

THE COMMUNITY OF ST PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 9, 2021

**Opening Voluntary**

*The Dove and the Olive Branch*

Margaret Vardell Sandresky  
(b. 1921)

**Introit**

*I Give You a New Commandment*

Peter Aston  
(1938-2013)

I give you a new commandment: love one another,  
as I have loved you, so you are to love one another.  
If there is this love among you,  
then all will know that you are my disciples.

– John 13:34–35

**Opening Sentences**

**Hymn 396** ([see page 5](#))

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

HOLY MANNA

**Prayer of Confession**

God of resurrection and new life,  
we confess that we are reluctant to embrace your good news.  
We cling to old habits and familiar ways  
that often lead us away from the people you would have us be.  
Self-interest consumes us to the point  
that we ignore the neighbors for whom you bid us to care.  
We get caught up in what we need to do  
that we neglect all that you are doing,  
and we resist your invitation to join in your redeeming work.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Look with mercy upon us  
and bring us to a fresh understanding of Easter,  
so that we might be empowered to go in the way of Jesus Christ,  
who has risen from the dead.

*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 ©

## The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

## Handbell Meditation

*O Sing to the Lord*

CANTAD AL SEÑOR  
arr. Jason Krug, 2015

## Prayer of Illumination

## Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

*Weave Your Net of Words*

Curt Oliver  
(1943-2018)

You weave a net of words!

Rabbi, weave your net of words—  
abide, commandment, love;  
intertwining, tying words—  
abide, commandment, love, abide,  
commandment, servant, friends, abide—  
you weave a net, you weave.

You weave a net of words!

Rabbi, cast your net of words:  
abide, commandment, love;  
drawing us to you with words—  
abide, commandment, love, abide,  
commandment, servant, friends, abide—  
you bind, you set us free.

— Richard Leach (b. 1953)

## Sermon

Transparent Jesus

John W. Wurster

## Hymn 316 [\(see page 6\)](#)

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

TWENTY-FOURTH

## Senior Recognition

## 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 313** ([see page 7](#))

*Lord, Make Us More Holy*

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

## Charge and Blessing

## Closing Voluntary

*March in A major*

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Keatan King and Omar Rouchon

### Musicians

Lee Ardell, Steve Carmichael, Elizabeth Duerr, Jane Malczewsky\*, Bonnie Moore  
 and Diana Weiss – Bell Canto members \*directing | John Lemen – djembe  
 Cecilia Duarte, Thomas Lewis O'Neill and Nicholas Rathgeb – choral trio  
 Matthew Dirst – organist | Randall Swanson – music director

## WORSHIP NOTES

The seniors being recognized today are Eleanor Kimbro and Austin Lippincott. Eleanor is graduating from Bellaire High School and will matriculate at Rice University in the Fall of 2021. Austin is graduating from Stratford High School and is enlisting in the U.S. Army as a Cavalry Scout, with Basic Training beginning in June 2021. Congratulations from your St. Philip family.

- Acts 10:44–48 – *Gentiles receive the gift of the Spirit; they should be baptized too.*
- Psalm 98 – *Make a joyful noise to the Lord; give thanks for God's victory.*
- 1 John 5:1–6 – *Trust in Jesus, who came by water and blood, and be born of God.*
- John 15:9–17 – *Jesus says: This is my commandment, that you love one another.*

## MUSIC NOTES

### Organ Music

Today's organ pieces both come from the American composer and organist Margaret Vardell Sandresky, who just celebrated her 100th birthday. A longtime member of the music faculty at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Sandresky also has an impressive catalogue of organ and choral music to her credit. Her *Three Devotions on Sicilian Folk Poems*, from which our **opening voluntary** is drawn, are all prefaced by short pieces of verse. "The Dove and the Olive Branch" takes as its inspiration these words: "Water covered the earth/Then a dove flew across the sky/And from its beak hung/A small branch of beautiful olives." The **closing voluntary**, written for a wedding celebration, is a tuneful march suitable for general use as well.

### Choral Music

This morning's **introit** is by Peter Aston, who was a British composer and conductor, best known for writing a variety of liturgical choral works. Aston was active as a lay canon at Norwich Cathedral in England, and for fourteen years he was conductor of the Aldeburgh Festival Singers. *I Give You a New Commandment* was published in 1995, and is composed for two-part choir and organ, with many unison vocal passages perhaps representing the concord to which the anthem's text — Christ's *mandatum novum* — calls us.

Today's **anthem** uses a stunning text by American hymn writer and poet Richard Leach inspired by the words of this morning's gospel. Published in 1999, the simple musical setting of *Weave Your Net of Words* by Twin Cities composer Curtis Oliver calls for two-part mixed chorus with keyboard accompaniment, and features a clever melodic motive throughout that is evocative of the "weaving" idea. Oliver served for forty-two years as organist and director of music at Macalester Plymouth United Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. In addition to his work as a church musician and composer, he was also music director of KUOM, then the public radio station at University of Minnesota, from 1970 to 1993.

### Handbell Music

Today's **meditation** is a new arrangement of the Brazilian folk tune — CANTAI AO SENHOR, or more commonly in Spanish CANTAD AL SEÑOR (*O Sing to the Lord*) — published in 2015 by American handbell specialist and composer Jason Krug, and calling for just twelve handbells, played by six ringers. The bells are enhanced this morning by the improvised sound of the djembe (pronounced JEM-bay), which is a West African rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

Declaration of Forgiveness Response © 1981 Fintan O'Carroll. All rights reserved. Anthem *Weave Your Web of Words* text © 1997 Selah Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Sermon Hymn *Where Charity and Love Prevail* text © 1960, 1988 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Reprints and online streaming by permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.

## Opening Hymn 396

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

HOLY MANNA

1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.  
 2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis - ter aid - ed him.  
 3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?  
 4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?  
 Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?  
 Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?  
 Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.  
 Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.  
 Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!  
 Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
 Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
 Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.  
 Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

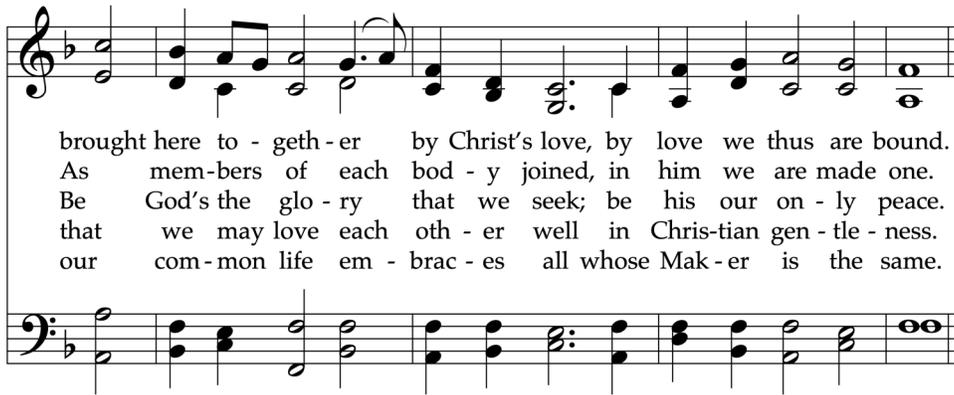
TEXT: George Atkins, 1819, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011  
 Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

HOLY MANNA  
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1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.  
 3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
 4 Let us for-give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,  
 5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.  
 our com-mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; trans. Omer Westendorf, 1960, alt.  
 MUSIC: Lucius Chapin, 1812  
 Text © 1960, ren. 1988 World Library Publications

TWENTY-FOURTH  
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## Closing Hymn 313

*Lord, Make Us More Holy*

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

1 Lord, make us more ho - ly; Lord, make us more ho - ly;  
 2 Lord, make us more lov - ing; Lord, make us more lov - ing;  
 3 Lord, make us more pa - tient; Lord, make us more pa - tient;  
 4 Lord, make us more faith - ful; Lord, make us more faith - ful;

Lord, make us more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain:  
 Lord, make us more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain:

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 pa - tient, pa - tient, pa - tient, un - til we meet a - gain.  
 faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.

Like many African American spirituals, this one creates a framework for almost endless expansion beyond the four stanzas given here. This sung prayer is notable as an affirmation of God's active care for the once-gathered community while dispersed and of hope to be reunited.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

6.6.6.6.6.6

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Family and friends of Joe Anne Berwick upon her death on May 3.*

*St. Philippians and their families* – Dorothy Blackwell; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Travis Calhoun; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Mezgebe Gebray; Erin Thackston – niece of Jacquie Colton; Warren & Gretchen Cash – brother and sister-in-law of Kay Cash; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Dixie Hahn – sister of Mary Sinderson; Brad Davis – nephew of Sam Fisher; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; Betty & Allen Grant – sister-in-law and brother of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher – sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Bessie Johnson – mother of Pat Lindsay; Mac & Beverly Wilson – parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family – daughter of Nancy Higgs; Dottie Laas and family – cousin of Sam Fisher; Alice Barron – sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe – mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

*Homebound* – Sue Baier; Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; Mary Sinderson; George and Lorraine Scott; and Jody Tomforde.

*Friends of St. Philippians* – Karen Stewart – friend of Roderick James; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff – friend of Jo Helland; Lavon Thomas, Judith Tomaino, Bill McDonald and Jackson Tavel – friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III – friend of Robin and Gary Willis.

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

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email [deacons@saintphilip.net](mailto:deacons@saintphilip.net).

Pledge payments, communion gifts and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>), text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE – Wednesdays at 11 a.m.** This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you'd like to attend the midweek service in-person contact the church office.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** – We will offer outdoor worship opportunities on the church campus on a week-to-week basis. Worship services will begin at 9:00 am. Worshipers are asked to bring their own chairs or blankets. We will also have chairs available at the church for those who need them. Worshipers will be spaced on the lawn at appropriate distances. The lawn service will last about thirty minutes. Registration is required and will open the Monday before the service; link can be found in pastoral email updates or through MyStPhilip. If the event has reached capacity, the event sign-up closes, contact Lorrie Castle at 832-262-1244. [Register for lawn service.](#)

[Our website](#) has information a current list of **opportunities on Zoom** for fellowship and spiritual formation.

**CHURCH & SOCIETY - 9:30 a.m. – May 16** – *Liberty High School - Many Cultures, Many Minds, One Goal...Academic Success* - Learn how St. Philip volunteers have helped to support the mission of Liberty High School - to enable newly-arrived immigrant students, who balance full-time work and family responsibilities, the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: [churchsociety\\_stphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net).