

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Preparation for Worship

The LORD will stand and feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

-Isaiah 40:11

VoluntaryDuo in G Minor
Louis Couperin
(c 1626-1661)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Introit Nearer, My God, to Thee Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Adapt. Langham

Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me. Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!

Or if, on joyful wing Cleaving the sky, Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly, Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!

Sarah F. Adams (1805-1848)

- **†** Opening Sentences
- **†** Hymn 394 (see page 11)

† Prayer of Confession

Searching God,
you come for us like a shepherd searching for lost sheep.
We hide and we run,
sometimes knowing we have strayed,
other times completely unaware
that we are on the wrong path.
Regardless, you come after us.
With love and compassion and mercy, you come after us.
So we make our confession with hope
that you might find us again,
and wipe away our sin,
and return us to your fold.
We pray in the name of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

silent prayer

♦ Response (sung twice)

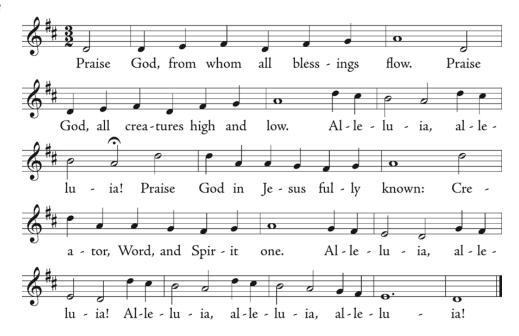


TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995 Text and music © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG), Iona Community (administered by GIA Publications, Inc.) TAKE ME AS I AM 7.7.7.4.

† 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. Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-7

N.T. pg. 78

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Anthem Draw Near Jonathan Willcocks (b. 1953)

Draw near...

Draw near and share the body of the Lord.

Draw near and drink of the blood of the Lord, That we may share His eternal love. Draw near and be blessed by Jesus from above.

Draw near and eat of the body of the Lord, That we may share His eternal love. Draw near to his glory, And then we shall be blessed by Jesus from above.

Draw near...

Draw near and share the body of the Lord.

Jonathan Willcocks

Sermon By Hook or by Crook John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

ST. COLUMBA

† Hymn 802 (see page 12)

Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of 1967

Life in Christ is life eternal.

The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are.

They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. 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

I will sing new songs of gladness From Biblical Songs, Op. 99 Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Bože! Bože! píseň novou
Zpívati budu Tobě na loutně,
A žalmy Tobě prozpěvovati.
Na každý den dobrořečiti budu Tobě
A chváliti jméno Tvé na věky věků.
Hospodin jistě veliký jest
A vší chvály hodný,
A velikost jeho
Nemůž vystižena býti.
O slávě a kráse a velebnosti Tvé,
I o věcech Tvých předivných mluviti budu.
A moc přehrozných skutků Tvých
Všichni rozhlašovati budou;
I já důstojnost Tvou
Budu vypravovati.

Original Czech The Bible of Králice (16th century) I will sing new songs of gladness,
I will sing Jehovah's praises
Upon a ten-stringed psaltery
Every day will I extol Thee,
And I will bless Thy holy name.
Great is God and great His mercy;
Who shall tell of all His greatness?
Who shall His power declare?
My song shall be of praise and honor,
And of Thy glorious acts,
Thy works are wonderful,
Past our knowing,
Yea, men shall tell of Thy great kindness,
And of Thy wondrous might,
And my voice shall proclaim aloud Thy glory.

Poetic English Translation Adapt. Psalm 144:9 and 145:1–3, 5, & 6

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

We give you thanks, great God, for the hope we have in Jesus, who died but is risen and rules over all.

We praise you for your presence with us and for the promise that nothing past, present, or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Hymn 803 (see page 13)

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

† Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Chaconne in G Minor

Louis Couperin arr. Joseph Bonnett (1884-1944)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Suzanne Kerr

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Thomas O'Neill, recorder | St. Philip Choir | Thomas O'Neill, tenor Justin Langham, director of music

FLOWERS

The flowers on the chancel are given today by Sally Alcorn to the glory of God and in memory of her husband Fred Craigen Alcorn.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 God warns that a fierce wind of judgment will lay waste to the land.
- Psalm 14 Fools say there is no God; there is no one who does what is right.
- Exodus 32:7-14 Seeing the golden calf, God's wrath burns hot, but Moses intercedes.
- Psalm 51:1-10 Have mercy, O God; I have sinned against you; wash me clean.
- 1 Timothy 1:12–17 Christ came to save sinners; God's grace has overflowed for me.
- Luke 15:1-10 *Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.*

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 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

Trustee: Dick Nunn

Nominating Committee member: Jim Crain

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

MUSIC NOTES

Today's **organ voluntaries** are both by Louis Couperin, chamber musician to Louis XIV and organist at St. Gervais in Paris. Couperin's *Duo* is a lively gigue, one played on a combination of piquant "mutation" stops, which play overtones instead of the fundamental pitch. (A "Nazard," for example, plays an octave and a fifth above the sounded note.) In contrast, his Chaconne in G minor relies on a repeating refrain and intervening couplets (brief wordless "verses"). More than 200 years later, another French organist by the name of Joseph Bonnet took this spare chaconne, which Couperin composed for the harpsichord, and fleshed it out in a grandiose arrangement for organ.

The 19th-century hymn "Nearer, My God, to Thee" retells the story of Jacob's dream found in Genesis 28:11 –12, which describes a ladder to heaven that draws closer and closer to God. Our introit highlights the text's overall positive and hopeful message through the opening verse, sung in a reflective style, and the fifth and final original verse sung boldly with resounding faith.

Today's anthem by Jonathan Willcocks, son of another famed English composer and conductor Sir David Willcocks, combines original music and text into an invitation to "draw near" to the Holy sacraments to be blessed and share in God's eternal love. The refrain, which repeats several times throughout, swells and retreats quickly, drawing the listener along with the text. Near the end of the piece, "glory" is presented with a sudden and joyful modulation that is quickly followed by an equally sudden return to the final refrain.

Biblical Songs, Op. 99 by Czech composer Antonín Dvořák consists of musical settings of ten selected texts from the Book of Psalms. Originally written in his native Czech language, the first translations were made in English and German, with which Dvořák took great care to fit the vocal lines appropriately. Our **offertory**, the fifth of the set, is a cheerful and triumphant song of praise adapted from Psalm 144 and 145.

-Notes by Matthew Dirst and Justin Langham



IN OUR PRAYERS

Jay Jeanes died on Monday, September 8 and we hold his community and family in prayer.

Laura McWilliams and family upon the death of her husband, Brad, on August 30.

St. Philippians and their families—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; 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. 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 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:

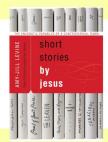
deacons@saintphilip.net



SUNDAY, SEPT. 21 AFTER WORSHIP [IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL]

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TIME OF FELLOWSHIP.

KEATAN KING WILL BE LEADING THE LESSON USING OUR NEW BOOK: "SHORT STORIES BY JESUS" BY AMY-JILL LEVINE



LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED BY
ALONTI FOR \$ 1.5



RSVP/REGISTER BY:
TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16

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.

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. 21 - Cindy Judson** will discuss what we've learned about how living with poverty impacts the ways people think and live. **Candice Harris**, St. Philip Day School Director, will provide an update on the SPDS startup. 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 Enne-

agram 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 towards living more 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—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

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. 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



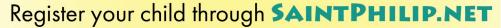
CHILDREN'S MUSIC

SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 5 TO DECEMBER 7

9 TO 9:40 AM, CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!





Kids Against Hunger. PACKING SESSIONS



THE NEXT PACKING SESSION IS: Sunday, September 28 9:30 AM-10:30 AM | DINING ROOM

SPOTS ARE LIMIT

EMAIL KEATAN@SAINTPHILIP.N IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

UPCOMING PACKING SESSIONS:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 AT 9:30-10:30 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 9:30-10:30 AM **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 9:30-10:30 AM**



4807 San Felipe • Houston 77056 713.622.4807 • 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.



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 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 <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.



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. At this time the school cannot accept electronic gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at <u>Director@stphilipdayschool.org</u>.

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 394

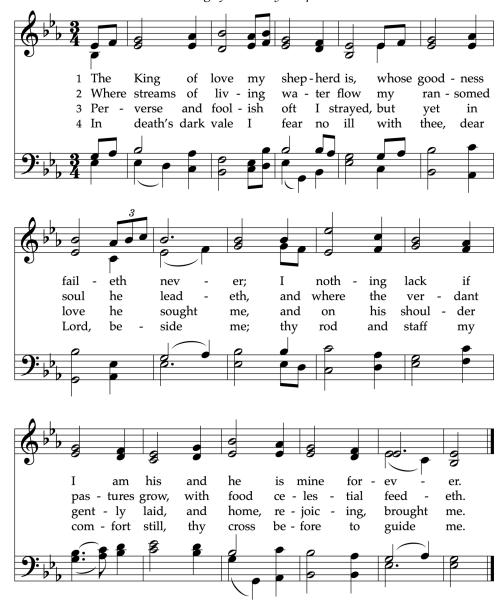
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



Although this ancient text has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the edifice where the composer served as organist and is buried.

Hymn 802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



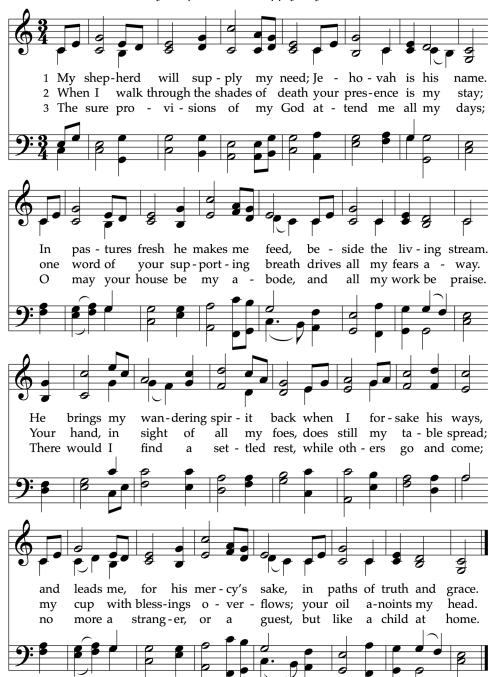
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth; and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Since its creation in the mid-19th century, this text has been one of the favorite paraphrases of Psalm 23 in the English-speaking world. That popularity increased in the early 20th century when *The English Hymnal*, 1906, first joined these words to this flowing Irish melody.

TEXT: Henry Williams Baker, 1868 MUSIC: Irish melody; harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906, alt. ST. COLUMBA

Hymn 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need



The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986

Music Harm. © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis

RESIGNATION

(alternate harmonization, 74)

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