

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 18, 2025

Preparation for Worship

O God,

light of the minds that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

> - Based on the Gelasian Liturgy (8th century), Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* (1906)

Voluntary

Joie et clarté des corps glorieux from Les corps glorieux

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Introit

I give to you a new commandment (excerpt)

Peter Nardone (b. 1965)

I give to you a new commandment, A new commandment I give to you, That you love one another, Love one another as I have loved you.

John 13:34-55

Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsultemus et inspo iucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.

Where charity and love are, God is there. Love of Christ has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.

Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

Liber Usualis

† Opening Sentences

† Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Response

Fintan O'Carroll



MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

† The Peace

Peace be with you. Peace be with all.

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.

Prayer of Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

N.T. pg. 108

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Anthem More Love Kevin Siegfried From Songs for the Journey (b. 1969)

O we have found a lovely vine in this valley of blooming Whose blossoms shoot and promise fruit

That's beautiful and cheering.

More love, the angels are calling.

More love.

Its verdant branches spread so wide, it shades the meek and lowly,
Its dazzling light does shine so bright,
It fills the valley.
More love, the angels are calling.
More love.

We'll plant it and sow it and everyday grow it.

More love, the heavens are blessing.

More love, the angels are calling.

More love.

Shaker Song Texts (adapt. Siegfried)

Sermon This, Again? Omar Rouchon

silence and stillness

† Hymn 757 (see page 10) Today We are

Today We are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

† Affirmation of Faith

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another. 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 Shall We Gather at the River arr. Margaret Tucker

Shall we gather by the river, Where bright angel feet have trod; With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather by the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river; Gather with the saints by the river That flows by the throne of God.

Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

† Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We offer these gifts to you, O God, as we strive to live generously among your creation.

We pray that our gifts may help sustain the ministry you call us to, that we may constantly serve one another in love and with gratitude,

† Hymn 300 (see page 12)

We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

† Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Gelobt sei Gott im höchsten Thron

Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

John Wurster | Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Julia Pacheco

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Bell Canto; Jane Malczewskyj, conductor Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Acts 11:1–18 Peter has a vision about unclean food; God's gift of life is for all.
- Psalm 148 Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth.
- Revelation 21:1-6 A new heaven and earth; a holy city; God's home is among mortals.
- John 13:31–35 Jesus gives a new commandment: love one another as I love you.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Scott Baker to the glory of God and in honor of all of the members of St. Philip.

MUSIC NOTES

The subtitle of *Les corps glorieux* ("The Glorious Bodies"), today's **opening voluntary**, spells out Messiaen's aim for this remarkable multi-movement work: to give the listener "seven brief visions of the life of the resurrected." The penultimate movement *Joie et clarté* ("Joy and Clarity") presents a couple of ideas—one ecstatic and seemingly improvised, the other contemplative and sober—whose steady alternation provides a kind of musical frame for this idiosyncratic composer's strangely beautiful depiction of eternity.

Our **introit** comes from a unique and singable choral anthem that cleverly merges two important Christian texts on love: the familiar passage from John 13 and the first strain of the *Ubi caritas* chant. By juxtaposing two passages so closely related thematically, their combined message becomes greater than the sum of the parts.

Contemporary American composer Kevin Siegfried's *Songs for the Journey* was commissioned to be performed alongside Fauré's popular Requiem in D minor, Op. 48. In the work's five separate movements, Siegfried explores similar themes as the Requiem—faith, mortality, eternity,

and love—but in a less ecclesiastical framework, instead drawing on a variety of text sources to create a more positive and affirming message. *More Love* is the cornerstone of the set, using shaker text to depict love as a plant that must be planted, sowed, and tended for it to grow.

The traditional melody and lyrics by 19th-century poet and gospel composer Robert Lowry have inspired countless musical interpretations—from Charles Ives and Aaron Copland to Willie Nelson—yet the piece has never lost its enduring beauty or emotional depth. Our **offertory** presents a serene arrangement that incorporates both handbells and chimes, adding richness and depth to the musical texture.

This morning's **closing voluntary** is a canonic setting of the German Easter chorale *Gelobt sei Gott im höchsten Thron* (No. 239 in *Glory to God*, "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"). Its composer, Helmut Walcha, espoused a "neo-Baroque" compositional aesthetic by subjecting historical musical genres (like the chorale prelude) to his own contemporary musical language.

-Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

RINGING AFTER WORSHIP!

Curious what ringing handbells or chimes is like? Adults and children of all ages are invited to come up to the chancel immediately following worship **today** to give them a try and discover the fun of making music. No previous experience needed! Reach out to Justin if you have questions: justin@saintphilip.net

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

Prayer of Confession taken from the Book of Common Worship (2018).

Affirmation of Faith is from the Confession of Belhar.

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IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families — Philip McDaniel; Deborah Unruh; Sue Howard; Stewart Coffman; Bonnie Moore; Rollie McGinnis; Russell Bahruth; Jeremy Mattern; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Susan Huffman; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Mary 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; Vera Moore — mother of Chuck Johnson; Ann Perenyi — mother of Lad Perenyi; and Lillian Perkins — aunt and Ann Perkins Cloud — cousin of Stephen Paine.

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

Friends of St. Philippians-Marianne Keeswood - friend of Kate Burkart; Ann Eustler & Janet Rowlands - friends of Mary Mcguire; 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; 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; Jackie Janacek, Bill Ward, and Joyce Freudenberg-friends of Stephen Paine; 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

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.



A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders (Session), Trustees, and on the Central Mission Endowment Council.

We ask that the congregation wrap this process in prayer. Take some time to pray over the names in the church directory. Who do you believe exhibits spiritual leadership to take St. Philip to the next step? Who has a contagious passion for God? Who might enlarge our vision, empower our members, and embrace a bit of risk? How about you?

Thank you for your help! Your 2025 Nominating Committee:

Selena Brinegar (chair), Omi Ford, Sara Jean Jackson, Jane Lee, Dick Nunn, Gay Van Osdall

Please use the online form by scanning the QR code, visiting saintphilip.net or going to https://giving.myamplify.io/App/Form/747420bf-e507-4fbd-9ed4-d0c439560931



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY - Ages 3 - Kindergarten - Room 104

ELEMENTARY – Grades 1-4 – Room 205 – The elementary-aged children are invited to participate in Mini-Revolutions, a lectionary-based curriculum employing multiple modes of learning engagement, and centered on activities and practices to help build spiritual habits. Room 205.

YOUTH – Grades 5-12 – Recess

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—We are studying Proverbs in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM 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 -10:40 AM with presentations in person and by Zoom. May 25 - Memorial Day media study with Kate Burkart: Severance. - This wildly creative Apple TV+ hit show, which just concluded its second season in March, appears at first glance to be about an extreme form of work-life balance. A new experimental technology called "severance" allows Lumon Industries employees to undergo surgery where a brain implant allows for their work- and home-life memories to be separated. We will examine the very first episode, "Good News About Hell," which sets the stage for the series, highlighting the ethical and moral dilemmas surrounding the severance process and the characters' attempts to navigate their new realities, and will consider why the show has proved so compelling to its viewers. If you would like to join any of the classes, email John Hartman: jshartman01@gmail.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

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 King at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP – What does it mean to be a Christian in these times? How does our faith guide

our social justice involvement? Our Study Group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m. to read and discuss social justice issues of our day. Join us! Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Watch your email for summer plans. 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 AM. The group is using a new book by Richard Rohr "The Tears of Things" to study how the wisdom of the Hebrew Prophets can offer a hope filled model for the world today. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

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 get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to:

john@saintphilip.net.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women study year is coming to end. The following meetings are scheduled for this month and then we look forward to seeing you again in September.

Sunday Circle – TODAY – after worship in the Dining Room. Jan Meyer - <u>jsmeyer9990@gmail.com</u>

The Hallmark Circle—May 20—1:30 pm - contact Sue Shirley-Howard - <u>sue@fluencyhouston.com</u> for location.

One More Chance Study for Everyone – Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Library. The last meeting of the study year will be on May 25 at 10 am in the Library to discuss Lesson 9 - Sustaining Creation's Health for All. Everyone is welcome. Lee Ardell – leeardell@gmail.com.

PLANT IT FORWARD WITH THE MISSION COMMITTEE

We are seeking volunteers to assist Plant It Forward (PIF) Farmer Elizabeth on **May 24** from 2 to 4 p.m. at PIF Blossom Heights located at 8702 Lipan Road. We will be helping with weeding and simple garden tasks, no experience necessary. Sign up here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-work-day-at-blossom-heights-tickets-1320296374999? aff=oddtdtcreator. And please be sure to complete a liability waiver found at bit.ly/pifwaiver. For questions feel free to contact Tina Bryan: tinairene@sbcglobal.net or 281-536-8816. Look for more details at saintphilip.net.



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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.

I GIVE

TO ST. PHILIP

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 100 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.

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 14

For the Beauty of the Earth



In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

Hymn 757

Today We are Called to Be Disciples





This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985 MUSIC: English County Songs, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

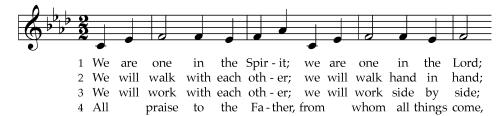
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KINGSFOLD

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Hymn 300

We Are One in the Spirit











love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966 Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS 7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain