



## Preparation for Worship

*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.*

—St. Patrick, Fifth century

## Voluntary

Contrapunctus I (*The Art of Fugue*)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

## ✦ Opening Sentences

### ✦ Hymn 260 ([see page 7](#))

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

## ✦ Prayer of Confession

God of perfect love,  
you continually bring forth life,  
transforming sadness to joy,  
and despair to hope.  
We are weak, but you are strong.  
Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true.  
We are seldom right, but you are never wrong.  
Forgive us, redeem us, transform us.  
Take away the sin that burdens us,  
and restore us to the people you would have us be,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

*silent prayer*

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

## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

## ✦ Response



God is here to - day; as cer - tain  
as the air I breathe, as cer - tain  
as the morn - ing sun that ris - es, as  
cer - tain when I sing you'll hear my song.

TEXT: Raúl Galeano, 1976; English trans. C. Michael Hawn, 1998  
MUSIC: Raúl Galeano, 1976; arr. C. Michael Hawn and Arturo González, 1999  
English Trans. and Music Arr. © 1999 Choristers Guild

DIOS ESTÁ AQUÍ  
Irregular

## ✦ The Peace

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

## Prayer for Illumination

### Gospel Reading

John 6:51-58

N.T. pg. 98

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

### Motet

*Ego sum panis vivus*

William Byrd  
(1540-1623)

SUNG IN LATIN	TRANSLATION
<i>Ego sum panis vivus qui de caelo descendi.</i>	I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
<i>Si quis manducaverit ex hoc pane vivet in aeternum.</i>	Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.
<i>Alleluia.</i>	

– John 6:51

### Sermon

The Messy Truth

John Wurster

## ✦ Hymn 312 [\(see page 8\)](#)

*Take Us As We Are, O God*

ENDLESS FEAST

## ✦ Affirmation of Faith

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.  
We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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.

## ✦ Hymn 541 [\(see page 9\)](#)

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

RANDOLPH

## Charge and Blessing

### Voluntary

Canon at the Octave (*The Art of Fugue*)

J. S. Bach

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Keatan King and Omar Rouchon

### Musicians

Julia Fox, Cecilia Duarte, Thomas Lewis O'Neill, Nicholas Rathgeb and Kirby Traylor — choral ensemble  
Matthew Dirst — organist | Randall Swanson — music director

## FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Nan Schissler and family to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dick Schissler.

## WORSHIP NOTES

Today's lectionary readings:

- Proverbs 9:1-6 – *Wisdom calls: Come, eat of my bread and drink of my wine.*
- Psalm 34:9-14 – *Those who seek the Lord will enjoy goodness and lack nothing.*
- Ephesians 5:15-20 – *Be filled with the Spirit, singing to God and always giving thanks.*
- John 6:51-58 – *Jesus says: My flesh and blood are food and drink for eternal life.*

## MUSIC NOTES

### Organ Music

Today's organ voluntaries both come from *The Art of Fugue*, a collection Bach began around 1740 and didn't quite finish by his death in 1750. The idea for a grand compendium of the fugal art seems to have been in Bach's mind since his youth, when he made careful study of the most intricate contrapuntal works of several venerable predecessors. Engraved in open score, following the example of Bach's own fair copy from the mid-1740s, *The Art of Fugue* was intended to serve keyboard players, though performance by any instruments capable of realizing multiple layers of counterpoint is possible. At the opening of our service, we hear the first of fourteen fugues in the volume; and at the close, the first of four canons based on the same principal theme.

### 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. Much of Thiman's choral and organ music was written for Nonconformist (i.e., non-Anglican) churches, and Thiman himself was a Congregationalist by birth. *I Was Glad* is No. 7 of

24 *Introits*, published in 1961. Like much of his music, it shows a particularly strong affinity for traditional harmony used to striking and new effect. Thiman was a master of short-form pieces, as evidenced here in just 17 measures of music for four-part choir and organ.

The **motet** following today's gospel reading comes from William Byrd's monumental *Gradualia*, a collection of 109 choral works for use throughout the church year, published in two volumes in 1605 and 1607. The four-part *Ego sum panis vivus* appears in the second volume, and shows Byrd's phenomenal creativity and skill in its lively portrayal of Christ's words from this morning's gospel, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever." Notice, for example, the quickening rhythms at the word "vivus" [living], and the falling melodic lines at "descendit" [descended, or came down]. The motet concludes in a cascade of exuberant alleluias.

– Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Lane Fletcher and family upon the death of her mother Betty Ferrero on August 3.*

*St. Philippians and their families* – Charlotte Kibler; Don Padgett; Dorothy Blackwell; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Marion Takehara; Mezgebe Gebray; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Gretchen Everhart – Niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher – sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Mac & Beverly Wilson – parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family – daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family – cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron – sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe – mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

*Homebound* – Sue Baier; Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; Mary Sinderson; George and Lorraine Scott; and Jody Tomforde.

*Friends of St. Philippians* – Paul English; The Underfrink Family – friends of Wayne and Sandra Truxillo; Emily de' Argao – friend of Jacquie Colton; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton – friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff – friend of Jo Helland; Rob Bond, Lavon Thomas, Bill McDonald and Jackson Tavel – friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III – friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

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

[deacons@saintphilip.net](mailto:deacons@saintphilip.net)

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE – Wednesdays at 11 a.m.** This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you'd like to attend the midweek service in-person contact the church office.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** – The 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services are open for in-person attendance in the Sanctuary. Masks are required and advance registration is **no longer** necessary. The Sunday 11:00 a.m. will continue to be live-streamed.

[Our website](#) has information about **opportunities on Zoom** for fellowship and spiritual formation.

**Equal Exchange Coffee Products and Orders** can be picked up in the Gathering Area before and after worship service.



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](http://saintphilip.net) and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto: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 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net). We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11 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.



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Here on the  
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, You the



scep - ter, his the throne. Al - le - lu - ia! His the  
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is  
 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! Here the  
 Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.  
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
 sin - ful Flee to you from day to day.  
 Mar - y, Earth your foot - stool, heav'n your throne.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der  
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him When the  
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, Earth's re -  
 You with - in the veil have en - tered, Robed in



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of ev - 'ry  
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for - get his  
 deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of all the  
 flesh, our great high priest; Here on earth both priest and



na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"  
 sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.  
 vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Text: Revelation 5:9; William C. Dix, 1837–1898  
 Tune: HYFRYDOL, 8 7 8 7 D; Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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1 Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own. As  
 2 Bless us for your ser - vice, Lord; no pow - er we de - vise will  
 3 Break us o - pen to dis - close how bro - ken - ness can heal, wher -  
 4 Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast, that



once you chose to tell your love in hu - man flesh and bone, so  
 ev - er give us strength e - nough or make us tru - ly wise, yet  
 ev - er bro - ken loaves suf - fice to give a crowd a meal and  
 we may nour - ish in your name the last, the lost, the least, un -

1-3 | 4



let our lives be used to make your sav - ing pur - pose known.  
 by your prom - ise we can know the peace your grace sup - plies.  
 graves break o - pen to re - lease new life from death's dread seal.  
 til at length you call us all to your un - end - ing feast.

This Lord's Supper text is organized around the fourfold liturgical shape traced by Dom Gregory Dix in *The Shape of the Liturgy*: take, bless, break, give. It considers how the phrase "Body of Christ," used for sacramental bread, can also be applied to the baptized people of God.



Unison Harmony

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing coun - sels  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen wings pro -  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils  
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:  
 tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:  
 thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:  
 float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

A North American Congregational minister wrote this text as a Christian expansion of the root sense of "good-bye": God be [with] ye/you. The tune, named for a cousin, was composed by one of the few 20th-century British composers to make a major contribution to hymnody.

TEXT: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.  
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

RANDOLPH  
 9.8.8.9

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