

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Preparation for Worship

Loving God,
Be a shield against all that might deceive us.
Be a healer for all that might harm us.
Be a witness of all that might trouble us.
Be a friend to all who are dear to us,
from this day until we meet in glory. Amen.

Voluntary

Praeludium in C Major BuxWV 138 Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Introit

Lead, Kindly Light (excerpt)

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home;
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

John H. Newman (1833)

† Opening Sentences

† Hymn 301 (see page 13)

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

† Prayer of Confession

Majestic Creator,
we fail to believe we carry your image
and we fail to behave as those who belong to you.
Mighty Savior,
we turn away from your path of sacrificial love
and we turn toward our personal preferences.
Merciful Spirit,
we forget your call to righteousness
and we forget our need of you.
In our sinfulness, Triune God,
we seek now your forgiveness,
praying that you will relieve the burden of our regrets
by the power of your patient love.

silent prayer

† Response (sung twice)



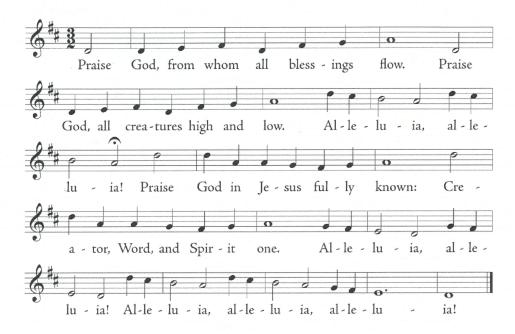
TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and music © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG), Iona Community (administered by GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM 7.7.7.4.

† Declaration of Forgiveness

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

† Response



† The Peace

Peace be with you. Peace be with all.

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

O.T. pgs. 577-578

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Anthem

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Mack Wilberg

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Everywhere I go... All in my heart...

All through the night (and morning)...

Shine across the land... Oh, let it shine!

African American Spiritual

Epistle Reading

Philemon 1

N.T. pg. 215

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Little Letter, Big Ask

Keatan King

silence and stillness

† Hymn 504 (see page 14)

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

O QUANTA QUALIA

Gifts may be given any time at saintphilip.net

Offertory

The Summons

arr. Christine Sullivan Robbins

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

John L. Bell (1987)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, God... we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:



Choir: Holy, holy, Holy Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Refrain – all

Refrain - all

Refrain - all

With all who love Jesus and honor his name... Great is the mystery of faith:



Gracious God, as we do what Jesus once did... ...all glory and honor are yours, now and forever:



With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught:

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.

The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Communion Music

Canticle of the Turning

Traditional Irish Melody arr. Karen Thompson

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Rory Cooney (1990)

† Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
how can we thank you for such a gift?
For you have met us, fed us,
drawn us to you,
and bound us to one another.
Now send us out to share your love
and proclaim your hope until Christ comes again. Amen.

† Hymn 702 (see page 15)

Christ Be Beside Me

BUNESSAN

† Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Pavana su glosa

Antonio de Cabezón (1510-1566)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Kate Burkart

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Tessa Larson, Cecilia Duarte, Thomas O'Neill, David Le, & Daniel Boyd - quintet St. Philip Choir | Bell Canto | Justin Langham, cornet & director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

To receive communion today, please come forward via the center aisle, and receive a piece of bread. The bread may be dipped in the chalice of grape juice and consumed or you may take a small cup of grape juice from the tray. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available; just ask the servers as you come forward. Those with mobility challenges may receive communion in their seats; just signal the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated. Gifts brought forward during today's final hymn support the St. Philip Day School. Learn more at: www.stphilipdayschool.org. You may also make a secure contribution through saintphilip.net and choosing the Communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line.

Today's worship service includes traditional African American 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 <u>saintphilip.net</u> homepage and selecting <u>Make a Contribution</u>, then selecting African American Spirituals as the fund. You may also contribute by writing a check with <u>African American Spirituals</u> 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:

- Jeremiah 18:1–11 At the potter's house, God says: Like clay, the people are in my hand.
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 O Lord, you have formed me; I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
- Deuteronomy 30:15–20 Choose life and prosperity or death and adversity; obey the Lord.
- Psalm 1 Those who delight in God's law will prosper like trees by the water.
- Philemon 1–21 Paul writes to Philemon about Onesimus: welcome him as a brother.
- Luke 14:25–33 *Speaking of towers and battles, Jesus explains the cost of discipleship.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

MUSIC NOTES

Today's **opening voluntary** comes from Dietrich Buxtehude, the finest North German organist of the generation preceding that of J. S. Bach. This *praeludium* opens with a rhapsodic, improvisatory section, which leads to a lively fugue on a triadic subject. Once the imitative counterpoint has run its course, the figuration of the beginning returns, providing final closure.

Our service music today centers around God as a guiding light in our lives, beginning with our **introit** by Cincinnati-based composer Howard Helvey. An active church musician and choral conductor himself, Helvey's sacred works for choir span the globe reflecting his engaging compositional style. We open today's service with the first verse of the familiar English text, which was originally written by a plea for solace in the church while longing to return home.

This Little Light of Mine, one of the most beloved African American spirituals, receives a creative and modern treatment by composer and music director of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, Mack Wilberg. Diverting from the jovial rhythmic nature of the original tune many are accustomed to, Wilberg instead creates a slower contemplative mood throughout. The choral texture, supported by a constantly flowing organ accompaniment, gradually builds with each passing verse to a big finish, undoubtedly written with the Tabernacle in mind.

Paraphrasing Luke 1:46-58, *Canticle of the Turning* represents a broader interpretation of The Magnificat, one of the most ancient Christian hymns. Typically sung during the season of Advent, the text more broadly embodies a faith and assurance that the world can be transformed in an instant—a notion much-needed in our current world.

There are few hymns where the text and tune seem to pair as well as "The Summons," also known as "Will You Come and Follow Me?" First included in the ecumenical Iona Community in 1987, the hymn represents the beauty of Scottish sacred traditions, with text by John L. Bell—a Church of Scotland minister, among other pursuits—gently gliding over the traditional Scottish tune Kelvingrove. An arrangement meant for clarinet and piano, today's offertory sets the tune in a different meter while retaining the flowing nature of the original tune.

Spanish Renaissance composer Antonio de Cabezón was Western music's first keyboard virtuoso. Blind from early childhood, Cabezón left an extensive body of organ works, most of which were first heard during his long service as organist and chamber musician to the Spanish royal family. His *Pavana su glosa*, this morning's **closing voluntary**, is a short set of variations (literally, "glosses") on a pavane, a stately dance tune.

-Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

The Frautschi family upon the death of father and grandfather Rev. Stewart Coffman who died on August 29. A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m.

The family and friends of Edith Patterson who died on August 12.

Tom Cavanaugh and family upon the death of wife, Barbara Cavanaugh on August 18. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m.

The Vestal family upon the death of mother and grandmother Carolyn Vestal on August 21. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

St. Philippians and their families — Judith Hiott; Jane Larkin; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick & Judy Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Raquel Calhoun & family – sister-in-law of Pam Keever; JoAnn Moss-Ayres –mother of Casey Lambright; John Palisin — brother, Kathy Bailey and family-sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith — cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes — daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Jacqui – cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; Terese Murphy - cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud — cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound — Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians — Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood — friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende — friend of Beth Atkinson; Audrey Eubank Harris, Jennifer McCrea, 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; Claude Bowden — friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; 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.

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—Our class uses the Godly Play method which was developed by the late Jerome Berryman (theologian, author, and educator) in Houston and is now practiced around the world. 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: Crossing borders is about actions we take to reach out to others who are different from us in order to love them and build bridges of understanding and justice. This practice shows how we, as followers of Jesus, are pushed, pulled, invited, and commanded by God to embrace the fullness of humanity. This unit focuses on four aspects of crossing borders: leave your comfort zone, embrace relationships, challenge exclusion, and speak God's language of love.

YOUTH—Grades 6-12—Dining Room—Kids Against Hunger.

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. **Sept. 14** - Dr. Julieana Nichols to discuss efforts on behalf of children with the Texas legislature. If you would like to join any of the classes: email:

jshartman01@gmail.com.

ENNEAGRAM—Room 202—Rev. Holly Heuer will be 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. Deeper study of the system offers a path to-

wards living a more authentic, balanced and mindful life. 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—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

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: sij10223@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— On recess until further notice. 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 "James" by Percival Everett at the next meeting on Sept. 11 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. On **Sept. 19** we will continue 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

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 the 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.



PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
FOLLOWING WORSHIP | RM 205

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MINISTRIES AND HOW WE ARE STRIVING TO CREATE JUSTICE.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DENISE WILBORN AT DWILBORN 5 5 @GMAIL.COM

PW LUNCHEON

All women of the church are invited to join Presbyterian Women for lunch on Sunday, **Sept. 21** following worship. Keatan King will be leading the lesson using our new book "*Short Stories by Jesus*" by Amy-Jill Levine. Keatan will lead the lesson on the book's Introduction and Chapter 6. **Sept. 16** is the last day to reserve your lunch. Lunch will be provided by Alonti and will cost \$15 per person. You can register a guest. If you are coming but do not want to eat lunch there is the option to register without a meal so we have enough seats set up for you. Lunch choices available online.

To register:

- 1 if you have the new Church app you can go to Events and register
- 2 you can scan the QR code to the right
- 3 or visit the PW table in the Gathering Area

[PW FALL LUNCH]





Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

MUSIC AT A ST. PHILIP

Masterclass with
Douglas Cleveland, organist
Saturday, September 13

8

ORGAN CONCERT

10 am to Noon

with guest trumpet player, Brian Kai Chin

Sunday, September 14 | 3 pm

FOLLOW US ONLINE Music at St Philip



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, **Sept. 21**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service of worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect seven persons to serve as elders in the Session class of 2028; to elect one person to serve as a trustee in the class of 2028; and to elect two persons to serve two-year terms on the congregational nominating committee. At the meeting, the nominating committee will present the slate of nominees listed below. Additional nominations may be made during the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

Elders: Junius Allen, Orlean Anderson, Linda Ewing, Sam Fisher, Amy Morriss, Carrie Bratton Pepi, TBA

Trustee: Dick Nunn

Nominating Committee member: Jim Crain

Learn more about each person in the Philip-Eye from September 2 found online at saintphilip.net.



ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY

BEGINNING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 TO DECEMBER 7

9 TO 9:40 AM CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

MUSICAL ACTIVITIES:

Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!

Fun excercises for body, mind, spirit to help develop confidence, coordination, communication and social skills.



Register your child through

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CHILDREN'S MUSIC



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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.



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.

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 off of 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 <u>saintphilip.net</u> and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to <u>lorrie@saintphilip.net</u>.

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.

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.

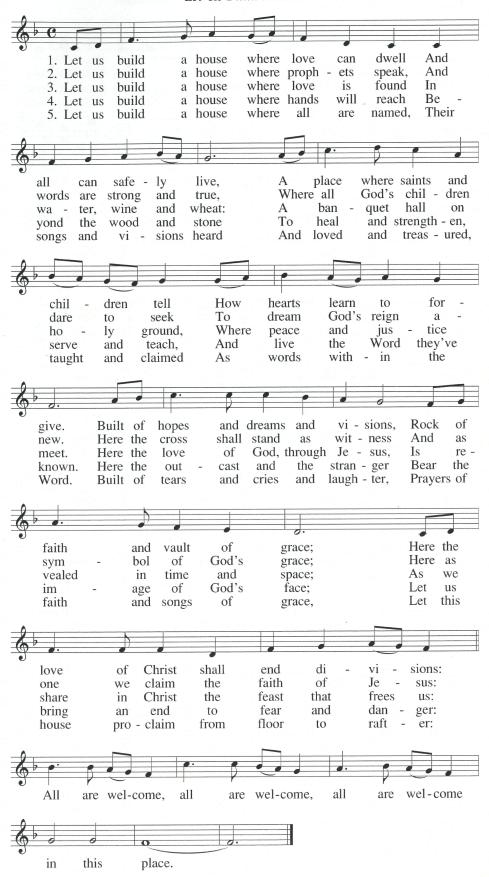
I GIVE ELECTRONICALLY

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 301

Let Us Build a House



TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1994 © GIA Publications, Inc.

TWO OAKS 9.6.8.6.8.7.10 with refrain

Hymn 504

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation



Without attempting to unravel the mystery of Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the central stanza of this text affirms that we are nourished by faith rather than by understanding. This hopeful text is reinforced by a gentle 16th-century tune created for a secular text.

TEXT: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1975 MUSIC: Johann Steurlein, 1575 Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

7.6.7.6.D

Hymn 702



Text: Ascribed to St. Patrick: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, © 1969, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP. Tune: BUNESSAN, $5\,5\,5\,4$ D; Gaelic melody

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