



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NOVEMBER 8, 2020

**Opening Voluntary**

*Fugue in E-flat major*  
BWV 552/2

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

**Introit**

*O Let My Prayer Enter*

Chant

O let my prayer enter into thy presence, O LORD:  
incline thine ear unto my calling.  
O LORD God of my salvation,  
I have cried day and night before thee.

— Psalm 88:2, 1

**Opening Sentences**

Psalm 136:1-9

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.  
**O give thanks to the God of gods,**  
**for God's steadfast love endures forever.**  
O give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.  
**who alone does great wonders,**  
**for God's steadfast love endures forever.**  
who by understanding made the heavens,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.  
**who spread out the earth on the waters,**  
**for God's steadfast love endures forever.**  
who made the great lights,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.  
**the sun to rule over the day,**  
**for God's steadfast love endures forever.**  
the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
**for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

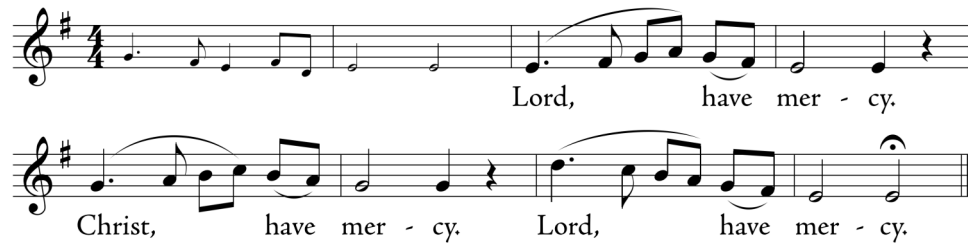
## Prayer of Confession

Faithful God,  
 we confess our faithlessness.  
 Our hearts are fickle,  
 our eyes wander,  
 and we trick ourselves into serving other gods.  
 We speak lies, accept lies, live lies,  
 destroying ourselves along the way.  
 Forgive our waywardness  
 and lead us back to you.  
 Embolden our trust with your faithfulness  
 and settle your truth in our hearts.

*silent prayer*

## Response

John Weaver



## Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## Response

John Weaver



## The Peace

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

Be still and know that I am God; let peace embrace your heart.  
 Be still and know that I am God; let fear and anguish now depart.  
 Though the earthquakes rage, though the tempests roll,  
 though the storms conspire to destroy, be still and know that I am God:  
 the earth shall rise again in joy.

Be still and know that I am God; let tranquil hope fill your mind.  
 Be still and know that I am God; let grief and trouble be left behind.  
 Though the shadows fall, though the darkness cries,  
 though the night seems endless and dire, be still and know that I am God:  
 the morn shall rise in holy fire.

Though the earthquakes rage, though the tempests roll,  
 though the storms conspire to destroy, be still and know that I am God:  
 the earth shall rise again in joy.

— words based on Psalm 46:10

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Reading

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

### Sermon

God Is Faithful, Still

John W. Wurster

### Hymn 341 (see page 7)

*O God, Show Mercy to Us*

THAXTED

### Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God,  
 whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
 In sovereign love God created the world good  
 and makes everyone equally in God's image  
 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.**

## Prayers of the People

### Solo

*Lord, Make Me an Instrument*

Jonathan Willcocks  
(b. 1953)

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, may there be union; where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, let there be hope; where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, may there be joy!  
May we all be in peace, and may that peace come unto each of us.

— prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi  
(1182–1226)

### 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 39 *(see page 8)*

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

### Charge and Blessing

### Closing Voluntary

*Allegro maestoso e vivace*  
(from *Sonata No. 2 in C minor*)

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809–1847)

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Keatan King and Omar Rouchon

### Musicians

Cecilia Duarte, vocalist | Matthew Dirst, organist | Randall Swanson, pianist

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Lectionary Readings

- Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25—*Choose this day whom you will serve; we will serve the Lord.*
- Psalm 78:1–7—*Each generation will tell the next of the glorious deeds of the Lord.*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18—*The dead in Christ will rise first; then the living will meet the Lord.*
- Matthew 25:1–13—*The parable of ten bridesmaids; keep awake, the Lord is coming.*

## MUSIC NOTES

**Organ music** — Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major* first appeared in print in 1735, as the bookends of his *Clavier-Übung III*, a collection devoted largely to elaborate settings of favorite chorale tunes, many derived from Luther's suggestions for both service and catechism. Both prelude and fugue are large, imposing works in a key that carried, in its three flats, prominent Trinitarian symbolism. The Fugue, today's **opening voluntary**, later acquired the nickname "St. Anne" because of the similarity of its initial subject (one of three) to the eponymous hymn tune, to which we sing Isaac Watts' 1719 text "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

Mendelssohn composed his six organ sonatas in 1844 on commission for an English publisher. A gifted organist, Mendelssohn enjoyed considerable success with multiple recital tours to Britain, where he played his own and Bach's music to audiences unaccustomed to the German organ repertoire. The second sonata comprises four movements, from which we sample just the third movement as this morning's **closing voluntary**. Like several other movements in this collection, this C-major *Allegro* features strong, tuneful gestures and an athletic pedal line especially.

**Vocal music** — Following this morning's opening organ voluntary, the unaccompanied vocal **introit** uses a traditional chant melodic formula to lead us further into prayer with words from Psalm 88: *Let my prayer enter into thy presence, O Lord*. Simple chants like this have been used to open worship in Christian communities throughout the world for many centuries, and through the magical wonders of the chant itself, seem no less "current" now than they were when new.

Today's **first solo** is by American composer Karen Marrolli, who serves as Director of Music Ministries at Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She holds degrees from Louisiana State University (DMA) and Westminster Choir College (BM and MM). *Be still* was published very recently in 2020, and is a beautiful, simple setting of familiar, calming words from Psalm 46.

This morning's **second solo** is by British composer and conductor Jonathan Willcocks, son of the great conductor and organist Sir David Willcocks. Like his father before him, Jonathan has composed a sizable body of works for various combinations of voices. *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace* was originally conceived as an anthem for mixed voices, itself part of the larger work *Lux Perpetua* published in 2000. Willcocks arranged the solo version we hear today for publication in 2010.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

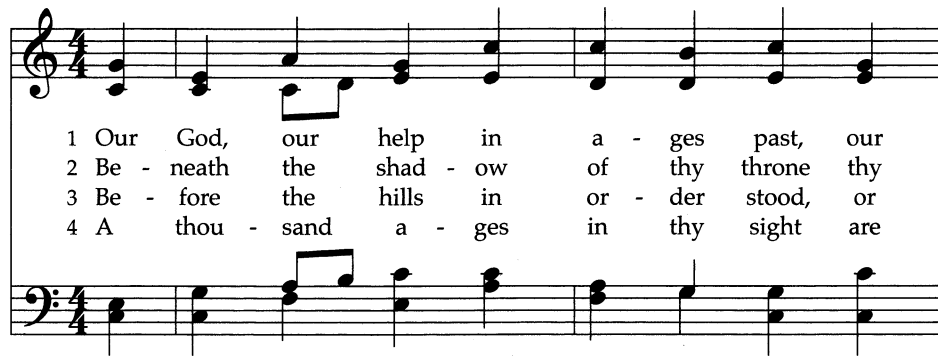
Art by Micah Meyers.

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## Opening Hymn 687

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our  
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the  
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine  
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing  
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
 bears all our years away;  
 they fly forgotten, as a dream  
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
 our hope for years to come,  
 be thou our guard while life shall last,  
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.  
 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE  
 CM

## Hymn 341

*O God, Show Mercy to Us*

THAXTED

1 O God, show mer-cy to us, and bless us with your  
2 For you will judge the peo-ples in truth and righ-teous-

grace; and cause to shine up-on us the bright-ness of your  
ness, and on the earth all na-tions will your just rule con-

face, so that your way most ho-ly on earth may soon be  
fess. Let all the peo-ples praise you; let all the na-tions

known, and un-to ev-ery peo-ple your sav-ing grace be  
sing. Then earth in rich a-bun-dance to us its fruit will

shown. Let all the peo-ples praise you; let all the na-tions  
bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our God will bless-ing

sing; in ev-ery land let prais-es and songs of glad-ness ring.  
send, and all the earth will wor-ship to its re-mot-est end.

## Closing Hymn 39

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

## FAITHFULNESS

1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest, sun, moon and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thy own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.  
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed— great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!



## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Omi Ford and family upon the death of her grandfather Weldon Boggus, Sr. on November 4.*

*St. Philippians and their families*— 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; Jeanne West; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Warren and Gretchen Cash—brother and sister-in-law of Kay Cash; Douglas Everhart—brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick—sister of Stephen Paine; Gene Lindley—father of Janet Hess; Betty Grant—sister of Eleanor Grant; John Anderson—brother of Tom Anderson; Janet Fisher—sister-in-law of Dan Cleveland; Liam Hunter—cousin of Mary Ann Thomas; 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*—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; Hyam Ashoo and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; 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 - November 15 - 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.** - *Carbon Offsets and How to Purchase Them* - Carbon offsets are a form of trade. When you buy an offset, you fund projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The projects restore forests, update power plants and factories or increase the energy efficiency of buildings and transportation. Presented by Prof. Jim Blackburn - Texas Coastal Exchange which aims to help build a resilient Texas coast supported by an informed public.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Celebration Drive-thru

**November 14**

**10:00 a.m. until 12 noon**

- Drop off your pledge card.
- Pick up a meal to take home.

Or mail your pledge card to the church office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056

Please RSVP by clicking [here](#)