sung by thousands of North East school children as part of their visits to the Cathedral over the course of several weeks. It was written with the intention of being easy to pick up, and this has made it a popular worship song, beyond the context of the original commission."*

This morning's **communion carol** *Lost in the night* is a setting from 2000 by American composer Kyle Haugen for piano and voices of an old Finnish folk tune, making use of simple, rather Nordic harmonies to underpin this text about a Advent people in darkness searching for light and waiting for a Savior.

— Matthew Dirst, Randall Swanson and *Will Todd

‘Sometimes we just need help’

The Rev. Sunjae Jung heard God’s call loud and clear. Although maybe not so clearly at first.

“When I heard about a Korean-American Presbyterian church in the Atlanta area, my first answer was, ‘I don’t think it’s my calling,’” he said. “Since I was living in Korea at the time, my first answer was no. Then, they contacted me again and told me the church was in a university city. I remembered being an international student in America when I was young and how much the church there helped me.”

He continued, “Serving as a minister in Korea, I remember praying that if I ever had a chance to help international students the way the church helped me when I was at Iowa State University, I would take it,” he said. “I talked with my wife and our senior pastor in Korea, who said they thought this was a good calling for me. After praying some more, we decided to come serve this church.”

The Athens Korean Presbyterian Church’s mission is to welcome and serve the larger university and especially the Korean community. It is not a “big budget” congregation, as most of its members are young and transitory. But Rev. Jung couldn’t possibly have anticipated the impact that Covid would have on both the congregation’s and his family’s finances when they moved to Athens in December 2019.

With the arrival of the pandemic in March 2020, not only did the church cease all its in-person activities and move Sunday worship to a streaming platform, but the whole town practically shut down.

Because Rev. Jung serves the congregation on a religious visa, he is not permitted to earn income beyond that of his ministry and the family found itself struggling to make ends meet. In December 2021, Rev. Jung sought and received an Emergency Grant split between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

This grant was made possible, in part, by the Christmas Joy Offering, which distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Rev. Jung said, “I thank the denomination for the help from the Christmas Joy Offering. I can say that after going through such a difficult time last winter, the big burden on me and my family was lifted.”

Sometimes we all could use a little help, and those who serve our Church are certainly no different. Please give what you can to the Christmas Joy Offering for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray~

Thank you, God, for providing for your children in times of plenty and in times of need. Thank you for opportunities to serve your people and to bring your care to those around us. Amen.



Anyone may donate to the **Christmas Joy Offering throughout December** by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *Communion/Hunger* 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 *Communion* in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.

PLEDGE CARDS

Pledge cards can be put in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office. Or you can make your pledge in MyStPhilip.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip's broker services are with Frost Bank. We ask you to call:

Yvette Webb at Frost Bank – 713-388-1231 for transaction information. Our account number is #037-293183.

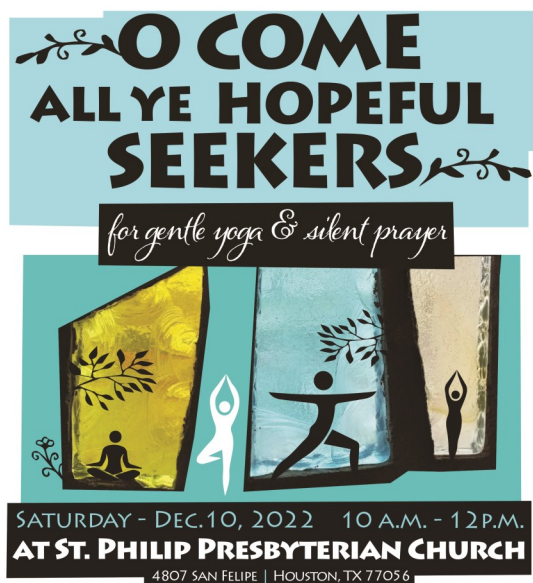
Please let the bookkeeper, know you are making a stock donation. You may email bookkeeper@saintphilip.net

If you have any questions, you may always contact Ada Fuller, treasurer at amariepoet@gmail.com or by phone at 713-306-8267.

ADVENT AT ST. PHILIP

Everyone is invited to attend **midweek Advent services**, continuing on **Dec. 7, 14, and 21**. The service begins at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Lunch is available in the Gathering Area at 11:30. These services of scripture and song are grounded in the Advent themes of hope and expectation. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. Prepare the way of the Lord!

THURSDAYS IN ADVENT – LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM – December 8, 15, 22 at 9:00-9:20 a.m. – *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 Thursday morning at 9:00am 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.



ADVENT YOGA – Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time.

Join us for a morning of 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, 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. *Come. Seek. Find.* Sponsored by the Christian Ed Committee. For more information, contact Betsy Boston – ehbluzerne@aol.com.

SECOND SUNDAY – Join us on **Dec. 11** at 9:45 a.m. for a festive morning at the Education Committee's monthly intergenerational Second Sundays. We will wrap Seafarers' Christmas boxes, decorate a tree with our prayers, and make ornaments to take home. You are invited to bring your favorite recipe - with samples! - to share. All ages welcome, in the Gathering Area.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES
AT 9:45 A.M. (unless otherwise noted)

GODLY PLAY (Age 3-Kindergarten) – Room 104 – Omi Ford, Joyce Fox and Ruthie Waldrop

ELEMENTARY (Grades 1-5) – Room 105 – Linda Bevill and Jon Martin

YOUTH (Grades 6-12) – Room 206 – Melissa and Guy Aldrich

SPa (St. Philip Adults) – Room 200 – rotating leadership – We are using the adult resources from the new Follow Me curriculum to guide our informal weekly discussion about biblical practices such as hospitality, forgiveness and honoring sabbath. All adults of any age are welcomed to participate. There is no need to prepare or purchase materials for class, so come as you are able!

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201 – Church and Society regularly features speakers and presentations on a variety of contemporary and historical matters of faith and practice. This class meets from **9:40 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.** with presentations in person and some by Zoom, projected in the classroom. **Dec. 11** - Our Lady of Guadalupe - For millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, December 12 holds special significance. It marks the date in 1531 when the Virgin Mary purportedly appeared to an indigenous Mexican, Juan Diego, in the last of several apparitions. To the present day, Our Lady of Guadalupe remains a powerful symbol of Mexican identity and faith, and her image is associated with everything from motherhood to feminism to social justice. Presented by Rev. Keatan King. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – We have resumed our study of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah in 1-2 Kings with the story of Elijah's confrontation with Ahab and Jezebel 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.



SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP – Join the discussion on Zoom **Dec. 6** with St. Philip's Tuesday Social Justice group! We continue our study of *Good White Racist?* by Kerry Connelly. We will be discussing chapters 4 (The power of language, or are you freaking kidding me? No, you can't use the N-word) and 5 (The miseducation of America, or everything you know about being a good white racist you probably learned in kindergarten). We meet each first Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come even if you haven't done the reading; the discussion is always timely and thought-provoking. To join us, just email welcome@saintphilip.net with *PSJ* in the subject line to receive information about the meeting.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster has returned. The morning class, meeting at 9:30 a.m., is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. The afternoon class, meeting at 3:30 p.m., is Zoom only. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to 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. 8** 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.

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.** Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to join them.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY – 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. All circles meet in the Dining Room in the Administration Building.

Monday Morning Saints

Second Monday of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Circle

Third Sunday of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle

First Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m.

PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON—Sunday, **Dec. 18**, after the 11:00 worship service, all women (members and visitors) are invited to the annual Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon. Rev. Lynn Hargrove, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for Administrative Process for Presbytery of New Covenant will be the bible Study Leader for Lesson 4: *Sabbath and Surrender* from *Celebrating Sabbath*. The cost will be \$15. RSVP to church office or email welcome@saintphilip.net or calling the church office at 713-622-4807. Pay in advance by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *Presbyterian Women* as the fund and putting *luncheon* in the memo. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). You may also pay the day of with cash or by writing a check with *PW Luncheon* in the memo line. We will be accepting contributions for the PW Thank Offering.



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

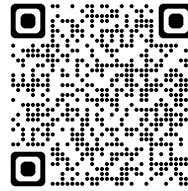
(circle one) **in honor of / memory of** _____

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 Monday, **December 12**. 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 whom you wish to honor/remember to lorrie@saintphilip.net*



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 HYMNS 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. 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.

Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTTGART
 8.7.8.7

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Hymn 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

This is a hymn whose tune came first. Upon hearing it, the author recalled the watered garden of Isaiah 58:11, which in turn led to Isaiah 55:12, paraphrased in the refrain. Then came the stanzas, organized around their first two words: Light dawns, Love grows, Hope blooms.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2001

MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 2000

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Music © 2000 William P. Rowan (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TEMPLE OF PEACE

7.6.6.7.8 with refrain

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Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain

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

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

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