



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Preparation for Worship

*As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen.*

- Book of Common Prayer

Voluntary

Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten ("If thou but suffer God to guide thee")

BWV 642

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Greeting

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

Bell Introit

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

arr. James D. Kimball

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

Edwin Hatch (1987)

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 12 [\(see page 9\)](#)

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

✠ Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
 you are light and truth.
 We confess that we often dwell in darkness and falsehood.
 Sin drives us into ourselves and away from you.
 We almost come to believe that it is possible
 for us to make it on our own.
 But when we are honest,
 we see the errors of our ways.
 Walking away from you leads only to our ruin.

Turn us around.
 Capture our hearts.
 Cleanse our spirits.
 In your light, may we see who we are.
 In your truth, may we see who we can become,
 as we seek to follow Jesus Christ.

silent prayer

✠ Response

Justin Langham

Gently ♩ = 72 *Choir*

O God, ac - cor - ding to your un - fail - ing love, —

All

Have mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✠ Response

Justin Langham

Gently ♩ = 72 *Choir*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

All

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

✠ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery.
Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 20:27-38

N.T. pg. 84

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

Anthem

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
BWV 147/6

J.S. Bach/Trahame

Jesu, joy of man's desiring	Word of God, our flesh that fashioned
Holy wisdom, Love most bright	With the fire of life impassioned
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring	Striving still to truth unknown,
Soar to uncreated light.	Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Original German by Martin Janus, 1661
Transl. Robert S. Bridges (1844–1930)

Sermon

A Precious Gift

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✦ Hymn 692 ([see page 10](#))*Spirit, Open My Heart*

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

✦ The Sacrament of Baptism

Charlotte Linnea Lewis

Presentation

Questions

The Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

Baptism

Welcome

Baptism Response (sung twice)

Howard Hughes, SM

You have put on Christ; in Christ you have been bap-tized.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

Stewardship Reflection

Nick and Cara Biddle

Offering

Gifts may be given any time at saintphilip.net

Offertory

God Is a God

arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston

God is a God!
 God don't never change.
 God is a God.
 And He always will be God!
 (I'm-a-tellin' you...)
 Made the sun to shine by day,
 The moon to shine by night;
 He gave me love and He calm my fears,
 And drove away my fright.
 Fixed my feet for running,
 And set my heart a-flame;
 He sealed my hopes in the Holy Land,
 And gave me my good name.
 Traditional African-American Spiritual

✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
 We give you thanks and praise, O God,
 that you have fed us with your mercy
 and poured out your Spirit in this place.
Continue to nourish and fill us each day,
that we may live as your beloved people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens
(1823-1881)

SERVING TODAY**Pastors**

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Nancy Young

Musicians

Andrew Bowen, guest organist | Elizabeth Duerr, Diana Weiss, & Cindy Judson, handbells
St. Philip Choir | Daniel Boyd, soloist | Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

The Session presents for baptism today Charlotte Linnea “Chili” Lewis, born May 15, 2025. She is the daughter of Caite and Edward Lewis.

Today’s Lectionary readings:

- Haggai 1:15b–2:9—*I am with you; do not fear; I will restore the splendor of this house.*
- Psalm 145:1–5, 17–21—*I will extol you, my God; great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.*
- Psalm 98—*Make a joyful noise to the Lord; give thanks for God’s victory.*
- Job 19:23–27a—*I know that my Redeemer lives; at the last I will see my God.*
- Psalm 17:1–9—*Hear a just cause, O Lord; guard me as the apple of your eye.*
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17—*Do not be deceived; stand firm and hold fast to our traditions.*
- Luke 20:27–38—*The Sadducees ask Jesus a question about marriage and resurrection.*

Today’s worship service includes traditional African-American Spiritual music. The Black composers of this music are unknown to history and therefore unable to receive royalties directed to their estates for the use of their songs. To remedy this inequity, a fund has been created and approved by the Session where we will collect voluntary “royalties” for using this music. Anyone may donate to the fund by going to the www.saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting African-American Spirituals as the fund. You may also contribute by writing a check with *African-American Spirituals* in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. This small gesture of reparation seeks to help heal the long history of injury to Black persons. Contributions received over the course of the year will be donated annually to a local organization supporting Black musical traditions.

Pledge cards will be received during worship on **Nov. 16**.

CAMPUS PLANNING UPDATE

Following worship on **November 23**, we will have a congregational forum in Fellowship Hall with updates on our campus planning process. Earlier this year, the Session authorized an exploration of how to optimize our buildings and grounds to support our current and future ministry. The architectural firm English+Associates was engaged to lead this study. Among the topics considered was the current use of spaces across the church campus, maintenance costs, looming capital expenditures, operational efficiency, environmental sustainability, and security. As the architects studied these topics, they met regularly with our planning team (Dan Boston, John Hartman, John Lemen, Rhonda Sands, Peter Schneider, and John Wurster) and gathered information from the congregation via a summer survey. At last month’s Session meeting, the architects shared a very general design concept of an efficient campus plan that involves removing buildings that are past their useful lives and adding a new building that will provide better space for our ministry needs. In response to expressed needs from the congregation, the plan seeks to preserve green space and develop more convenient parking. The Session received this report with a consensus that it should be shared with the congregation for review and comment. In addition to the forum in Fellowship Hall on **November 23**, a presentation will also be held in the dining room on **December 14** at 9:30 a.m. Please come and help us consider how best to use our resources in service to Jesus Christ.

MUSIC NOTES

Drawn from Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* ("Little Organ Book"), a set of 46 organ preludes based on chorale tunes, today's **opening voluntary** is based on the tune "*If thou but suffer God to guide thee*" is graceful and reflective, reflecting Bach's mature chorale style. The tune, also referred to as the *cantus firmus*, is presented in a clear and lyrical manner, supported by a steadily flowing accompaniment.

Edwin Hatch's beloved hymn "*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*" is a quiet prayer for spiritual renewal and unity with God's will. Written in the late 19th century, its text draws on the image of the Holy Spirit as the divine breath that gives life—echoing themes of the creation story in Genesis. Our **introit** is a tender arrangement of the hymn for handbell quartet.

"**Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring**" is the widely known English title of the chorale "*Jesu, bleibet meine Freude*," which concludes both Parts I and II of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Cantata BWV 147, Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben* ("Heart and Mouth and Deed and Life"). Harmonized in Bach's distinctive contrapuntal style, the stately chorale is

paired with a flowing triplet instrumental texture that ebbs to and from each stanza. Our version this morning includes the addition of handbells that highlight the tune's familiar melody.

The spiritual "*God Is a God*," a powerful testament to the depth of faith found in many African-American spirituals, articulates and affirms the constant presence of God. Today's arrangement highlights the repetitive nature of the text and adds a modern gospel-style accompaniment that builds gradually to a climactic finish.

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens, a pivotal figure in 19th-century French and Belgian organ music, is often credited with bridging the classical contrapuntal tradition of J. S. Bach and the emerging Romantic idiom of the French symphonic organ school. Our **closing voluntary**, drawn from *École d'Orgue basée sur le plain-chant romain* (1862), exemplifies his pedagogical and stylistic aims: to combine rigorous technique with musical expressiveness.

—Notes by Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families — Kay Cash; Pam Taylor; Deb Burks; Sondra Sullivan; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Wilma Grether — mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family - sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Kathy Bailey and family—sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith — cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes — daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi — mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud — cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound — Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians — Ann Swanson- friend of Deborah Unruh; Kitty Manson and family; Sidney Roach, Lori Childers O'Connell, Joyce Freudenberg— friends of Stephen Paine; Chris Deflandre — friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood — friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende — friend of Beth Atkinson; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, 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; Kenneth and Donna Benton — friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett — friends of Robin and Gary Willis; 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

MISSION COMMITTEE

There are multiple activities to support our mission partners, visit www.saintphilip.net for more information.

- Search Homeless Services — Friday, November 21 — 10:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
- Seafarers International — we are collecting goods for the Christmas boxes, complete list available on the website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover design by Diana Weiss.

Prayer of Confession is from Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA).

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NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

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 that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3-Kindergarten—Room 103—Godly Play utilizes storytelling of Scripture and spiritual experience as we watch, listen, wonder, and respond together. We value the process, we are open to discovery with the child, and one of our goals is to build community as we work alongside one another week by week.

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-5—Room 205—This Fall the children will explore a unit called “Across Borders” from the FollowMe discipleship practices curriculum from the PCUSA.

YOUTH—Grades 6-12 meet in the Dining Room, watch the calendar for announcements about Kids Against Hunger packing sessions. Join us on **Nov. 23** at 9:30 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 a.m. - we will study Ecclesiastes, the final book in Dr. Robert Alter’s *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God’s faithfulness to all of 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 a.m. with presentations in person and by Zoom—**Nov. 23**—Justin Langham on Music for Advent. If you would like to join any of the classes, email:

jshartman01@gmail.com.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets for an hour once a month on Zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of concern in today’s world. Our cur-

rent topic is Christian Nationalism, one definition of which is “that America is God’s chosen nation and should be defended and governed as such.” Attitudes already influencing our legislators include opposition to gay rights, opposition to gun safety efforts, promotion of Christian religion in schools and libraries, book bans, etc. Our current study book is Brian Kaylor’s *Baptizing America; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian Nationalism*. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson sjj10223@gmail.com.

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

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 join us as we look at the lectionary passages for the coming Sunday! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting on **Dec. 11** at 7:00 p.m. will be a social. Please watch your email for details about location. 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 self-led group. The Men’s Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 a.m. We are wrapping up studying “*The Tears of Things*” by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

ggardne148@aol.com

Financial Update as of September 30

Total Revenue:	\$1,276,053
Total Expenses:	\$1,433,745

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET & MISSION FORUM



SUN., NOV. 16

9-11 AM & 12-1:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

[SAINTPHILIP.NET]



4807 San Felipe • Houston 77056
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Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphilip.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 has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off 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 saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

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, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.



St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. To support the school, **please make all contributions directly to St. Philip Day School**, rather than to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Please make checks payable to "St. Philip DAY SCHOOL" You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

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.



Nametags—Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.

Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO
 11.11.11.11

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Hymn 692

*Spirit, Open My Heart**Refrain*

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart. *Fine*

Verses

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of
kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of
fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er. *to Refrain*

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994

MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Irregular

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Hymn 485

We Know That Christ Is Raised


1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

Al - le - lu - ia!

Beginning with an allusion to Romans 6:9, this exuberant baptismal hymn unfolds the implications of our incorporation into Christ's new life, making us "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The text was written to fit this expansive tune by a distinguished British composer.

TEXT: John Brownlow Geyer, 1967, alt.
 MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904
 Text © 1972 John Brownlow Geyer

ENGELBERG
 10.10.10.4

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