



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP

MARCH 8, 2020 | 11 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

**Preparation for Worship**

*Come, Come, Whoever You Are  
Wonderer, worshipper, lover of leaving.  
It doesn't matter.  
Ours is not a caravan of despair.  
Come, even if you have broken your vow  
a thousand times  
Come, yet again, come, come.*

*-Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi*

**Tolling of the Hour**

**Greeting**

*Please sign and pass the friendship folder.*

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

**Voluntary**

*Sonata No. 2 in c minor: Grave-Adagio*  
Op. 65 | No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)

**Introit**

*Remember, O Lord*

Chant

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting;  
do not let our enemies triumph over us;  
deliver Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.  
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul:  
my God, I put my trust in you: let me not be humiliated.

— Psalm 25:1, 5, 21

✦ **Call to Worship**

✦ **Hymn 463**

*How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

## ✦ Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,  
In your gracious presence we confess our sin  
and the sin of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace,  
we are a people divided against ourselves  
as we cling to the values of a broken world.  
The profit and pleasures we pursue  
lay waste to the land and crush the poor.  
The fears and jealousies that we harbor  
set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.  
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,  
of intellect and reason,  
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

God, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.  
Shower us with your mercy.  
Set us free to serve you in the world  
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ  
*(silent prayer)*

## ✦ Response

John Weaver  
(b. 1937)

Lord, have mer - cy.  
Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## ✦ Response

John Weaver

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the  
Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is  
now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men. A - men. A - men.

## ✦ The Peace

In Christ, God is reconciling the whole world.  
**And God is entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**  
We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ.  
**God's appeal is being made through us.**  
Peace be with you.  
**Peace be with all.**

## Conversation with Children

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

*Children pre-k through first grade may go to Children's Chapel.*

## Prayer for Illumination

### First Reading

Psalm 121

O.T. pg. 571

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

### Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

N.T. pgs. 93-94

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

### Anthem

*God So Loved the World*

John Stainer  
(1840-1901)

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, believeth in him should not perish,  
should not perish but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;  
but that the world through Him might be saved.

— John 3:16-17

### Sermon

Night Lights

Keatan King

*Silence and stillness*

### ✦ Hymn 45

*I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes*

DUNDEE

### ✦ Affirmation of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves  
and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**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 be given anytime at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)  
or text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.*

**Offertory Solo**      *Litany to the Holy Spirit*

Peter Hurford  
(1930-2019)

In the hour of my distress,  
When temptations me oppress,  
And when I my sins confess,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,  
Sick in heart and sick in head,  
And with doubts discomfited,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,  
And the world is drowned in sleep,  
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,  
Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

— words by Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

♣ **Offertory Response**      *All Heaven Is Singing*      SHADES OF MOUNTAIN

All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose pas - sion  
of - fers in mer - cy heal - ing, strength, and par - don.  
Peo - ples and na - tions, take it; take it free - ly!"  
A - men! My Mas - ter!

TEXT: Pécselyi Király Imre, c. 1641; translated by Erik Routley, 1974; © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.  
MUSIC: K. Lee Scott, 1976; © 1987 Birmamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

SHADES MOUNTAIN  
11.11.11.5

## ✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Eternal God,  
we praise you for your love in Jesus Christ,  
who came to heal this broken world,  
who offered his life on the cross,  
and rose triumphantly from the grave.  
Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever.

**Gracious God,  
we give ourselves to you faithfully  
in grateful response  
to your unending love and powerful mercy.  
Receive our humble praise this day and forevermore. Amen.**

## ✦ Hymn 839

*Blessed Assurance*

ASSURANCE

## ✦ Charge and Blessing

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

## ✦ Closing Voluntary

*Fugue in e minor*  
BWV 533

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

✦ 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

Cathy Patterson

### CHANCEL GUILD

Orlean Anderson

### GREETERS

Peacemaking & Social Justice  
Committee

### PASTORS

John W. Wurster

Keatan King

Omar Rouchon

### MUSICIANS

St. Philip Choir

Thomas Lewis O'Neill, soloist

Joe Russell, organist

Randall Swanson, conductor

## FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by Carl & Janet Eskridge to the glory of God and in celebration of Rita Hannah's 95th birthday.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bulletin cover art by Micah Meyers.

The Affirmation of Faith is taken from A Brief Statement of Faith in the Book of Confessions.

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## WORSHIP NOTES

Throughout Lent, we are placing the prayers of our hearts on the sanctuary tree. The paper hearts in the pews may be used to record your prayers. Hearts may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the communion table at the end of the service.

Today's readings from the Revised Common Lectionary are:

- Genesis 12:1–4a—*The Lord says to Abram: I will make you a blessing to the nations.*
- Psalm 121—*My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*
- Romans 4:1–5, 13–17—*Consider Abraham; the promise of God depends on faith.*
- John 3:1–17—*Those who seek God's kingdom must be born of water and Spirit.*

## MUSIC NOTES

**Organ music** — While some think that Mendelssohn wrote his six organ sonatas as complete settings, they are rather compilations of earlier works that he put together during the first weeks of 1845. The first movement of his second sonata — this morning's **opening voluntary** — opens with a weighty *Grave* section before moving into a soaring *Adagio* with running sixteenth notes accompanying the solo melody. • Today's **closing voluntary**, also called The "Cathedral" Prelude and Fugue, is rather unusual for Bach, as both movements are paced at a relatively moderate pace, as opposed to having one fast and one slow. The counterpoint-laden fugue tries to come across as more serene, while while earthbound and heavenly throughout.

**Choral and vocal music** — Today's **choir anthem** is among the most famous of all 19th-century English anthems. *God So Loved the World* comes from John Stainer's Passiontide oratorio *The Crucifixion* (1887), which is still widely performed and broadcast, especially during Holy Week. • Today's **offertory solo** features a prayer text by the 17th-century English poet Robert Herrick, set to music in 1958 by British organist Peter Hurford, who was organist and choirmaster at St. Alban's Cathedral at the time. In 1963 Hurford conceived the idea of an organ-playing competition at St. Alban's, which has since grown into the St. Alban's International Organ Festival, one of the most prestigious such competitions in the world. Hurford's *Litany to the Holy Spirit* features a simple but hauntingly beautiful melody, originally for unison treble voices (the boys of the St. Alban's choir). This is the version we hear this morning. Due to the popularity of the anthem, Hurford arranged it in 1995 for four-part SATB choir as well.

— Joe Russell and Randall Swanson

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP



2019-2020 SEASON

### Child Piano Prodigies

SUNDAY | MARCH 29, 2020 | 3:00 p.m.



**Our favorite concert of the year!** As part of our ongoing commitment to children in the arts, we are excited to present the winners of **Houston Tuesday Musical Club's 2020 Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies**, open to Houston area children between the ages of six and nine. Come prepared to be dazzled! And join us for free ice cream afterward.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church | 4807 San Felipe Street | Houston, Texas



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