

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Preparation for Worship

God never seems to weary of trying to get across to us. Word after word God tries in search of the right word. When the creation itself doesn't seem to say it right – sun, moon, starts, all of it – God tries flesh and blood.

-Frederick Buechner

Voluntary

Variations on Dix

David P. Dahl (b. 1937)

JANUARY 26, 2025

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Introit

Come to Us, Creative Spirit (excerpt)

arr. Robert Hobby

Come to us, creative Spirit, in this holy house; Every human talent hallow, hidden skills arouse, That within your earthly temple, wise and simple may rejoice.

David Mowbray (c. 1977)

† Opening Sentences

† Hymn 5 (see page 10)

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

Prayer of Confession

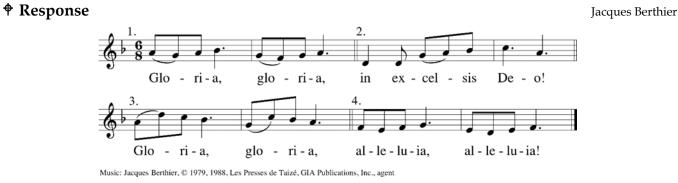
God of freedom, Jesus came to bring good news, to mend and heal, to release and redeem, to proclaim and embody your coming reign. We confess that we have ignored his message. We remain captive to sin, bruised and broken by our transgressions. Help us to hear the truth of the gospel. Inspire us with your liberating word. Let your Spirit cleanse us and change us so that we may receive all that you have declared in Jesus Christ our Lord.

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

† Declaration of Forgiveness

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



† The Peace

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Peace be with you. Peace be with all.

Conversation with Children

Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.

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

Prayer for Illumination		
First Reading	Psalm 19	O.T. pgs. 498-499
	Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God.	
Anthem	Vox Christi	Philip Wilby (b. 1949)
	All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, go and teach all nations, Baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.	
	Words from 'The Great Commission' Matthew 28: 18–20	
Gospel Readin	g Luke 4:14-21	N.T. pg. 61
	Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	Inaugural Address silence and stillness	John Wurster
Hymn 757 <u>(see pa</u>	t <u>ge 11)</u> Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples of the Lord	KINGSFOLD

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† Affirmation of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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

Offertory

We Will Praise You

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) arr. Douglas Wagner

We will praise You, Lord and Father, maker, giver, And adore with joy for everlasting. We will sing and be glad in You. Alleluia. Amen.

Adap. Douglas Wagner

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Holy God, we thank you for the majesty of your work, the wisdom of your word, and the generosity of your grace. Let the gifts of our lives bear witness to your goodness and mercy, your faithfulness and justice, and your steadfast love for all. Amen.

† Hymn 543 (see page 13) God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739) arr. E. Power Biggs

SERVING TODAY

Pastors Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist Deb Burks

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Jan Fox, Judy Hill, Jane Malczewskyj, Colleen Nelson, Jeanette Wennenweser, Denise Wilborn, Alex Brewer, Josh Langham, & Brice Wilborn, small ensemble Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Ezra reads God's law to the people; they weep to hear God's words.
- Psalm 19-The heavens tell God's glory; the law of the Lord is perfect.
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a Christ's body has many different members; in the Spirit we are one.
- Luke 4:14-21 Jesus reads from Isaiah: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Ruena Wood and family to God's glory and in memory of her husband, Rev. Dr. Stuart A. Wood.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday, **February 9**, immediately following the 11 am worship service. The meeting will include consideration of changes to the pastors' terms of call and the election of an elder to serve on the Session in the class of 2027. The congregational nominating committee will nominate Lee Ardell for that position. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

MUSIC NOTES

David Dahl spent several decades as Professor of Organ at Pacific Lutheran University and Director of Music at Christ Church, Tacoma, WA. Much of his organ music reflects a strong interest in hymnody, as is the case with today's **opening voluntary**. This concise set of variations treats DIX, a well-known melody we know from the Epiphany hymn "As with Gladness Men of Old."

The product of two impactful composers of liturgical music, our **introit** is taken from a setting by Robert Hobby of a hymn tune by Richard Proulx, both of whose works span virtually every category of church music. Proulx's treatment of the original text, what he labels as a "hymn for artists," calls upon the talents of every Christian to be offered up in this place of worship, a perfect encapsulation of congregational singing.

A powerful setting of 'The Great Commission' found in Matthew, **Vox Christi** evokes the voice of Christ through mostly unison or homophonic choral textures paired with striking harmonic shifts. A man of strong faith, British composer Philip Wilby has composed many of his works based on and inspired by his own deeply-held Christian beliefs.

A prolific composer and arranger, Douglas E. Wagner has nearly 3,000 published works, many of which bring new life and interpretation to music from older genres. Our **offertory** is one such example, featuring a tune from the 16th century that is first established in unison, then a two-part canon, and finally a threepart texture with a descant "alleluia" above the original canon.

Today's **closing voluntary** is an organ arrangement of a choral setting of today's appointed psalm, whose text has inspired several famous anthems, including Haydn's "The Heavens Are Telling." A Venetian patrician and lawyer, Benedetto Marcello also excelled in musical composition. His fifty psalm settings, published between 1724-27, feature melodies from both Christian and Jewish traditions. They quickly became popular outside his native orbit, thanks to subsequent English-language editions.

- Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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IN OUR PRAYERS

- Sue Shirley Howard upon the death of her husband Dick Howard on January 17. A memorial service will be held on February 7 at 11:00 am.
- St. Philippians and their families Jan Fox; Mickey MeyersVada Woodall; Russel Bahruth; Jeremy Mattern; Nidhal Aldarraji; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; Roderick James; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Jacqui cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; John & Raquel Calhoun brother and sister-in-law of Pam Keever; 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 Ann Perkins Cloud cousin of Stephen Paine.
- *Homebound* Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.
- Friends of St. Philippians Erin McDougal, Jacqueline Hazrum & Matias Hazrum friends of Kate Burkart; Brenda Paulk – friend of Bonnie Moore; Janet Rowlands – friend of Mary Mcguire; Audrey Eubank Harris, Pete & Gloria Benevides, 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; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach – 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.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE IS NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR ST. PHILIP T-SHIRTS!



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 – **God's Family At Worship** - through **February 2** – The Education Committee is offering an intergenerational workshop for our elementary Sunday School students, their families, and the entire congregation. The workshop, "God's Family at Worship," is a series of five classes. The classes will be co-led by pastors, staff, and highlight the practices, rituals, and routines of worship in our community.

YOUTH-Grades 5-12-Dining Room-Kids Against Hunger

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. Feb. 2-Innovation is Renovation: The Lord's Prayer as a Site of Transformation in the Occult Revival - In partnership with Rice University's "Humanities and Communities" Project, upper-level Ph.D. students in the School of the Humanities are taking their research "beyond the hedges" in an effort to make their work available and accessible beyond the academic community. - At the turn of the 20th century, many Christians reconsidered their faith in light of the development of scientific materialism and encounter with religious texts from India. Departing from their home traditions into a sea of strange and fascinating movements (now referred to under the banner of the "Occult Revival"), these seekers created personal religions through the fusion of new and old ideas. In this presentation we'll consider how the transformation of the Lord's Prayer allowed for three religious seekers to re-approach their relationship with Christianity. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

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 – This group meets on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m., by zoom 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. The next meeting is **Feb. 13** at 7:00 PM. This will be a social so watch your email for details. 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 selfled group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at <u>ggardne148@aol.com</u>.

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

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women.

Thursday Evening Circle – Feb. 6 – meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Dining Room. Sarah Victorian - <u>sarah.m.0617@gmail.com</u>

Monday Morning Saints – Feb. 10 – meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room - Tricia Tolbert - <u>phtolbert@gmail.com</u>

The Hallmark Circle – meets 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:30pm - contact Sue Shirley-Howard - <u>sue@fluencyhouston.com</u> for location

Sunday Circle – Feb. 16–meets 3rd Sunday of each month after worship in the Dining Room. Jan Meyer - jsmeyer9990@gmail.com

One More Chance Study for Everyone – Feb. 23 – Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Library. we'll be talking about Air Quality - God's breath of life to creation (Lesson 4 from "Let Justice Roll Down"). Everyone is welcome. Lee Ardell -

leeardell@gmail.com

Celebrate your wedding anniversary, family birthdays, or memorialize your mother and father by sponsoring the chancel flowers on Sunday morning. Please sign up to sponsor the flowers on the date you prefer by contacting Lorrie Castle at 713-622-4807 or lorrie@saintphilip.net or you may go to <u>saintphilip.net</u> the calendar page and click on the chancel flower picture. Sandra Truxillo, Flower Coordinator, will call you the week you chose to sponsor flowers to discuss the type of flowers and the message you would like in the bulletin. The standard arrangement for chancel flowers is \$130; special requests or exotic flowers may cost more.

HOSTS NEEDED! - SOMERVILLE COLLEGE CHOIR (OXFORD) RESIDENCY

Music at St. Philip is excited to host the Somerville College Choir from Oxford, England as our choir-in-residence the weekend of **March 22-24**, when they will be performing a concert on Sunday, **March 23** at 3 PM, and will act as our guest choir for the 11 AM worship service that morning. We are thrilled to host this wonderful ensemble, directed by William Dawes, on the first stop of their U.S. tour where they will also sing in Tyler, TX followed by several venues in New York City.

To offset the choir's cost, we are in need of hosts for about 15–20 of these student musicians while they are in town. Responsibilities would include hosting them for two nights (Saturday, **March 22** and Sunday, **March 23**) and transportation to and from St. Philip each day. They will also need a ride to St. Philip once more on Monday, **March 24** morning to catch their bus, which departs at 9 AM.

If you are willing to help out, know someone who is, or have any questions whatsoever, please reach out to Justin (justin@saintphilip.net) at your earliest convenience!"



PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

If you wonder what the St. Philip Peacemaking and Social Justice (PSJ) Committee is involved in, please join committee members on **Sunday**, **Feb. 2** immediately after worship for an informal time of sharing. Our Community Garden and Earth Care Congregation efforts are supported by this committee. The Social Justice Study group meets monthly to provide a forum for study and discussion of social justice issues within the framework of the church and guided by our faith. Equal Exchange fair trade chocolates and coffees sales throughout the year help to end the problem of child labor, family poverty, and environmental destruction. Support of refugees is a ministry of this committee as well. This past fall voters' awareness and the Houston Independent School District's Bond vote were also key current social justice issues this group lifted up to the congregation. You are invited and welcomed to join us to learn more in Room 205. Light bites will be of-

fered. If you have any questions you may contact Denise Wilborn, PSJ chair, at: <u>dwilborn55@gmail.com</u>.







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.

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. 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 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, text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at <u>denise@saintphilip.net</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.





Despite the great sweep of these stanzas, each one ends by describing how our human condition needs God's help: formless, aimless, hungry, searching. Each of these adjectives is followed by a related three-syllable petition: shape us now, lead us now, feed us now, meet us now.

TEXT: John Thornburg, 1993, alt. MUSIC: Amanda Husberg, 1995 Text © 1993 John Thornburg Music © 1996 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company) JENNINGS-HOUSTON 8.7.8.7.8.7

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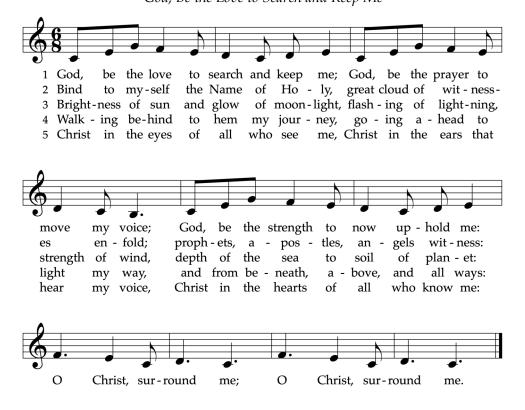


This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

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

KINGSFOLD CMD

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This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

TEXT and MUSIC: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004 Text and Music © 2004 This Here Music, Worldmaking.net GREEN TYLER 9.8.9.5.5

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Duerr Lecture Series 2025

Mark your calendars for this year's event!

Dr. Brian K. Blount

President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA Scholar, Author, Pastor

Series Title: **"The Kingdom of God"** Speaker for the 28th Annual Duerr Lecture Series,

February 23, 24, and 25, 2025

Kids Against Hunger. PACKING SESSIONS



SERVE WITH US!

SPOTS ARE LIMITED! EMAIL REATANOSAINTPHILIP.NET IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

UPCOMING PACKING SESSIONS: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 9:30-10:30 AM SUNDAY, MARCH 23 AT 9:30-10:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 9:30-10:30 AM

ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 9 TO APRIL 13 9 TO 9:40 AM, SANCTUARY FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!

