



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 14, 2024

Preparation for Worship

Air is our element, but water is our heart's delight.

—Frederick Buechner

Voluntary

Arietta

Thomas H. Kerr
(1915-1988)

Greeting

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

Introit

We Shall Walk through the Valley

arr. William Appling
(1932-2008)

We shall walk through the valley in peace;
We shall walk through the valley in peace;
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no sorrow there;
There will be no sorrow there.
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no dying there;
There will be no dying there.
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

— Words by A. L. Hatter

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 775 [\(see page 9\)](#)

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

WALK WITH ME

✠ Prayer of Confession

In the waters of baptism, O God,
 you have cleansed us and claimed us.
 Forgive us for resisting your grace
 and for denying your name.
 We have followed our own paths,
 and they have led us far from you.
 Help us to live into our baptisms,
 to trust that all we need is in you,
 for you have marked us as your own,
 loving us without limit.
 Wash us with your love yet again,
 so that with clean hearts we may go in the way of Jesus.

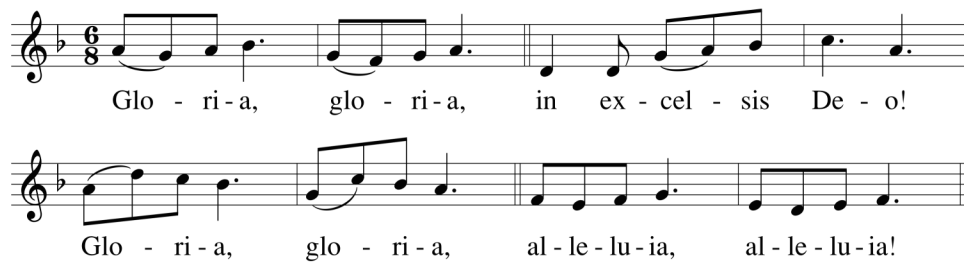
silent prayer

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

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✠ Response *(sung twice)*



Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

✠ 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

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

O.T. pg. 1

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*arr. Roy Ringwald
(1910-1995)

Precious Lord, take my hand,
 Bring me home through the night,
 Through the dark, through the storm, to Thy light.
 I have been to the mount,
 I have seen the Promised Land;
 Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,
 Bring Thy child home at last,
 Where the strife and the pain are all past;
 I have dreamed a great dream
 That Thy love shall rule our land;
 Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,
 Take Thy child unto Thee,
 With my dream of a world that is free.
 For that day when all flesh
 Joins the glory Thou hast planned,
 Precious Lord, take my hand.

— Adapted from a text by Thomas A. Dorsey

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11

N.T. pgs. 34-35

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God!**Sermon**

An Eager God

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✠ **Hymn 480** ([see page 10](#))*Take Me to the Water*

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

Ordination and Installation**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

My Lord, What a Mornin'

arr. Henry T. Burleigh
(1866–1949)

My Lord, what a morning;
When the stars begin to fall.

Done quit all my worldly ways,
Join that heavenly band.

My Lord, what a morning;
When the stars begin to fall.

— Adapted from Revelation 8:10

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God, we thank you that in our baptism
you have called us by name and made us your own.

**Help us to trust in your refreshing grace and cleansing love,
as we follow after Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 741 [\(see page 11\)](#)

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Closing Voluntary

Improvisation on 'We Shall Overcome'

Carl W. Haywood
(b. 1949)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Walker Fair

Musicians

St. Philip Choir | Daryl Robinson, guest organist and choir director | Cecilia Duarte, soloist

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Russell and Caryn Bahruth to the Glory of God and in honor of C. J. Miller on her 98th birthday.

WORSHIP NOTES

Ruling Elders ordained and/or installed today: Selena Brinegar, Kate Burkart, David Castro, Ada Fuller, Kurt Grether, John Hartman, and Mickey Meyers.

Today's worship service includes traditional Negro Spiritual music. The Black composers of this music are unknown to history and therefore unable to receive royalties directed to their estates for the use of their songs. To remedy this inequity, a fund has been created and approved by the Session where we will collect voluntary "royalties" for using this music. Anyone may donate to the fund by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting Negro Spirituals as the fund. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). You may also contribute by writing a check with *Negro Spirituals* in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. This small gesture of reparation seeks to help heal the long history of injury to Black persons. Contributions received over the course of the year will be donated annually to a local organization supporting Black musical traditions.

Today's Lectionary readings:

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) — *The boy Samuel hears God calling and replies: Speak, Lord.*
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 — *O Lord, you search me and surround me; I praise you.*
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 — *Your body is a temple of the Spirit; you were bought with a price.*
- John 1:43-51 — *Jesus calls Philip; Philip in turn calls Nathanael: Come and see.*

MUSIC NOTES

Based on *Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow*, *Arietta* is a lyrical and bluesy setting of this beloved song. Thomas Henderson Kerr (1915-1988) was raised in a musical family and played the piano and taught himself how to play the organ. Kerr dreamed of attending the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, but Black students of his generation would not be admitted, so he attended Howard University for one year before continuing his musical studies at the Eastman School of Music. In 1943, he returned to Howard University as a Professor of Piano and the Chairman of the Piano Department where he remained until his retirement in 1976.

Dr. Carl W. Haywood serves as Director of Choral Activities at Norfolk State University and as conductor for the 105 Voices of History, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Choir. **Improvisation on "We Shall Overcome"** was premiered in 2011 at the Ministers' Conference of Hampton University in Virginia. The piece is dedicated to "Mark and Virginia Whitmire, and the MLK Service at St. James's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia." In July of 2020, this powerful work was heard at the funeral service of John Robert Lewis, held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA.

Both of this morning's choral works and the offertory solo are arrangements of African-American spirituals. William Appling, who arranged *We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace*, was a prominent pianist

and conductor of the William Appling Singers & Orchestra. Having spent much of his career in his native Cleveland, Appling also served for several years as director of choral activities at Vassar College. His settings of spirituals have been recorded by Chanticleer and the Dale Warland Singers, among other groups.

Roy Ringwald is perhaps best known as the arranger-in-chief for Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians, one of the most prominent American choirs of the early 20th century. A musical jack of all trades, he played multiple instruments, taught music in schools, and wrote a significant amount of music for film and television. His setting of *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* takes as its basis a gospel song of Thomas A. Dorsey—said to be Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite. Mahalia Jackson sang it at his funeral in 1968.

Henry Burleigh, the first African-American master of the art song, also arranged numerous spirituals. His was a familiar voice in New York churches and temples, which he served for over fifty years as a prominent baritone soloist. His setting of *My Lord, What a Morning* was a staple of the great American contralto Marian Anderson, whose Easter recital at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939 was a decisive moment in both American music history and the civil rights movement.

—Daryl Robinson and Matthew Dirst

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

Music reprints and online streaming by permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.

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

FAITH & LIFE – Room 200 – An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. 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.

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Room 201 – Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Jan. 21** - International Holocaust Remembrance Day - "The Boy on the Left - Norbert Schmidek - a post-script" - Mark Schmidek, the son of Norbert Schmidek, tells the story of how the letters, postcards, and documents written in German by Norbert's grandmother, mother, uncle and cousins from 1938 - 1942 were stored away for more than 70 years. Between 2012 and 2022 the singular story threads were woven together to tell the story of Norbert Schmidek and how the Holocaust affected the life of one individual, their family, and their community. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

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 group meets on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m., by zoom to discuss social justice issues of our day. The next meeting on Monday, **Feb. 5** will begin a study/discussion of "Christian nationalism." Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson (sjj10223@gmail.com) to be added to our zoom mailing list.

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. 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 **Feb. 8** at 7:00 p.m. and we will discuss *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. So 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.

Save the Date

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*



When the Fullness of History Inspires & Infuriates Us:

Settler Colonialism, Slavery & Christianity
in the United States

February 25, 26 & 27 | 2024

Dr. William Yoo

Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History
at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA.

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.

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

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



SEARCH SPEAKER SERIES

JOIN US:

January 18, 2024

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

Current Challenges
and Solutions in
Addressing
Homelessness Today

MISSION PARTNER – St. Philipians are invited to join SEARCH for a one-hour informative webinar next Thursday, January 18, via Zoom. SEARCH and the Houston community have made progress over the past decade to reduce homelessness by 60%. SEARCH's House of Tiny Treasures has also provided high-quality early-childhood education to children that have experienced homelessness to break the cycle of poverty. But the need still remains, with over 20,000 people seeking assistance through Houston's homeless services over the course of the year. St. Philip has supported SEARCH and House of Tiny Treasure with grants over the years to move homeless individuals and families from the streets into safe, stable homes of their own. Register for the SEARCH Speaker Series: The Current Challenges and Solutions in Addressing Homelessness Today by emailing Hannah Mannion at hmannion@searchhomeless.org or call 832-232-8715.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

February 16-18, 2024

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 11080 Katy Freeway

Led by Keatan King

The Greening Power of God and Hildegard of Bingen

Hildegard of Bingen was a visionary leader of extraordinary creative power. German Benedictine Abbess, healer, artist, musician, writer, spiritual director, botanist, poet, and more, Hildegard is one of the most significant women of Christian history. One of her great gifts was insight into *viriditas*, or the greening power of God, the life force at the heart of everything alive in all of creation. This central creative principle was key for Hildegard in sustaining her soul and her work.

As we begin the season of Lent and recall Jesus' time in the desert, we tend to think of the wilderness as a sparse, barren place. Join women of St. Philip in remembering that the desert has another side and, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing." This abundant blossoming is *viriditas*. We will contemplate Hildegard's wisdom for living a life that is fruitful and green and overflowing with verdancy as we trust that God is indeed making all things new, or rather, "greening" all things new.

REGISTRATION online at saintphilip.net or in the Gathering Area January 21 or 28.

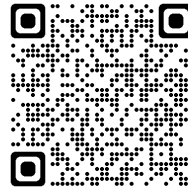
Deadline to register is FEBRUARY 1

Cost

- One of two sharing a room with 2 queen beds for 2 nights - \$225
- Single room with 1 king bed for 2 nights - \$345
 - Meals included if you are staying at the hotel both nights are 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- Single room for 1 night - \$225 - Friday Night Only
 - Friday night only includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch.
- Single room for 1 night - \$225 - Saturday Night Only
 - Saturday night only includes Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast.
- Saturday Daytime Only - \$105
 - Saturday Daytime Only registration includes lunch and dinner.
- Lunch & Dinner only - Friday Dinner; Saturday Lunch & Dinner - \$120

If you have questions, contact Lee Ardell at leearnell@gmail.com or 713-256-3818.

If you have trouble with registration, call the church office at 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie Castle or email her at lorrie@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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Stephen Paine; Mary Herlitz; Helen Deleon; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Kelley, Grant, Christine, Samantha and Keith Taylor – family of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Alice Woodall-Chisholm – cousin of Mary McGuire; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; 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; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians – Stephen Wedemeyer and Ron Landers – friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor, Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rower; Magdalena Rustomji - friend of Mickey & Ken Meyers; Caitlan Prescott – friend of Mary McGuire; Mary Watters – friend of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; 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

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Nolan Williams Jr., 2000
 Music Arr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

WALK WITH ME
 8.8.8.9

[Return to page 2](#)

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
 2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
 3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
 4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
 jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

This African American spiritual sums up the commitment of a candidate for baptism: the request for the rite, an expression of motivation, and a succinct affirmation of faith. The widening melodic lines build anticipation and give weight to the final phrase of each stanza.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

TAKE ME TO THE WATER
 Irregular

[Return to page 3](#)

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I
don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Hold my hand ... | 5 Search my heart ... |
| 3 Stand by me ... | 6 Guide my feet ... |
| 4 I'm your child ... | |

This African American spiritual is based on the imagery of "the race that is set before us" in Hebrews 12:1-2. Its call-and-response structure allows for the improvisation and addition of stanzas related to an athletic metaphor that is as vivid today as it was centuries ago.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; harm. Wendell P. Whalum, c. 1984
Music Harm. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

GUIDE MY FEET
8.8.8.10

[Return to page 4](#)