

Preparation for Worship

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred: ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word. Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

- Robert Edwards, Hymn 716

Voluntary Fanfare Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Greeting Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Opening Sentences

 \$\Phi\$ Hymn 79 (see page 9)
 Light Dawns on a Weary World

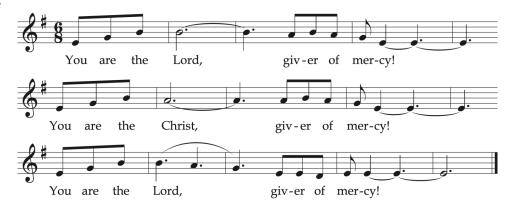
TEMPLE OF PEACE

† Prayer of Confession

Loving God,
you know our weaknesses.
Fearful of the future,
we forget what you have done in the past.
We see scarcity where you supply abundance.
We complain when conditions challenge us.
We begrudge others their success,
allow envy to divide us,
and live lives that are unworthy of the gospel.
Generous God, forgive us.
Help us to remember your wonderful works,
to trust your gracious provisions,
and to abide in your faithful presence.

silent prayer

† Response



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

† Declaration of Forgiveness

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

† Response



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 20:1-16

N.T. pgs. 21-22

Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God.

Anthem Christ Hath a Garden Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Christ hath a garden walled around, A paradise of fruitful ground. Chosen by love and fenced by grace From out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, There planted by his mighty hand; By Eden's gracious streams, that flow To feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav'n, and bear Their sweetest perfume through the air: Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet Among the trees that he hath set; That he may evermore be seen To walk amid the springing green.

> words by Robert Bridges (1844-1930) after Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Sermon Envious or Generous? John Wurster

silence and stillness

† Hymn 415 (see page 10)

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

† Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement 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 all people 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!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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

My song shall be alway

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

My song shall be alway of the lovingkindness of the LORD; with my mouth will I show forth thy truth. For I have said, mercy is set up forever; Thy truth shalt thou 'stablish in the heavens.

- Psalm 89:1-2

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

God of grace and God of glory,
we thank you for what you have given us in Jesus Christ.
We praise you for mercy that never ends,
love that never ceases,
and grace that is beyond measure.
Accompany us as the journey continues
that we might more closely follow the path marked
by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Hymn 36 (see page 11)

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYDY NOS

Congregational Meeting

† Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Chorale Fantasie on "Wie groß des Allmächtigen Güte"

Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Please join us in the Gathering Area to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Keatan King's ordination.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregational nominating committee presents 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 Lambright 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.

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

John Hartman

Musicians

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

WORSHIP NOTES

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

- Jonah 3:10-4:11 God's mercy angers Jonah; God teaches a lesson through a bush.
- Psalm 145:1-8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.
- Philippians 1:21–30 *Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel.*
- Matthew 20:1–16 *The parable of Laborers in the Vineyard; the last will be first.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

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MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

The British composer Kenneth Leighton left a large body of church music, including numerous anthems and organ pieces. His *Fanfare*, today's **opening voluntary**, features a variety of repeated motives or "ostinati," which are mixed and matched to great effect.

Though most of Felix Mendelssohn's organ works are cast in the abstract forms of sonata or prelude and fugue, he also composed a few chorale-based pieces for the instrument. Today's **closing voluntary** is an excerpt from one of those: a set of variations on "Wie groß des Allmächtigen Güte," a hymn that gives thanks for the "almighty goodness of God," as its first line states. The tune, though not well-known in the English-speaking world, is quite close to another German chorale that is: various phrases are identical to the melody of "What God Ordains is Always Good."

Choral Music

Both of this morning's **anthems** are by the American composer and organist Gerald Near, considered by many to be among the finest living church music composers of his generation. Near was for many years Organist/Choirmaster, and later Canon Precentor, at St. Matthew's Cathedral (Episcopal) in Dallas. He currently serves as Parish Administrator and Director of Music at St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church in Green Valley, Arizona. Near first studied theory and composition at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago with Leo Sowerby, and continued those studies with Leslie Bassett at the University of Michi-

gan, Ann Arbor. While at the University of Michigan, he also studied organ with Robert Glasgow, began publishing organ and choral music, and completed his Master's degree in orchestral conducting while studying under Gustav Meier.

Today's **first anthem** is a beautiful setting of the Scottish folk song O WALY WALY. Published in 1973, Near's *Christ Hath a Garden* has long held its place among the most-performed anthems by American choirs in the 20th century. The simplicity of the organ accompaniment combined with the opening and closing unison vocal verses frame the rich harmonies of the introspective third verse. The words of *Christ Hath a Garden* are by English poet Robert Bridges, based on an earlier hymn text "We are a garden walled around" by Isaac Watts. In both poems, the garden of Christ refers to the church.

Also dating from 1973, Near's My Song Shall Be Alway of the loving-kindness of the Lord is this morning's **offertory anthem**. Written in a lilting 6/8 meter for SATB choir and organ, its text comes from Psalm 89. The attentive listener with notice that the choir sings in canon (one part leading, the other following) throughout much of this anthem, leading to great effect into the final word "truth" on a not-so-subtle unresolved harmony at the end, while the organ gently draws the anthem to a close.

- Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

IN OUR PRAYERS

The Flowers family upon the death of Elizabeth Carlton Lithio, granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers on September 17.

St. Philippians and their families — Denise Ferrell; Pat Lindsay; 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; 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.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians — Denise Casey – friend of Pat Lindsay; 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. PHILIP

OCTOBER 1—World Communion Offering —On World Communion Sunday (**October 1** this year), a gift to the PC-USA's annual Peace and Global Witness Offering promotes the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. The Presbytery of New Covenant receives an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation, and the remaining 50% goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

OCTOBER 8 at 9:00 a.m. - Worship on the Lawn—The service will include a "blessing of the animals." Here's your opportunity to bring your dog or cat or other pets to worship with you and to have them included in a special prayer of blessing. Animals should be appropriately leashed or otherwise contained! The 11:00 a.m. service will be in the sanctuary as usual.

OCTOBER 22 will be our Fall Picnic following worship service.

OCTOBER 29—at 9:00 a.m. — Worship on the Lawn with the bagpipers of the Houston Highlanders. 11:00 a.m. service will be in the Sanctuary as usual.

NOVEMBER 12 — The Mission Committee is once again hosting the ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET for St. Philip Mission Partners. We invite participation in the market from the congregation as well, and look forward to hearing from you. Wendy Stewart, the St. Philip Youth, the St. Philip Stitchers, and many donations for our live auction have all enhanced the marketing experience that Sunday. Participants can select the mission partner the proceeds of any sales should go to. Please let us know by **Oct. 15** if you plan to participate and need a table or have an auction item by calling Hope Wilmarth: 281-744-8540 or the church office.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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. Oct. 1-Update on Juvenile Justice in Texas - The Church & Society class sent letters last spring to the Texas Legislature advocating for the Texas Center for Justice & Equity call for: 1. All TJJD's five state secure institutions to be shut down by 2027, through a thoughtful, staggered closure plan. 2. To invest in building communities' infrastructure to appropriately address the needs of children who have been sent to TJJD, and allow recapture from closed facilities to reimburse the costs for communitybased resources. And 3. Enact policy reforms that decriminalize youth, diverting children from criminal punishment system altogether. Presented by Jay Jenkins, J.D. Harris County Project Attorney, who will give us an update on the state of juvenile justice in Texas - Also, an update on "The Sugar Land 95 - The Convict Leasing and Labor Project." Email Mickey Mevers 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 resume our study of the Kingdom of Judah 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-TODAY-We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This reading and discussion group meets on the first Monday of each month, 7:00-8:00 p.m., via zoom. As an activity of the Peacemaking & Social Justice Committee, the group provides a forum for the study and discussion of social justice topics (racism, immigration, globalism, climate change, currents events, etc.) within the framework of the church and guided by our faith. The first meeting of the new study year will be on Monday, **Oct. 2**, 7:00 p.m. The study book will be *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, by Emmanuel Acho. Interested persons and sign-up information can be obtained from Sara Jean Jackson at sij10223@gmail.com.

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!

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Oct. 12** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *American Cartel: Inside the Battle to Bring Down the Opioid Industry* by Scott Higham and Sari Horwitz. 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. 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.





Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphlip.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 <u>saintphilip.net</u> 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.





This is a hymn whose tune came first. Upon hearing it, the author recalled the watered garden of Isaiah 58:11, which in turn led to Isaiah 55:12, paraphrased in the refrain. Then came the stanzas, organized around their first two words: Light dawns, Love grows, Hope blooms.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2001 MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 2000 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

7.6.6.7.8 with refrain

TEMPLE OF PEACE



The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together. The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).



Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt. MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784 Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4