



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Preparation for Worship

*So some have come who need your help and some have come to make amends,
as fear of what the future holds, are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole.*

— John Bell and Graham Maule, Hymn 797

Voluntary

Trio Sonata
Op. 18/2 (mv.1)

Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

Greeting

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

Introit

A Beautiful Thing (excerpt)

Jane Marshall
(1924-2019)

Make your service of love a beautiful thing:
Want nothing else, fear nothing else,
And let love be free to become what love truly is.

Hadewijch of Antwerp, 13th century
Transl. Mother Columba Hart (1903-1991)

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 610 ([see page 9](#))

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

✠ Prayer of Confession

God of justice and righteousness,
 you lift up the lowly and fill the empty;
 yet we adore the high and the mighty.
 You reach out to the poor;
 yet we ceaselessly pursue wealth.
 You talk about treasure in heaven;
 yet we want dollars in our accounts right now.
 Forgive our lack of generosity.
 Heal our misguided ways.
 Cleanse us from the assumption that all that matters
 is what we have and what we can get.
 Change our hearts
 so that we can tend to the things that matter
 and find our life in Jesus Christ.

silent prayer

✠ Response *(sung twice)*

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
 be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
 Text and music © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG), Iona Community (administered by GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
 7.7.7.4.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✦ Response

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise
 God, all crea - tures high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia! Praise God in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre -
 a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

✦ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

N.T. pgs. 210-211

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

Anthem

A Beautiful Thing

Jane Marshall

Make your service of love a beautiful thing:
 Want nothing else, fear nothing else,
 And let love be free to become what love truly is.
 Work to this end every moment without sparing.
 Always be fervent in humility and serve with wisdom.
 Make your pilgrimage with beauty and purity,
 Without sadness or any hindrance of willfulness,
 In a sweet spirit of peace and joy.
 Hadewijch of Antwerp (transl. Columba Hart)

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31

N.T. pgs. 79-80

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

Sermon

Reality Show

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

✦ Hymn 754 ([see page 10](#))

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

✠ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.
 This God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.
 We believe that God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.
 We believe that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,
 helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly. 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

Gifts may be given any time at saintphilip.net

Offertory

Give Me Jesus

arr. Mark Hayes

Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
 You may have all this world.
 Give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
 You may have all this world,
 With its troubles and cares,
 For this I am sure,
 Give me Jesus.

Traditional African American Spiritual

✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Almighty and everlasting God,
 we thank you for the life you have given us in Jesus Christ.
Strengthen us to follow in the way of Christ,
encourage us to embody the words of Christ,
and inspire us to extend the love of Christ
this day and in all the days to come. Amen.

✦ Hymn 543 ([see page 11](#))

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Nun danket all und bringet Ehr

Helmut Walcha
(1907-1991)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | John Wurster

Liturgist

Elizabeth Duerr

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Daniel Boyd, bass-baritone
Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 — *Buy the field at Anathoth; houses and vineyards will one day return.*
- Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 — *The Lord says: Do not fear; I will deliver those who call on my name.*
- Amos 6:1a, 4-7 — *Those with idle and comfortable lives will be first to go into exile.*
- Psalm 146 — *Do not put your trust in princes; God does justice for the oppressed.*
- 1 Timothy 6:6-19 — *The love of money is the root of evil; be rich in good works instead.*
- Luke 16:19-31 — *Jesus tells the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Hades.*

FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by Elizabeth Duerr to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, G. Suttle Ham, MD, a charter member of St. Philip.



HOUSTON BRASS QUINTET

Brass and Steel

PRESENTS:
A MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE PROGRAM

Sunday, September 28 | 3 PM

TODAY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover design by Diana Weiss.

Affirmation of Faith from the "Confession of Belhar," *Book of Confessions*, Presbyterian Church (USA).

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Today's organ voluntaries come from two modernist German composers, both of whom were strongly affected by the revival of interest in Baroque music during their lifetimes. Each borrowed textures and genres from the 18th century in their own compositions while cultivating their own contemporary style. Hugo Distler wrote his Trio Sonata in 1939 with his own house organ in mind. Following the model of Bach's trio sonatas, Distler infused this trio texture with counterpoint that is by turns angular and elegant, cheerful and melancholy. Its first movement, today's **opening voluntary**, features two melodic lines that exchange places in the texture halfway through. A German chorale tune animates Helmut Walcha's *Nun danket all und bringet Ehr* ("We give thanks and bring praise"), this morning's **closing voluntary**. This sprightly chorale fantasy features imitative play on successive phrases of the chorale melody.

Known for her enduring contributions to sacred music, Jane Marshall influenced generations of church musicians through both her compositions and teaching, which she did mostly as a long-time faculty member at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. A

Beautiful Thing offers a contemplative and lyrical setting of text from a unique source, Hadewijch of Antwerp, a 13th-century poet and Beguine mystic, whose writings explored themes of divine love, spiritual experiences, and the union of soul with God. Marshall's setting, using modal language and striking changes of mood and texture, highlights the subtlety in the text and effectively conveys the broad visions of the Beguine mystics: that their love and life of service to God was a "beautiful thing."

"Give Me Jesus" is a moving African American spiritual that emerged from the lived experiences of enslaved people in the 19th century. Our **offertory** setting by the prolific composer Mark Hayes, who is known for his creative but reverent takes on traditional melodies, has put his personal touch on the beloved melody, both through his harmonic language and careful choice of text. Using a simple yet profound refrain, the song speaks to the power of faith enduring through suffering and offering hope and spiritual strength—a message that remains poignant today.

—Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Sondra Sullivan; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Wilma Grether—mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family—sister-in-law of Pam Keever; JoAnn Moss-Ayres—mother of Casey Lambright; Kathy Bailey and family—sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith—cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes—daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi—mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine. Lind Butler (wife of Bill Connolly) and her family in Israel.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians—Chris Deflandre—friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood—friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende—friend of Beth Atkinson; Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte—friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash—friend of Jane Cooper; Mary Watters and Mindy Cooper-Smith—friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kenneth and Donna Benton—friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett—friends of Robin and Gary Willis; Joyce Freudenberg—friend of Stephen Paine; 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

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO A

CHURCH PICNIC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

12:15 PM | FOLLOWING WORSHIP

[ON THE FRONT LAWN]

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE PROVIDING BBQ MEAT
& ARE ASKING MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

A-I: VEGGIES J-R: DESSERTS S-Z: SALADS
(ACCORDING TO ONE'S LAST NAME)

QUESTIONS? CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
(713.622.4807) OR SEND AN EMAIL TO:
welcome@saintphilip.net

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 that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. 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 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 103—Godly Play utilizes storytelling of Scripture and spiritual experience as we watch, listen, wonder, and respond together. We value the process, we are open to discovery with the child, and one of our goals is to build community as we work alongside one another week by week.

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-5—Room 205—This Fall the children will explore a unit called “Across Borders” from the FollowMe discipleship practices curriculum from the PCUSA.

YOUTH—Grades 6-12 meet in the Dining Room, watch the calendar for announcements about Kids Against Hunger packing sessions. Join us on **Oct. 12** at 9:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM - we will study Ecclesiastes, the final book in Dr. Robert Alter’s *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God’s faithfulness to all of God’s people from Dr. Alter’s translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—Join us from **9:30 –10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom—**Oct. 5** - **Rev. Gregory Han** presentation on Nostri Aetate on the 60th anniversary of this watershed declaration by the Catholic Church. If you would like to join any of the classes: email: jshartman01@gmail.com.

ENNEAGRAM—Room 202—Rev. Holly Heuer is teaching an introductory course on the Enneagram, a tool for self-awareness and spiritual growth. The Enneagram is a helpful way to understand ourselves and others, leading to deeper appreciation of our own and others’ gifts. There will be audio recordings for those who miss a class. For more information and a syllabus, please contact Holly: hollyheuer@ecentral.com

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 hear-

ing 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

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—What does it mean to be a Christian in these times? Our study group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m., to discuss social justice issues of our day. Beginning in October we will begin a new study book: *Baptizing America; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian Nationalism*, by Brian Kaylor. Interested persons who want to be added to our mailing list can contact Sara Jean Jackson:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly 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. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome to join us as we look at the lectionary passages for the coming Sunday! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. We will discuss “*How to Read a Book*” by Monica Wood at the next meeting on **Oct. 9** at 7:00 p.m. Please watch your email for details about location. 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 continue to study “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

MAHJONG ANYONE? - St. Philippians are invited to play Mahjong on Friday mornings from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at St. Philip in the Choir Lobby in Administration Bldg. We are interested in substitutes with the possibility of forming more sets if there is enough interest. If you’re interested in playing Mahjong sometimes or often or in learning how to play, text Judith Hiott at 832-277-8676.



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 has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off the Gathering Area 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 BULLETINS 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 the Library 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. 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, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.



St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. To support the school, **please make all contributions directly to St. Philip Day School**, rather than to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Please make checks payable to “St. Philip DAY SCHOOL” You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

Lost & Found—did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.

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.



Nametags—Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.

Hymn 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001
 MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
 CM

[Return to page 2](#)

Hymn 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974
 Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BARONITA
 7.6.7.6.D

[Return to page 4](#)

Hymn 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

TEXT and MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004
 Text and Music © 2004 This Here Music, Worldmaking.net

GREEN TYLER
 9.8.9.5.5

[Return to page 5](#)