



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP
AT WORSHIP
DECEMBER 13, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Opening Voluntary

Choral Prelude on REJOICE, REJOICE

Aaron David Miller
(b. 1972)

Introit

Rejoice Ye in the Lord

Chant

Rejoice ye in the Lord. And again I say, rejoice ye!
Let your moderation be known unto all people, the Lord is at hand;
be careful for nothing, nor troubled;
but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,
let your requests be made known unto God.

LORD, thou art become gracious unto thy land:
Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

— Philippians 4:4-6 | Psalm 85:1

Greeting

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Hymn 107 ([see page 6](#))

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

Prayer of Confession

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.

silent prayer

Response

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WAIT FOR THE LORD
8.8

Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Response

Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; translated by Augustus Nelson, 1958;
adapted by Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company
MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
7.6.7.6.7.7.6.6

The Peace

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

Anthem*Rejoice in the Lord Always*anonymous
(16th century)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.
 Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.
 Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
 let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
 And the peace of God which passeth all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

— Philippians 4:4-7

Prayer of Illumination**First Reading**

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God!****Solo***The Desert and the Parched Land*Dave Brubeck (1920–2012)
arranged by Paul English (b. 1951)

The desert and the parched land will exalt;
 the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
 They will bloom with abundant flowers
 and rejoice with a joyful song.
 They will see the glory of our Lord,
 the splendor of our God.
 Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
 make firm the knees that are weak,
 Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
 "Fear not, be strong! Here is your God!"

The shuttered eyes of blindness shall see light.
 The ears of the deaf shall hear.
 He will leap as a deer, the lame man,
 and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.
 Thirsty lands will burst forth rushing streams
 and parched ground fill with pools.
 Come to the land that is Zion.
 Let sorrow and sighing flee.
 We shall sing with joy e'erlasting:
 "Fear not, be strong! Here is your God!"

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

Out of the Darkness

Omar Rouchon

Hymn 163 ([see page 7](#))*Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

ABERYSTWYTH

Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has revealed God's self
 as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
 that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,
 is in a special way the God of the destitute the poor and the wronged;
 that God calls the church to follow God in this;
 for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
 that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
 that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,
 helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
 that for God pure and undefiled religions is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
 that god wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
 that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need ,which implies,
 among other things, that the church must witness against
 and strive against any form of injustice,
 so that justice may roll down like waters,
 and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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 360 [\(see page 8\)](#)

Christ Is Coming!

UNSER HERRSCHER

Charge and Blessing

Closing Voluntary

Fantasia on ABERYSTWYTH

Henry G. Ley
 (1887–1962)



Liturgists

Keatan King and John Wurster

Musicians

Julia Fox*, Cecilia Duarte, Thomas Lewis O'Neill, and Nicholas Rathgeb — vocalists
 Matthew Dirst, organist | Randall Swanson, conductor and pianist **soloist*

MUSIC NOTES

Organ music — Today's **opening voluntary** on "Rejoice, Rejoice" takes the tune of our opening hymn (No. 107) on a highly rhythmic and colorful ride. Its composer, American organist and composer Aaron David Miller, is also one of the finest improvisers of his generation. Written for the 2016 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists here in Houston, this piece was subsequently published in the *Bayoubüchlein*, a collection of hymn-based organ works commissioned for that event. • The **closing voluntary** revisits today's sermon hymn, whose Welsh tune is put through its paces in a free fantasy by the English composer Henry George Ley. Organist for many years at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, Ley also served as professor of organ at the Royal College of Music in London.

Vocal & choral music — This morning's anonymous 16th-century **anthem** *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* (formerly attributed to John Redford) is a reflection of words from the second reading — 1 Thessalonians — appointed for today in the Revised Common Lectionary. The only known source for this anthem is in the Mulliner Book, a historically important manuscript compiled between about 1545 and 1570, and now held in the British Museum. The lively music of *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* typifies the concise, syllabic style of the earliest English anthems, and its text is taken from the Great Bible of 1540, prepared by Myles Coverdale and authorized by King Henry VIII. • Today's **solo** is by the great American jazz pianist and composer Dave Brubeck, arranged in 2012 by Paul English for a Jazz Mass at Trinity Episcopal Church in Midtown here in Houston. In addition to a huge body of jazz works and iconic recordings, Brubeck was also a fine writer of church music. Self-described as having been "reared as a Presbyterian by a Christian Scientist mother who attended a Methodist church," Brubeck was eventually baptized into the Catholic Church following the experience of a Mass he was commissioned to write in 1979, *To Hope! A Celebration*, which premiered in 1980 at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence, Rhode Island. *The Desert and the Parched Land* forms the third movement in the *Mass To Hope*, and replaces the scriptural reading in the usual ritual. Originally composed for soprano soloist, the work has become a favorite piece among instrumentalists as well. It has also been sung often here at St. Philip, and it's fitting that we hear it again this season, in Brubeck's centennial year.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Art by Micah Meyers.

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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. Beginning right away you have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this. You can go to the website, saintphilip.net and click on "Make A Contribution". Choose *Flowers/Holiday*. Include in the optional memo "Point". Email your honor/memorial designations to Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net. Otherwise, you will receive an email, within a few days asking for names of people you want to recognize. Questions? Call Church Office at 713-622-4807.

Christmas Poinsettias

Donations of any amount accepted

(circle one) **I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season

(circle one) **in honor of / memory of** _____

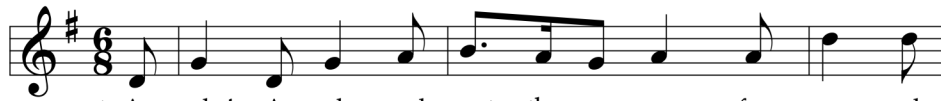
Donor - Your Name(s) (Please print legibly) _____

*Please return it with your payment to the church office by **Tuesday, December 16.** Payments can be made online—please note 'Point'. Use additional space below if needed.*

Opening Hymn 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn-ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer-less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing-kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

TEXT: Marty Haugen, 1983, alt.
 MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983
 Text and Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE
 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9

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Hymn 163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

ABERYSTWYTH



1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,
 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,

call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
 and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
 Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:
 So we dare to jour-ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.
 then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1-12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36).

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1985
 MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1876
 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

ABERYSTWYTH
 7.7.7.7.D

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Hymn 360

Christ Is Coming!

UNSER HERRSCHER

1 Christ is com - ing! Let cre - a - tion from its groans and
 2 Earth can now but tell the sto - ry of your bit - ter
 3 With that bless - ed hope be - fore us, flutes are tuned and
 4 Long your ex - iles have been pin - ing for your prom - ised

la - bor cease; let the glo - rious proc - la - ma - tion
 cross and pain; we shall yet be - hold your glo - ry,
 harps are strung; let the might - y ad - vent cho - rus
 rest and home, but in heaven - ly glo - ry shin - ing,

hope re - store and faith in - crease: Christ is com - ing!
 Lord, when you re - turn to reign: Christ is com - ing!
 on - ward roll from tongue to tongue: Christ is com - ing!
 soon the ris - en Christ shall come. Christ is com - ing!

Christ is com - ing! Come, O bless - ed Prince of peace.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the strain.
 Christ is com - ing! Let each heart re - peat the song.
 Christ is com - ing! Joy - ful, shout the vic - tory psalm.

This hymn by a 19th-century Scottish pastor is specifically based on Revelation 1:7 and 22:20, with allusions to several other New Testament passages. Unlike medieval hymns that focused on judgment, this text understands the Second Coming as an occasion of triumph and joy.

TEXT: John Ross Macduff, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680

UNSER HERRSCHER
 8.7.8.7.8.7

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IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Pat Lindsay; Doris Cantrell; Casey Lambright; 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; Philip and Becky Karper—parents of Kallie Pitcock; Meredith and Louis Pitcock—parents of Justin Pitcock; 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—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; 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.

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 - 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.—December 20 - Film study: *JoJo Rabbit* - mixes farce, fantasy, and drama, condemning hatred and dehumanization in favor of love friendship, and rediscovery. This “anti-hate satire” explores the last days of World War II with humor and pathos. Presented by Kate Burkart, St. Philip film aficionado. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes—mmcgm63@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—The Session has called a congregational meeting for **December 20**, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom video conference. The purpose of the meeting is to act on a recommendation from the Trustees regarding the sale of property owned by the church in Montgomery County and to act on a slate of nominees presented by the Congregational Nominating Committee. Bob Ardell will be nominated to serve as Trustee for a three-year term. Laura Burgess and Jo Helland are being nominated to serve two-year terms on the Congregational Nominating Committee.

PW THANK OFFERING—The Presbyterian Women invite you to make a contribution to the 2020 Thank Offering on the St. Philip [website](#) (choose fund—PW Thank Offering) or by mailing a check to the church office denoting PW Thank Offering in the memo. The Thank Offering provides and continues to provide much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent (40%) of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority in helping the most needy members of God's community. The remaining sixty percent (60%) is used for new creative ideas for mission, undesignated in advance. The generosity of Presbyterian women and their families and congregations as demonstrated through their Thank Offering gifts help chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children.