



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP
AT WORSHIP

JANUARY 5, 2020

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Preparation for Worship

*Everlasting God,
the radiance of faithful souls,
who brought the nations to your light
and kings to the brightness of your rising:
Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations;
through him who is the true light
and the bright morning star,
Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.*

Tolling of the Hour

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Voluntary

Noël Étranger

Louis-Claude Daquin
(1694-1772)

Introit

Epiphany

Richard Proulx
(1937-2010)

We have seen his star in the East, and we have come to adore the Lord.

— Matthew 2:2

✦ **Call to Worship**

✦ **Hymn 147**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

✠ Prayer of Confession

God of glory,
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world
to reveal your love for all people.
We confess that our sin and pride
hide the brightness of your light.
We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed,
we may show forth your glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

(silent prayer)

✠ Response

Hymn 121, v. 4
ST. LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel!

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✠ Response

Hymn 113, v. 1
GLORIA

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo!

✠ The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Signs of peace and reconciliation may be exchanged.

Conversation with Children

*Afterwards, children may stay with their parents, or infants to age 4 may go to
child care in Room 106.*

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. pg. 2

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

Anthem

Arise, Shine, for Thy Light Is Come

Healey Willan
(1880-1968)

Arise, shine, for thy Light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia.
O praise the Lord, all ye nations, and laud him, all ye people!
For his merciful kindness is great toward us,
And the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Alleluia.

Sermon

Starting Together

Omar Rouchon

Silence and stillness

✠ Hymn 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

Moment for Mission

International Seafarers

Offering

*Gifts may be given anytime at www.saintphilip.net
or text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.*

Offertory Anthem

Brightest and Best

Malcolm Archer
(b. 1952)

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

— words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

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.

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.**

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Communion Voluntary *La Nativité*

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

✠ Prayer after Communion

**O God, send us out from our Lord's table
to answer his summons into a new life
and to follow him with joy and gladness.
Set our feet in his holy way,
that our lives may be signs of his life
and all we do may show forth his love. Amen.**

✠ **Hymn 152** *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Communion offering gifts may be brought to the basket in the front.
The coins collected each month in the jar support our hunger ministries.*

✠ Charge and Blessing

Kindly remain in silence during the closing voluntary, or depart very quietly.

✠ **Closing Voluntary** *Noël sur les Grands Jeux*

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

✠ Indicates worshipers are invited to stand in either body or spirit.
Words in bold type are to be read or sung together.



SERVING TODAY

LITURGIST

David Castle

CHANCEL GUILD

Nan Schissler

GREETERS

St. Philip Youth

MUSICIANS

St. Philip Choir

Matthew Dirst, organist

Randall Swanson, conductor

PASTORS

John W. Wurster

Keatan King

Omar Rouchon



FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by David and Lorrie Castle for the celebration of love, trust, partnership, tolerance and tenacity on their eighth wedding anniversary on January 7.



WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings from the Revised Common Lectionary are:

Jeremiah 31:7–14—*God will bring the people home, turning their mourning into joy.*

Psalm 147:12–20—*The word of the Lord goes forth; God fills us with good things.*

Ephesians 1:3–14—*We were chosen in Christ from the beginning to give glory to God.*

John 1:(1–9) 10–18—*Those who trust in Christ have power to become children of God.*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WORSHIP NOTES

“Epiphany” means manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God’s saving purpose to all the nations of the world. Just as the magi came from a distant land to worship the Christ child, God’s covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important—not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it suggests the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to bear Christ’s light in the world. Traditionally, the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on January 6, the conclusion of the season of Christmas.

Communion today is received by intinction. Please come forward via the center aisle, take a piece of bread, and dip it into the chalice of grape juice. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. All the bread used is gluten-free bread. The station closest to the windows has individual cups of grape juice. 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. These gifts brought forward support the Houston International Seafarers which ministers to the social and spiritual needs of seafarers on merchant ships calling on the Port of Houston through outreach, witness, worship, service, and advocacy to, with, and for seafarers and their families around the world. Gifts from St. Philip will solely support our Presbyterian chaplains.

MUSIC NOTES

Organ music — This morning’s **organ voluntaries** offer musical commentary on Christmas melodies and themes from French composers. Louis-Claude Daquin’s volume of *Noëls* is one of the best sources of 18th-century variations on well-known French Christmas carols. His *Noël Étranger* sets a “foreign” (though French-sounding) melody; the other is a well-known French carol set by many composers (its subtitle “grands jeux” indicates French reed stops). Jean Langlais’ meditation on the nativity, part of a set of pieces entitled *Poèmes Évangéliques*, depicts the scene at the manger. Its four sections begin at the crib and progress through the visit of the angels and shepherds, in a musical language blends the sensuous with the exotic.

Choral music — Today’s **introit** is from a collection of similarly short pieces based on chant-like themes by Richard Proulx, who was considered among the most influential American church music composers of the 20th century. Proulx was Director of Music at Chicago’s Holy Name Cathedral (RC) from 1979 to 1994, and founder of the professional recording ensemble The Cathedral Singers, with which he made some 25 highly regarded recordings. • This morning’s **anthem** was composed by Anglo-Canadian composer and organist Healey Willan, who was one of the most prolific and highly regarded composers of 20th-century church music. Willan was associated with the Church of St. Mary Magdelene (Anglican Church of Canada) in Toronto for nearly 50 years, and many of his choral works were written for the choirs there, which remain to this day among the finest all-volunteer choirs in North America. • Malcolm Archer’s *Brightest and Best*, today’s **offertory anthem**, was originally composed for children’s treble voices, but is heard this morning in a new scoring for mixed adult voices. Its spritely setting of this well-known text by Reginald Heber is typical of Archer’s sunny and often lively music. Before his retirement in 2017, Malcolm Archer served with great distinction at cathedrals in Norwich, Bristol, Wells, and St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, and finally as Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson