



Preparation for Worship

*Almighty God, your Son Jesus ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things.
Keep the church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace.
Lift our hearts to where Christ lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit;
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Voluntary

Alleluyas

Simon Preston
(1938-2022)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Introit

God Is Gone Up

Eric Thiman
(1900-1975)

God is gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

—Psalms 47:5

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 267 [\(see page 10\)](#)

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

✠ Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
you have raised Jesus from death to life,
and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him,
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
We have gone along with the ways of the world,
and failed to give him glory.
Forgive us, and raise us from sin,
that we may be your faithful people,
obeying the commands of Jesus Christ,
who is the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives.**

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

✦ Response

Fintan O'Carroll



MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

✦ The Peace

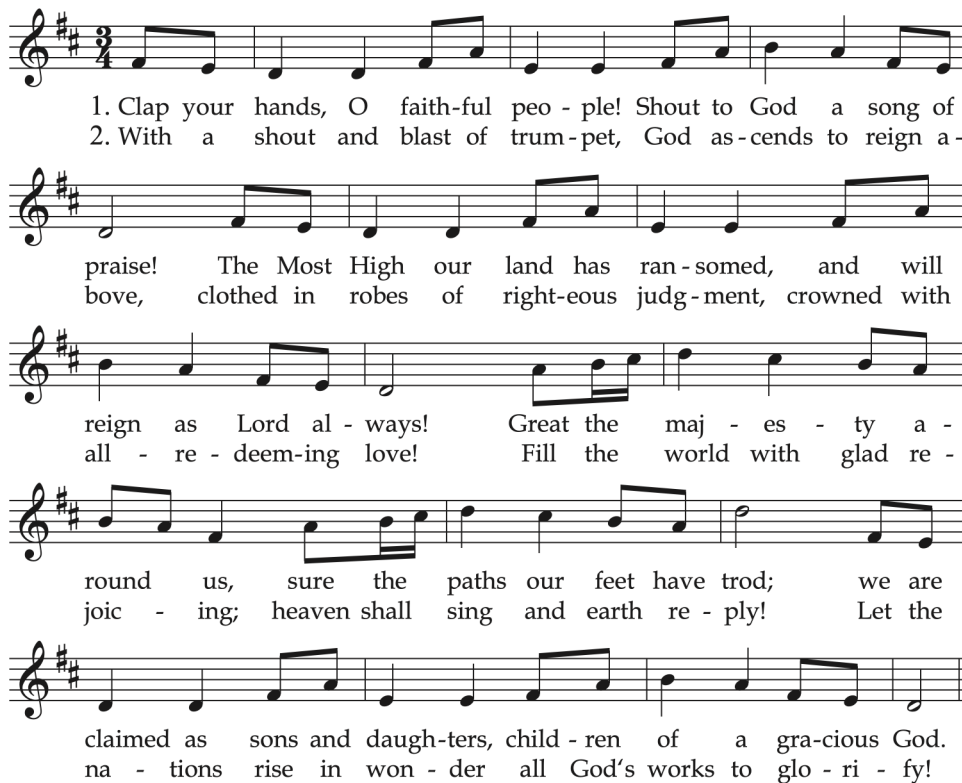
Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.

Psalm 47

Gordon Johnston



TEXT: Michael Morgan © 1999, 2011 Michael Morgan, administered by Faith Alive Christian Resources
MUSIC: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

N.T. pg. 192

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

Anthem*Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates*William Mathias
(1934-1992)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory.

— Psalm 24:7-10

Second Reading

Acts 1:1-11

N.T. pg.118

Sermon

“Up and Away, Down and Dirty”

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✦ **Hymn 264** ([see page 11](#))*At the Name of Jesus*

KING’S WESTON

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

Hispanic Creed

Creemos en Dios Padre todopoderoso, (We believe in God the Father almighty)
Creator of the heavens and the earth;
Creator of all peoples and all cultures;
Creator of all tongues and races.

Creemos en Jesucristo, su Hijo, nuestro Señor, (We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord)
God made flesh in a person for all humanity,
God made flesh in an age for all the ages,
God made flesh in one culture for all cultures,
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.

Creemos en el Espíritu Santo, (We believe in the Holy Spirit)
Through whom God incarnate in Jesus Christ
Makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures;
Through whom, God, Creator of all that exists,
Gives us power to become new creatures;
Whose infinite gifts make us one people: the body of Christ.

Creemos en la Iglesia, que es universal, (We believe in the Church universal)
because it is a sign of God’s Reign,
Whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues,
Where all the colors paint a single landscape,
Where all tongues sing the same praise.

Creemos en el reino venidero — (We believe in the coming Reign of God)
the day of the Great Fiesta —
When all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,
When all peoples will join in joyful banquet,
When all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.

Y porque creemos, nos comprometemos (And because we believe, we commit ourselves)
To believe for those who do not believe,
To love for those who do not love,
To dream for those who do not dream,
Until the day when hope becomes reality. Amen.

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

Offertory Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw
 (1875-1958)

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.
 Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
 The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia!
 O be joyful in God, all ye lands.
 O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.
 With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

— Isaiah 48:20 | Psalm 66:1, 7-8, 18

✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Mighty God,
 by your power you raised Jesus Christ to rule over us.
 We thank you that he alone commands our lives,
 and gives us freedom to love the world.
Glory to you for the gift of his life!
Glory to you for his saving death!
Glory to you for Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns as our risen Lord,
now and forever. Amen.

✠ Hymn 295 [\(see page 12\)](#)

Go to the World

SINE NOMINE

✠ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

All Glory Be to God on High
 ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH SEI EHR | BWV 715

Johann Sebastian Bach
 (1685-1750)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

John Wurster | Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Lincoln Vahora

Musicians

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

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Jenilee Simmons to the glory of God and in memory of Douglass L. Simmons.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Acts 1:1-11 -*Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascends into heaven.*
- Psalm 47 – *Clap, shout, and sing with joy: the Lord reigns over all the earth.*
- Psalm 93 – *The Lord reigns in majesty, high above the mighty waters.*
- Ephesians 1:15-23 – *Christ is seated at God's right hand, above every earthly power.*
- Luke 24:44-53 – *Jesus interprets the Scriptures; then he is carried up into heaven.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

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MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Today's **opening voluntary** comes from Simon Preston, who had a diverse career as organist, composer, and conductor. Its whirlwind character owes much to its inspiration, a text from the Liturgy of St. James which reads as follows:

*At his feet the six-winged Seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluya, Alleluya,
Alleluya, Lord most high.*

As such, it matches well with the theme of Ascension Sunday and provides a festive beginning to today's service.

J. S. Bach composed multiple organ settings of the chorale melody *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr* ("All Glory Be to God on High"), a German versification of the Latin *Gloria in excelsis*, which seems to have been one of his favorite hymn texts and tunes. Today's **closing voluntary** is his *organo pleno* setting, which features the chorale in block chords with short but flamboyant interludes between the phrases of this well-known melody.

— Matthew Dirst

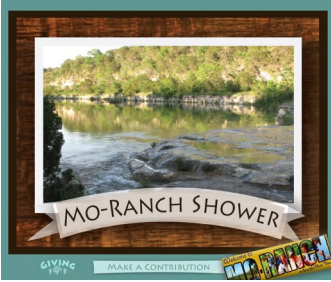
Choral Music

This morning's **introit** is by English composer, conductor and organist Eric Thiman, who published some 1,300 works during his lifetime, including many anthems, carols and canticles for church choirs. Using a traditional Ascension text from Psalm 47 *God Is Gone Up* is No. 22 of *24 Introits*, published in 1961 for four-part choir and organ.

This morning's **anthem** is a perennial favorite of the choir here at St. Philip. *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates* by Welsh composer William Mathias is "perky, confident, wickedly militaristic and full of Welsh dragons" (Roderic Dunnett © 2009). It was commissioned for the 1973 Oxford University Press choral collection *Anthems for Choirs I*, and it is especially fitting for today's celebration of the Ascension.

The **offertory anthem** was written by British composer Martin Shaw for the 1923 Annual Festival of the Rochester Diocesan Church Choirs Association in Kent, England. Shaw's published works include over 300 songs, hymns, carols, oratorios, numerous instrumental works, and four operas. Written for four-part choir and organ, for 100 years Shaw's joyous *With a Voice of Singing* has remained a choral classic that's almost as much fun to listen to as it is to sing!

— Randall Swanson



St. Philip has a long and rich connection with Mo-Ranch. For more than forty years, our congregation has held its annual retreat at this Presbyterian conference center in the hill country, and every year this congregation collects a special offering ahead of the retreat so we can express our love and care for this treasured mission partner. The "Mo-Shower" supports the housekeeping department at the ranch. This year our gift will help replenish the very most fundamental supplies needed to make Mo's accommodations comfortable and welcoming for guests: bedding and towels! It takes a lot of these "soft goods" to keep the ranch in good shape. Your generous support of this offering will ensure rest and relaxation for many visitors this season. The Mo Shower offering will be collected on Sundays, **Today**

& 28. Anyone may donate to the fund by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting MO SHOWER / GIFTS as the fund. See the MO-Ranch table in the Gathering Area.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Sondra Sullivan; Ruth Ewing; Kathryn Harwood; Robin & Gary Willis; CJ Miller; Jennifer Wilson; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; Mary Sinderson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Lane Fletcher; Austin Lippincott; Richard Johnson; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Leonardo Knowles Richard "Leo" - grandson of Beth & Fort Flowers; Halley Delany – sister of Nina Lambright; Willow Polk – niece of Sharon Webb; Truxillo family – Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Warren Cash – brother of Kay Cash; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Donna Harris – sister of Joyce Fugit; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boehlens; Ellen MacDonald; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Larraine Scott; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians – Joyce Freudenberg, Annie & Sidney Roach, and Greg Brannon – friends of Stephen Paine. Rosebud Wiese Kirby – friend of Tina Bryan; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; Carol Gilliland - friend of Orlean Anderson; 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.

MO- RANCH PARTICIPANTS

Watch your email for details about the upcoming retreat.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

GODLY PLAY (Age 3-Kindergarden) – Room 104

ELEMENTARY (Grades 1-5) – Room 105

YOUTH (Grades 6-12) – Room 205

SPa (St. Philip Adults) – Room 200 – All adults of any age are welcome to participate - grab some coffee and join us. There is no need to prepare or purchase materials for class, so come as you are able.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—This class meets from **9:30 a.m.—10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. On Sunday, **May 28**, Kate Burkart will lead a Church & Society presentation on this year's Oscar-winning film "Everything Everywhere All at Once." To see the movie at home for free on Friday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m., Central Time, go to [Free Screening Program | AARP Movies for Grownups](#) to register. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—The Adult Bible Study class will recess through Sunday, **May 21** and will meet again Sunday, **May 28**, before recessing for the summer. Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to God's people. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—The Children's Chapel is held every **2nd** and **4th Sunday** 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 p.m. via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets at 9:30 a.m. A hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. 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.

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. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **June 8** we will discuss *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambricht at:

nnl@lambrichtlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN—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.

Monday Morning Saints – 2nd Mon. of each month
@ 10:00 a.m. – recess to fall

Sunday Circle – 3rd Sun. of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle – 1st Thurs. of each month
@ 7:00 p.m. – recess till fall

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 5 - SUMMER LECTURE SERIES - Please plan to join us on Saturday, **Aug. 5** for St. Philip's annual Summer Lecture Series. This year's speaker will be the Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, Vice President of the Evangelical Environmental Network and author of the recently-published book, *Following Jesus in a Warming World -a Christian Call to Climate Action*. More details to come. Please contact Omar Rouchon with any questions.

VISIT ISRAEL IN 2024 - We are putting together a St. Philip trip to Israel for **April 1-12, 2024**. If you are interested in seeing the trip brochure or need other information, please contact John Wurster john@saintphilip.net.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders (Session), Trustees, and on the Central Mission Endowment Council.

We ask that the congregation wrap this process in prayer. Take some time to pray over the names in the church directory. Who do you believe exhibits spiritual leadership to take St. Philip to the next step? Who has a contagious passion for God? Who might enlarge our vision, empower our members, and embrace a bit of risk? How about you?

Thank you for your help! Your 2023 Nominating Committee:

Lee Ardell, Selena Brinegar, Laura Burgess, Walker Fair, Chuck Johnson, Mickey Meyers, Jeanette Wennenweser

To suggest a candidate, please provide the candidate's name and your name in case we have questions. **Self-nominations are welcome.** In making recommendations, please elaborate on personal qualities, involvement in our church, and why you consider this person a good candidate for church leadership. Please use a separate form for each recommendation.

LEADER RECOMMENDATION FORM — USE ONE FORM PER NOMINATION

Candidate's Name: _____

Office: ☐ Ruling Elder (Session) ☐ Trustee ☐ CME Council

Comments:

If you are recommending a Ruling Elder, please circle the ministry area(s) they would best serve:

Education	Finance	Mission
Peacemaking & Social Justice	Personnel	Property
Stewardship	Welcome & Membership	Worship & Music

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Forms may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the Church Office, or completed online at saintphilip.net

LEADER RECOMMENDATION FORM — USE ONE FORM PER NOMINATION

Candidate's Name: _____

Office: ☐ Ruling Elder (Session) ☐ Trustee ☐ CME Council

Comments:

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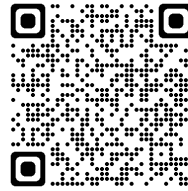
Education	Finance	Mission
Peacemaking & Social Justice	Personnel	Property
Stewardship	Welcome & Membership	Worship & Music

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Forms may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the Church Office, or completed online at 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.**

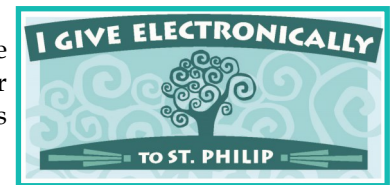
Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

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.

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.



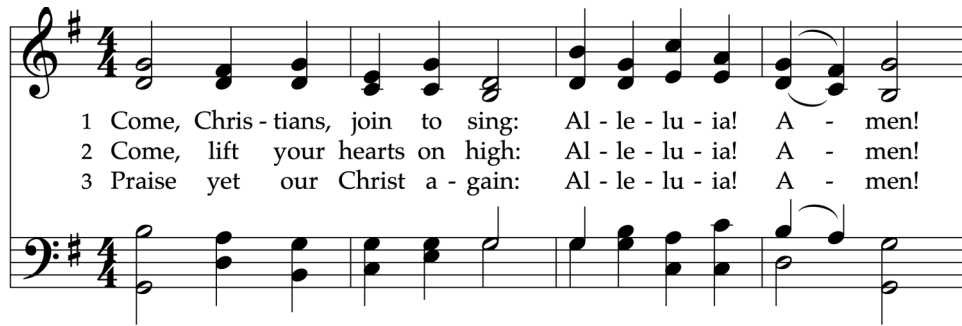
SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The session has voted to continue with a single service on Sundays at 11 a.m., at least through the summer.

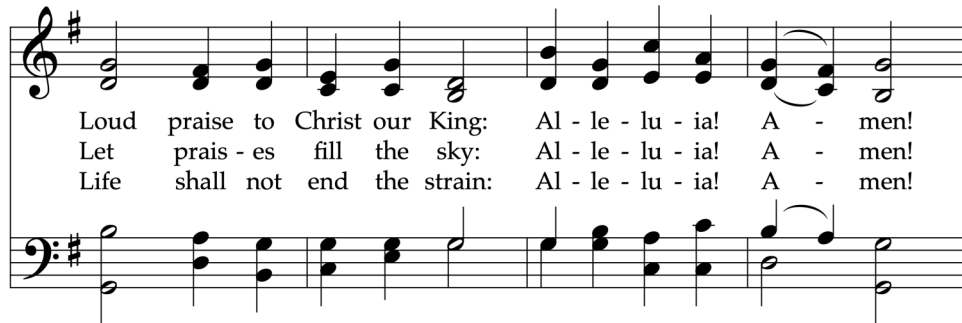
Hymn 267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

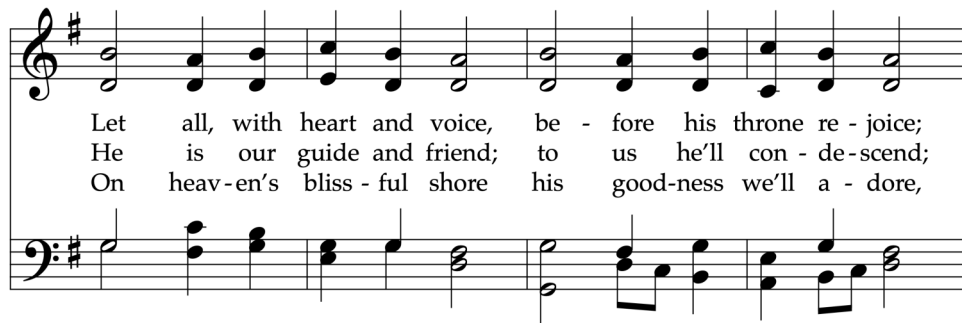
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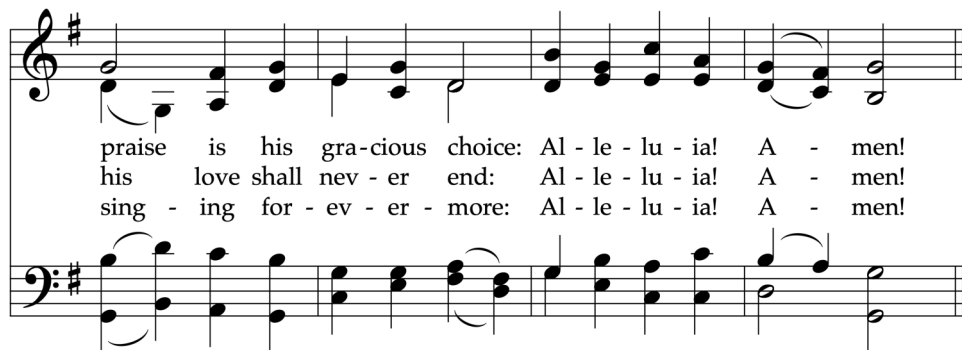
1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,



praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

TEXT: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843
 MUSIC: Spanish folk melody; arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

MADRID
 6.6.6.6.D

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Hymn 264

At the Name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3 Bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast,
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

This may well be a hymn based on a hymn, for scholars say that the passage behind it (Philippians 2:5–11), though not in the style of Greek poetry, shows traits of a communal creedal statement capable of being sung. It is set here to one of the composer's most sonorous tunes.

TEXT: Caroline Maria Noel, 1870, alt.
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925
 Music © 1925 Oxford University Press

KING'S WESTON
 6.5.6.5.D

[Return to page 3](#)

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19–20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1985
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

SINE NOMINE
 10.10.10 with alleluias

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