



Preparation for Worship

*O Almighty God, we pray for your blessing
on the church in this place.
Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be awakened.
Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful comfort.
Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.
Here may the aged find consolation
and the youth be inspired;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

— Presbyterian Book of Common Worship, 1946

Voluntary

Lord God, We Praise You
HERR GOTT, DICH LOBEN ALLE WIR

Johann Ludwig Krebs
(1713–1780)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Introit

I Was Glad

Eric Thiman
(1900–1975)

I was glad when they said unto me,
“Let us go into the house of the LORD!”
Our feet shall stand
within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

— Psalm 122:1-2

✦ Opening Sentences

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it;
the world, and those who live in it.

O praise the Lord with me,
let us exalt God’s name together.

Come, let us worship God.

✦ Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
 you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
 We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
 We have not loved you with a pure heart,
 nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We have not done justice, loved kindness,
 or walked humbly with you, our God.
 Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
 In your great compassion,
 cleanse us from our sin.
 Do not cast us away from your presence,
 or take your Holy Spirit from us.
 Restore to us the joy of your salvation
 and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

silent prayer

✦ Response

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

TEXT: Traditional liturgical text; revised in *The Worshipbook*, © 1970 The Westminster Press
 MUSIC: Appalachian folk melody; arranged by Richard D. Wetzel, © 1972 The Westminster Press

WAYFARING STRANGER
 9.9.9

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✦ Response

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bernadette Farrell, © 1993 (*Published by OCP*)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

✠ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

*Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.
Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.*

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

N.T. pg. 20

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

Anthem

O Sing unto the Lord a New Song

Peter Aston
(1938-2013)

O sing unto the LORD, sing a new song,
O sing unto the LORD, all the earth.
O sing unto the LORD, bless his name;
show forth his salvation from day to day.
For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised.
Declare his glory among the heathen,
declare his wonders among all the people.

— Psalm 96:1-4

Sermon

Where We Are Now

Omar Rouchon

silence and stillness

✠ Hymn 529 [\(see page 10\)](#)

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. 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.

Almighty and merciful God,
 from whom comes all that is good,
**we praise you for your mercies,
 for your goodness that has created us,
 your grace that has sustained us,
 your discipline that has corrected us,
 your patience that has borne with us,
 and your love that has redeemed us.**

**Help us to love you,
 and to be thankful for all your gifts
 by serving you and delighting to do your will,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ Hymn 541 [\(see page 11\)](#)

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

RANDOLPH

✠ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
 NUN FREUT EUCH, LIEBEN CHRISTEN G'MEIN

Johann Ludwig Krebs

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Meg Scott-Johnson

Musicians

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

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Dr. Paul Jackson Jr. and Sara Jean Jackson to the glory of God and in memory of their parents Dr. Paul Jackson and Mittie Mclean Jackson.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings and prayers are borrowed from various sources such as:

- Ezekiel 33:7-11 — *The Lord desires that the wicked turn away from evil, and live.*
- Psalm 119:33-40 — *Teach me your way, O Lord: to turn from vanity and disgrace.*
- Romans 13:8-14 — *Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near.*
- Matthew 18:15-20 — *Jesus says: seek reconciliation; when you gather I am with you.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

Preparation of Confession and Prayer of Thanksgiving taken from the *Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA) 2018*.

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IN OUR PRAYERS

Kay Cash and family upon the death of her brother Warren Cash on September 4.

Dottie Lass and family upon the death of her granddaughter Madison on September 7.

St. Philippians and their families — Susan Estill; Mark Takayama; Stewart Coffman; Ben Dees; Shirley Coffman; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; John Palisin — brother of Peg Palisin; Vera Moore — mother of Chuck Johnson; Paige Everhart, sister of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Halley Delany — sister of Nina Lambright; 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; Ann Perenyi — mother of Lad Perenyi; 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 Boelens; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians — Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach — friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Boyd — friend of Kate Burkart; 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.

MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Today's organ voluntaries are both settings of German chorales by Johann Ludwig Krebs, who studied both organ and composition with J. S. Bach. Krebs's compositions reflect that tutelage on multiple levels, while inching stylistically towards the more melody-dominated music of the mid 18th century. The chorales *Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir* ("Lord God, we praise you") and *Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein* ("Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice") both come from Martin Luther himself. The former, treated expansively in fantasia style by Krebs, is a German versification of the *Te Deum*, a venerable hymn of praise from the Roman Catholic tradition. The latter, created anew by Luther to celebrate the gift of salvation, became a veritable folk song of the Reformation.

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 *In-*

troits, 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.

Today's **first anthem** by Peter Aston is a jubilant setting of familiar verses from Psalm 96 for choir with organ accompaniment, published in 1978. Aston was a British composer and conductor, best known for writing a variety of liturgical choral works, and active as a lay canon at Norwich Cathedral in England. In addition, he was for fourteen years conductor of the Aldeburgh Festival Singers.

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 favorite choral classic.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sept. 24** immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to act on a report from the congregational nominating committee. The committee will present the following nominees for ruling elders to serve on the Session in the class of 2026: Selena Brinegar, Kate Burkart, David Castro, John Hartman, Kurt Grether, Ada Fuller, and Mickey Meyers. Secondly, the committee will present Casey Lambricht as its nominee for trustee in the class of 2026. Finally, the committee will present the following nominees to serve two-year terms on the congregational nominating committee: Jane Lee, Dick Nunn, and Gay Van Osdall. The terms for all of these positions begin in January, 2024. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

ALL St. Philip women are invited to gather on **Sept. 17** after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will share a meal, visit with old and new friends and learn together.

The luncheon price is \$15. The meal will be from Chicken Salad Chick. Please let us know about gluten-free needs!

Child care will be available, but we must know in advance!

Sign up options:

- go to saintphilip.net and click on the registration link at the top of the page, you have the option to pay at same time you register,
- send an email to welcome@saintphilip.net,
- call the church office at 713-622-4807,
- in person in the Gathering Area on **10**.

Reservations are due by **Sept. 13** at midnight.

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

GODLY PLAY – Ages 3 – Kindergarten – Room 104

ELEMENTARY – Grades 1-5 – Room 105

YOUTH – Grades 6-12 – Room 205

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201 – Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Sept. 17** - "Race and the Bible" - In this session we will explore what we mean by "race" and how, if at all, the Bible has ideas of race in it. Presented by Dr. Justin Reed - Assistant Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at Louisville Seminary. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

FAITH & LIFE - Room 200 – *New Class* – An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. Using the short stories in *The Gift of Hard Things: Finding Grace in Unexpected Places* by Mark Yaconelli, participants will read a short text in class and then engage in conversation as a group. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – We will resume our study of the Kingdom of Judah on **Sept. 17** at 2 Kings 18 with the story of King Hezekiah 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.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL – We will have Children's Chapel **TODAY** 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

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster **meets weekly**. The class meets at 9:30 a.m., and is 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!

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.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Sept. 14** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *Any Other Family* by Eleanor Brown. 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. Our first gathering of the fall will be **Sept. 15**. We are studying "They Walked With God" by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that he has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ASKS YOU TO SHARE

The beautiful heart-felt stories in the 2023 stewardship devotional guide touched many hearts and served as reminders of God's strong presence in this church. We now ask you again, whether you shared last year or not, *to share a personal experience or story that has deepened your faith in God's provision and promises*. Young and old are invited to participate. We welcome photos, artwork, scriptures, prayers or songs. The stories will be in a 2024 devotional booklet and will be mailed to you in the stewardship packet. Your name will be included with your story unless you prefer it to be anonymous. Send or bring your contributions to the church by **Sept. 15**, if possible email them to welcomes@saintphilip.net. Please contact any of the committee members if you have questions.



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.**

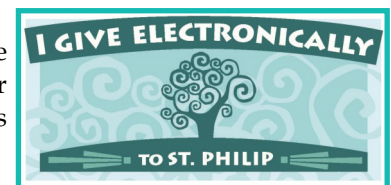
Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

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.



Hymn 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Although this ancient text has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the edifice where the composer served as organist and is buried.

TEXT: Latin, 7th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry Purcell, c. 1680; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1843

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
 8.7.8.7.8.7

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Hymn 529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

TEXT: Percy Dearmer, 1931, alt.
 MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957
 Text © 1931 Oxford University Press
 Music © 1957, ren. H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

UNION SEMINARY
 8.7.8.7.4.4.7

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Hymn 541

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

RANDOLPH

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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