

THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP  
JANUARY 3, 2021  
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**Opening Voluntary**

Chorale Variations on *Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her*

Johann Pachelbel  
(1653–1706)

**Introit**

*Epiphany*

Peter Aston  
(1938–2013)

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with a healing for all humankind.

— Titus 2:11

**Greeting**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn 145** ([see page 6](#))

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

**Prayer of Confession**

God of glory,  
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,  
to reveal your love for all people.  
We confess that our sin and pride  
hide the brightness of your light.  
We turn away from the poor;  
we ignore cries for justice;  
we do not strive for peace.

In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,  
and pour out the gifts of your Spirit,  
that, forgiven and renewed,  
we may show forth your glory  
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.

*silent prayer*

**Response**

Hymn 121 | v4  
ST. LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel!

## Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## Response

Hymn 113 | v3  
GLORIA

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.  
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo!**

## The Peace

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

## Prayer of Illumination

## First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

## Anthem

*Brightest and Best*

Malcolm Archer  
(b. 1952)

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion,  
Odors of Edom, and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

— words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

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

## Sermon

By Another Road

Keatan King

## Hymn 146 ([see page 7](#))

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

How can we thank you, O God? . . . we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006  
 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

SANCTUS (Pavlechko)

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus . . . remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying:  
 Come, Lord Jesus!:

Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006  
 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Pavlechko)

Pour out your Holy Spirit, . . . all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006  
 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

AMEN (Pavlechko)

## 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.

## The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

### Communion Solo

#### *The Three Kings*

Peter Cornelius  
 (1824–1874)

Three Kings from Persian lands afar  
 To Jordan follow the pointing star:  
 And this the quest of the travelers three,  
 Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
 Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
 Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
 The kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
 And there in worship they bend the knee,  
 As Mary's child in her lap they see;  
 Their royal gifts they show to the King;  
 Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
 The Kings are traveling, travel with them!  
 The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
 Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
 Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
 Offer thy heart to the infant King.

### Prayer After Communion

Loving and gracious God,  
 spanning east and west,  
 north and south,  
 you have gathered us at your table,  
 called us your beloved,  
 and fed us from your body.  
 Transform us to be  
 your body in the world,  
 and fortify us by your Spirit,  
 so that we may serve you and our neighbors  
 with great joy. Amen.

### Hymn 136 ([see page 8](#))

#### *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

### Charge and Blessing

### Closing Voluntary

*Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her*  
 BWV 700

Johann Sebastian Bach  
 (1685–1750)

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Lectionary Readings

- Isaiah 60:1–6—*Arise, shine; your light has come; the glory of the Lord appears.*
- Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14—*May the king reign forever and deliver the needy.*
- Ephesians 3:1–12—*An ancient mystery is revealed; Gentiles are fellow heirs in Christ.*
- Matthew 2:1–12—*Following a star, wise men visit Jesus and bring him gifts.*

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Omar Rouchon and John Wurster

### Musicians

Julia Fox, Cecilia Duarte, and Nicholas Rathgeb\* — vocalists     \*soloist  
Matthew Dirst — organist | Randall Swanson — conductor and pianist

## MUSIC NOTES

**Organ music** — Both of today’s organ voluntaries treat one of German Baroque composers’ favorite chorale tunes — Martin Luther’s 1534 hymn to the Nativity, *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* (“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come,” No. 111 in the *Glory to God* hymnal). Pachelbel’s two settings of this tune, played as this morning’s **opening voluntary**, include a delicate trio and a more vigorous verse for the full resources of the organ. • Bach set this chorale numerous times for organ, perhaps because the tune lends itself so well to contrapuntal treatment — that is, to independent imitative lines. The **closing voluntary** is his *organo pleno* setting of this melody, in which each phrase is treated imitatively in all the parts.

**Vocal music** — This morning’s **introit** is by Peter Aston, who was a British composer and conductor, best known for writing a variety of high-quality 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. • Today’s **anthem** by Malcolm Archer, *Brightest and Best*, was originally composed for children’s treble voices, but is heard this morning in a new scoring for mixed adult voices. The spritely setting of this well-known text by Reginald Heber is typical of Archer’s sunny and often lively music. Before his retirement in 2017, Malcolm Archer served with great distinction at cathedrals in Norwich, Bristol, Wells, and St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, and finally as Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College. • This morning’s **communion solo** comes from the song cycle for voice and piano titled *Weinachtslieder* [Christmas Songs], Op. 8, by 19th-century German composer Peter Cornelius. Cornelius himself wrote the texts for the songs in the cycle, which wonderfully retell the biblical Christmas narrative as seen through the eyes of an unquestioning child. At the same time, this is deeply spiritual and emotional music. Cornelius himself revised the music a number of times on the advice of Liszt and others, and as a result of his own insecurities about his music. In *The Three Kings*, it was upon the suggestion of Liszt that Cornelius added the Lutheran chorale in the piano accompaniment *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* [How brightly shines the Morning Star], which adds a level of commentary to the story of the Three Kings. The polyphonic combination of song melody above and chorale tune below creates a unique, beautiful sonority.\*

— Matthew Dirst, Randall Swanson and \*James Deaville©

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art by Micah Meyers.

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## Opening Hymn 145

*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871  
 MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

GREENSLEEVES  
 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7

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## Hymn 146

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;

there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.  
 heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.  
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.  
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.  
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!


This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")

TEXT: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1919, rev. 1930  
 MUSIC: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; arr. Ernest C. MacMillan, 1930

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM  
 7.6.7.6.D

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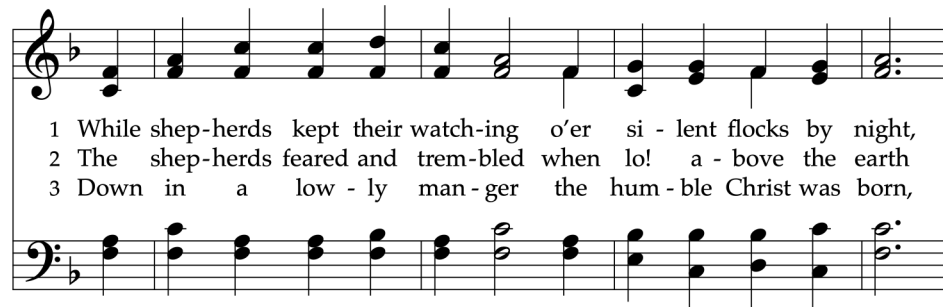
Refrain 



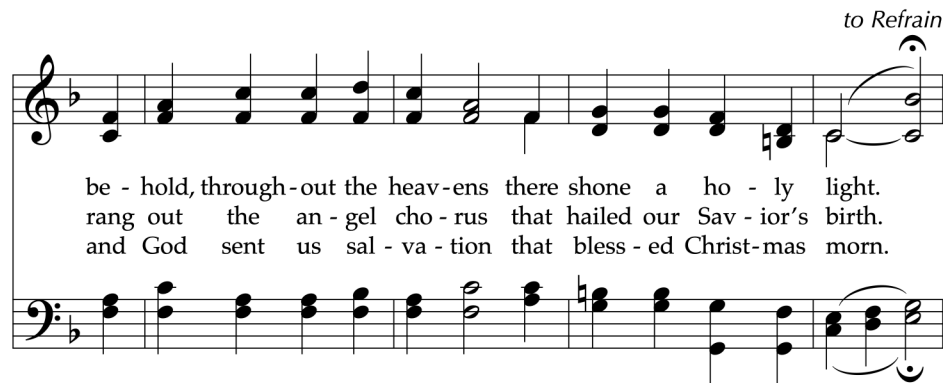
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940  
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987  
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT  
7.6.7.6 with refrain

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philippians and their families*—Connie Mayfield and son Robert Mayfield; Pat Lindsay; Mary Margaret Hansen; Doris Cantrell; Sondra Sullivan; Mary Benson; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Jan Ostendorf; Laney Miller; Susan Huffman; Joyce Fugit; Vicki McKay; Mary Sinderson; Marion Takehara; Emily Estill; Travis Calhoun; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Ricardo and Mary Adame—brother and sister-in-law (and Mary's mother Yvonne Dominguez) of staff singer Ofelia Adame Williams; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Betty Grant—sister 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; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Miriam Kalmbach—aunt of Nancy Higgs; Shirley Boggus—grandmother 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; Walter Baker; Joe Anne Berwick; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; and Penny Vieau.

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Vickie Dunlevy—friend of Nancy Higgs; Susan Doyle—friend of Stephen Paine; Paul Ratliff—friend of Jo Helland; Ruth Duncan and Melerie Langford—friends of Curt and Sharon Webb; Cecil Trent—friend of Jane Cooper; Craig Slein—friend of Denise Ferrell and Steve Carmichael; Melinda Penny—friend of Denise Ferrell; David Shebay—friend of Greg Han; Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hamman 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/>) or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**We continue to invite you to attend our daily prayer services at 11:00 a.m. (Monday-Saturday).** Currently, we have a limit of five persons per day. Advance registration is required. For more information on conditions and to register click [here](#). We hope that the opportunity to again worship in the sacred space of our Sanctuary will be a source of comfort and hope. If you have trouble with the registration or are not online, please call Lorrie Castle (832-262-1244—cell).

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

**CHURCH & SOCIETY - 9:30 a.m. —January 10 - *From Lament for All the Things We Didn't Know, to Hope* -** Anne Wilson reflects on her serving as a first-time commissioner to the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA to be held entirely virtually. Rev. Lynn Hargrove, General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Adm. Process for Presbytery of New Covenant, reflects on the detours, the challenges, and burdens of 2020 and cautiously and with much humility offers some thoughts about what could be ahead for Presbytery in 2021. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes—[mmcgm63@gmail.com](mailto:mmcgm63@gmail.com).

# GIVE BLOOD.ORG

## St. Philip Presbyterian - Houston

Wednesday, January 6  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall

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