

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Preparation for Worship

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God; we belong to God.

-Hymn 822

VoluntaryHerr Gott, dich loben alle wir
("Lord God, We Praise You")
Johann Ludwig Krebs
("1713-1780)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Introit Come, My Way, My Truth, My Light (excerpt) arr. Harold W. Friedell

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death. George Herbert (1593-1633)

Opening Sentences

 \$\Phi\$ Hymn 37 (see page 13)
 Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

† Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

silent prayer

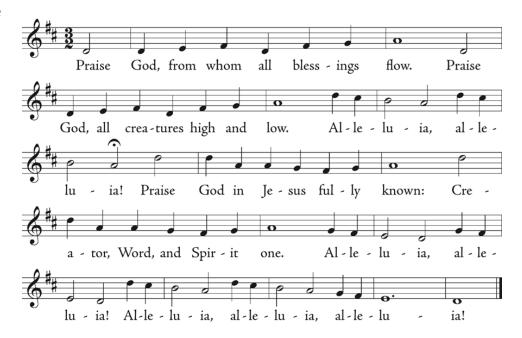
♦ Response (sung twice)



† 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

Gospel Reading Luke 16:1-13

N.T. pg. 79

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Anthem The Call of Wisdom Will Todd (b. 1970)

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy; Walk beside us down the years Till we see you in your glory.

Striving to attain the heights,
Turning in a new direction,
Entering a lonely place,
Welcoming a friend or stranger.

"I am here, I am with you.
I have called: do you hear me?
I am here, I am here,
I am with you."

Silver is of passing worth, Gold is not of constant value, Jewels sparkle for a while; What you long for is not lasting.

"Rulers govern under me With my insight and my wisdom. Those who know me know my love; Those who seek me find their answer."

God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit coeternal. Glory, glory, be ascribed to you, Now and to the end of ages.

Michael Hampel (based on Proverbs 8)

Sermon I Love to Tell the Story

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

† Hymn 822 (see page 14)

When We Are Living

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

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

The Call
From Five Mystical Songs

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.

George Herbert

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Gracious God,

we thank you for your saving love and your amazing grace.

May our gratitude for all that we have received send us into the world with joy, as we seek to glorify you with our words and deeds. Amen.

† Hymn 826 (see page 15)

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Congregational Meeting

† Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Chorale Fantasie on Wie groß des Allmächtigen Güte

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Piper Dees

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | David Le, baritone | Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Jeremiah 8:18 9:1 My joy is gone; my heart is sick; is there no balm in Gilead?
- Psalm 79:1-9 The nations have defiled your holy temple; deliver us, O God!
- Amos 8:4–7 The wealthy pursue their own interests and trample upon the poor.
- Psalm 113 Blessed be the name of the Lord, who raises the poor from the dust.
- 1 Timothy 2:1-7 *Instructions on prayer; there is one God, and Jesus is our mediator.*
- Luke 16:1–13 The story of a dishonest manager; you cannot serve God and wealth.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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. 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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Fall Luncheon will follow worship today in the Dining Room.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover design by Diana Weiss.

Prayer of Confession from the Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA).

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MUSIC NOTES

George Herbert (1593-1633) was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. Like many younger sons of landowning families, he made his career first as a scholar and later as a clergyman. What distinguished Herbert from many of his peers was the seriousness with which he considered his vocation before taking holy orders in 1630.

Herbert's poetry, like that of his contemporary, John Donne, is a field of contest in which the poet grapples with God, confronting his own sin and doubt. But Herbert's verse also radiates joy and gratitude. Herbert's poem, "The Call," is Trinitarian, framed in three stanzas, each appealing to three attributes of God. The first stanza's focus on the Way, the Truth, and the Life makes clear that the poet is meditating on Jesus' words in John 14, near the end of the Gospel, where Jesus explains that he goes to prepare a place for the disciples and will come again to take them to his Father's house of many rooms. The second stanza seems a meditation on this future coming, where believers will be shown the way by Christ's light to a heavenly feast, a feast where the host is strong enough to "make" his guest. God's "making" has two meanings for Herbert. The first is obvious: God is the creator of all; but, in its second sense, God "makes" his guest by compelling him, as does the host in the parable of the wedding banquet (Matthew 22). Here and in other poems, Herbert grapples with faith, doubting that he is worthy of God's invitation to the feast. Look back to the first stanza and notice its allusions to strife and battle: God has much to overcome. But when Herbert accepts God's making and mending, his heart opens and his third stanza emerges as an affirmation of faith so powerful it bursts the bounds of its plain language, welling up and spilling over with emotion.

-Special notes provided by Deb Burks

This morning's **opening voluntary** comes from Johann Ludwig Krebs, one of J. S. Bach's most proficient students. His setting of the chorale *Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir* ("Lord God, We Praise You"), a German versification of the Latin Te Deum by Martin Luther, treats this melody expansively. Each phrase of the hymn is introduced in imitative counterpoint before being sounded at the top of the texture, with abundant embellishment.

Our **introit** and **offertory**, a choral arrangement and the ubiquitous setting for baritone solo by Ralph Vaughan Williams, center on themes found in "**The Call**" as outlined above, with both versions reflecting Herbert's simplicity, directness, and remarkable emotional and spiritual depth.

A suitable pair with Herbert's text, our **anthem** by English contemporary composer Will Todd also conveys a longing for God's presence, but uses text based on Proverbs 8, which begins "Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?" The work evolves gradually in both musical and poetic depth with each passing stanza, beginning and ending with a humble plea by the sopranos alone, and in between explores a dialogue between those who call for God's presence and a refrain of God answering, "I am here, I am with you." God's voice can also be heard in a cleverly understated modulation to the fourth verse, grandly stated by the tenors and basses. First commissioned for Queen Elizabeth II's 60th Jubilee, "The Call of Wisdom" premiered at St. Paul's Cathedral in 2012 with the Queen herself in attendance.

Though most of Felix Mendelssohn's organ works are cast in the abstract forms of sonata or prelude and fugue, he also composed a few chorale-based pieces for the instrument. Today's **closing voluntary** is an excerpt from one of those: a set of variations on "Wie groß des Allmächtigen Güte," a hymn that gives thanks for the "almighty goodness of God," as its first line states. The tune, though not well-known in the English-speaking world, is quite close to another German chorale that is: various phrases are identical to the melody of "What God Ordains is Always Good."

-Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham





SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 2 PM TO 4:30 PM AT CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

[2353 RICE BLVD, HOUSTON 77005]

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

DANIEL COHAN & ANDREA OYUELA

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR
AT RICE UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION, HARRIS COUNTY OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Celebrate the power of clean energy from the sun at this Sun Day even in Houston. Celebrations will be occuring across America to acknowledge the progress made in creating record amount of solar electricity capacity.

MORE INFORMATION AT: SUNDAYHOUSTON.ORG

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jay Jeanes died on Monday, September 8. A memorial service will be held September 27 at 11:15 a.m.

St. Philippians and their families—Sondra Sullivan; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Wilma Grether—mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family—sister-in-law of Pam Keever; JoAnn Moss-Ayres—mother of Casey Lambright; 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; and Mary Sinderson.

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: <u>deacons@saintphilip.net</u>

MASP CONCERTS



ORGAN CONCERT

Doug Cleveland performs
with guest trumpet player, Brian Kai Chin

Sunday, September 14 | 3 pm



HOUSTON BRASS QUINTET Sunday, September 28 | 3 pm



VOICE RECITAL
Gwendolyn Alfred and Andreea Mut
Sunday, October 12 | 3 pm



REQUIEM DE LOS MUERTOS
Saint Philip Choir and Houston Masterworks Chorus
Sunday, November 2 | 4 pm



GLORIA!
Saint Philip Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 7 | 5 pm



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

ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY



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

SAINTPHILIP.NET



[CHILDREN'S MUSIC]

Kids Against Hunger.

PACKING SESSIONS



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

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

EMAIL REATAN@SAINTPHILIP.NET 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

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

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

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

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

YOUTH—Grades 6-12 meet in the Dining Room, watch the calendar for announcements about Kids Against Hunger packing sessions. Join us on **Sept. 28** at 9:30 a.m.

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

CHURCH & SOCIETY—Room 201—Join us from 9:30—10:40 AM with presentations in person and by Zoom—Sept. 28—Class will participate in a guided discussion of questions from the book "God's Gift of Generosity: Gratitude Beyond Stewardship" as part of preparations for the St. Philip stewardship season. If you would like to join any of the classes: email:

jshartman01@gmail.com.

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

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays after *Conversation with Children*. In the Children's Chapel, our young disci-

ples 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. We continue to study "They Walked With God" by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that he has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

ggardne148@aol.com

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



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. 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.

I GIVE ELECTRONICALLY

IT

TO ST. PHILIP

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 37

Let All Things Now Living



Hymn 822

When We Are Living



This hymn began as an orally transmitted stanza reflecting on Romans 14:7–8 and was expanded by a Spanish-language hymnal committee to offer additional examples of the many dimensions of life, thereby strengthening the recurring affirmation that we belong to God through them all.

TEXT: Stanza 1, anon.; English trans. Elise S. Eslinger, 1983; stanzas 2–4, Roberto Escamilla, 1983; English trans. George Lockwood, 1987 MUSIC: Spanish melody; arr. Barbara C. Mink, 1988 English Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

10.10.10.10

Hymn 826

Lift High the Cross



This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt. MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985 Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER

10.10 with refrain

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