



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 10, 2020

Voluntary

*Christ lag in Todesbanden*  
(Chris lay in Death's strong bonds)

Georg Böhm  
(1661-1733)

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Hymn 246

*Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

## Prayer of Confession

O God, maker of all things,  
forgive us for pursuing a way that is not your way,  
for embracing truth that is not your truth,  
for living a life that is not the life you have shown us in Jesus Christ.  
Forgive us for a lack of reverence for your creation,  
for aimless enthusiasm that causes us to overlook things that matter,  
for refusing to trust in your providence.  
We have given ourselves to idols.  
We have neglected the needs of others.  
We have falsely believed that everything depends on us.  
Forgive us, cleanse us, restore us.  
Create new hearts within us so that we may follow more closely in the way of Jesus.

*silent prayer*

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

## Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## Response

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

## Words of Peace

In Christ, God is reconciling the whole world,  
and God is entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.  
We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ. God's appeal is being made through us.  
Peace be with you. Peace be with all.

## Prayer for Illumination

### Gospel Reading

John 14:1-6

### Vocal Solo

*He is the Way*

David Hurd  
(b. 1950)

He is the Way.  
Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;  
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.  
Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;  
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.  
Love Him in the World of the Flesh;  
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.

— words by W. H. Auden (1907–1973)  
from *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*, 1942

Sermon

In Life and in Death

John W. Wurster

Vocal Solo

*The Call*

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life!  
Such a Way as gives us breath,  
Such a Truth that ends all strife,  
Such a Life that 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.

— words by George Herbert (1593–1633)  
from *The Temple: Sacred Poems*, 1633

**Affirmation of Faith**

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
Like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still. 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.**

## Hymn

### *Eternal Lord, You Calmed the Waves*

MELITA



1. E - ter - nal Lord, who calmed the waves, we look to you this  
2. To Laz - a - rus, "Come out!" you called, to those who cried you'd  
3. O Lord, who lives to break down walls, by meet - ing not, we're  
4. O Tri - ni - ty of love and power, all heal - ers guard in



day to save; a - cross the world, we live in fear and  
not with - hold a word to ban - ish e - vil's power— so  
all ap - palled, and yearn for when, no long - er bound, our  
dan - ger's hour; pro - tect them as they treat and care for



yearn for when we might be clear of dan - ger none with  
thus we cry to you this hour to heal a world so  
friends and neigh - bors we'll sur - round with hand - shakes, hugs, a -  
all your peo - ple, here and there, thus prais - es e'er will



eyes can see, that now has brought us to our knees.  
ill at ease from what has brought us to our knees.  
gain at ease, when you will strength - en fee - ble knees.  
rise to thee from all who prayed on bend - ed knee.

TEXT: Scott L. Barton, 2020  
MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

MELITA  
8.8.8.8.8.8

## Charge and Blessing

## Closing Voluntary

*Praeludium in C major*

Georg Böhm

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon, and Deb Burks

### Musicians

Cecilia Duarte, vocal soloist; Matthew Dirst, organist; Randall Swanson, pianist.

## WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings from the Revised Common Lectionary are:

- Acts 7:55–60—*An angry crowd stones Stephen; he prays: Jesus, receive my spirit.*
- Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16—*Deliver me, O Lord; into your hand I commit my spirit.*
- 1 Peter 2:2–10—*Now you are God's people, built into a temple like living stones.*
- John 14:1–14—*Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; he prepares a place for us.*

## MUSIC NOTES

**Organ music** — Today's organ selections come from one of the finest organists of the generation preceding that of J. S. Bach: Georg Böhm, with whom the young Bach studied at St Michael's School in Lüneburg. The **opening voluntary** is a setting of the German Easter chorale *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ lay in Death's strong bonds), whose text dramatizes Jesus' transformation from the tomb to new life. Out of this melody Böhm weaves a rigorous texture dominated by decorated statements of each chorale phrase, separated by contrapuntal interludes that allude to each phrase portion. Böhm's *Praeludium in C Major*, our **closing voluntary**, comprises an exuberant introduction with some fancy footwork and a short fugue on a fanfare-like theme.

**Vocal music** — Both of today's solos reflect upon the words of this morning's Gospel reading in which Jesus says to Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." This morning's **first solo** is by American composer and organist David Hurd, setting an arresting text by W. H. Auden from his remarkable long poem *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*, written during the dark times of World War II. Both the text and its genesis seem particularly fitting for the time in which we are living now. The composer David Hurd was a faculty member at The General Theological Seminary in New York City from 1976 until 2015, first as Director of Chapel Music and later also as Professor of Church Music and Organist. • Our **second solo** is one of Ralph Vaughan Williams' most well-known pieces of vocal music, the fourth of *Five Mystical Songs* composed between 1906 and 1911. Originally written for baritone soloist, the *Five Mystical Songs* are all settings of poems by 17th-century Welsh-born English poet and Anglican priest George Herbert, from his 1633 collection *The Temple: Sacred Poems*.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art work by Micah Meyers.

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### IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philippians and their families*— Walter Baker; Pam Rush; Greg Moore; Marion Takehara; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; John Bobbitt; Arlette Keene; David Block—brother-in-law of Nancy Lomax; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster— mother-in-law of Nancy Young; Emily Thetford—daughter of Ed and Janet Hess; Tom Martin—father of Jon Martin; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Keith Thomerson—brother-in-law of Susan Estill; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Jack Kindig—brother of Ginny Camfield; Shirley and Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandparents of Omi Ford; Jimmy Reagan—father of Sarah O'Dell; Dona Rowe—mother of William Rowe; Elizabeth Carlton Lithio—granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers; and Ann Morgan—sister of Dorothy Blackwell.

*Homebound*: Sue Baier; Joe Anne Berwick; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Donna Host; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Toto McGehee; Phillip McDaniel; Paul & Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

*Friends of St. Philippians*: David Calvert—friend of Kay Cash; Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; Dave Olson and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & Gary Willis.

*We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.*

### **The Session has voted to suspend activities at St. Philip indefinitely.**

Pledge payments and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.