



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP

DECEMBER 27, 2020

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**Opening Voluntary**

*Noël sur les jeux d'anches*

Louis-Claude Daquin  
(1694–1772)

**Handbell Introit**

*Carol of the Bells*

UKRAINIAN BELL CAROL  
arr. Jason Krug  
(b. 1978)

**Greeting**

**Hymn 119** ([see page 6](#))

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

**Prayer of Confession**

God of mystery and wonder,  
far beyond our knowing  
and yet closer than our breath,  
as we celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth,  
we confess our reluctance  
to live as he directs.  
The justice and righteousness close to his heart  
are often far from what we do.  
With tender mercy, restore us.  
With Christmas glory, bathe us.  
With love made flesh, inspire us;  
for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ.

*silent prayer*

**Response**

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!

Hymn 121 | v4  
ST. LOUIS

## 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.**

## Solo

*Shepherd's Pipe Carol*

John Rutter  
(b. 1945)

Going through the hills on a night all starry  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping  
On the way to Bethlehem.

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
Is come to bring us peace on earth  
And he’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”

“Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem?”

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
Is come to bring us peace on earth  
And he’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”

“None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem;  
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies  
When I get to Bethlehem.”

Angels in the sky came down from on high,  
Hovered over the manger where the babe was lying  
Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary  
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.

“Where is the new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,  
Is He there at Bethlehem?”  
“I will find Him soon by the star shining brightly  
In the sky o’er Bethlehem.”

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King  
Is come to bring us peace on earth  
And he’s lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”

“May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,  
Come with you to Bethlehem?  
Pay my homage too at the new King’s cradle;  
Is it far to Bethlehem?”

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King  
Is born this night in lowly stable yonder,  
Born for you at Bethlehem.”

**Prayer of Illumination****Gospel Reading**

Luke 2:21-32

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God!****Handbell Meditation***Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*EST IS EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN  
arr. Jason Krug**Sermon**

A Personal Christmas

John Wurster

**Hymn 110** ([see page 7](#))*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

**Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.**

**Closing Hymn 132** ([see page 8](#))

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Charge and Blessing**

**Closing Voluntary**

*In dulci jubilo*  
BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)



## WORSHIP NOTES

### Lectionary Readings

- Isaiah 61:10—62:3—*The Lord will give you a new name; you will be a crown of beauty.*
- Psalm 148—*Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth.*
- Galatians 4:4–7—*Through the Son and the Spirit, we may call God Abba, Father.*
- Luke 2:22–40—*Jesus is presented in the temple; Simeon and Anna rejoice.*



## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Keatan King

### Musicians

Cecilia Duarte, vocalist | Matthew Dirst, organist | Jane Malczewskyj, handbell conductor  
Members of Bell Canto, handbells

## MUSIC NOTES

**Opening voluntary** — French organists have long improvised and composed variations on Christmas melodies indigenous to France. The Noël's of Louis-Claude d'Aquin, organist to Louis XV and at *titulaire* at Notre Dame in Paris, are perhaps the finest examples of this practice from the 18th century. Titles for these variation sets often mention the particular sounds required: in this case, the pungent reed stops ("*jeux d'anches*") of the instrument.

**Handbell music** — This morning's bell **introit** and **meditation** are brief Christmas carol melody arrangements by Indianapolis-based composer Jason Krug, who has written over 400 handbell compositions, as well as other works for piano, organ, choir, and string orchestra. Both *Carol of the Bells* (also known as Ukrainian Bell Carol) and *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* were arranged by Krug for a small handbell ensemble of just six ringers. Many thanks to members of Bell Canto for their joyful holiday ringing, and special appreciation to Jane Malczewskyj for her enthusiastic leadership this morning!

**Vocal music\*** — This morning's **solo** *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* was composed by John Rutter in 1966 when he was 18 and studying as an undergraduate at [Clare College](#) at the [University of Cambridge](#). Rutter stated that he believed his inspiration for writing it came from when he sang as a boy soprano during the opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and heard pipe music as the title character headed for [Bethlehem](#) with the [Biblical Magi](#). Rutter's new carol was first performed by the [Choir of Clare College, Cambridge](#) conducted by the composer at a Christmas concert. A few days later, David Willcocks, director of the [Choir of King's College, Cambridge](#), requested a copy of Rutter's manuscript for the *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* and made calls to [EMI](#) for the work to be published in 1967. It was Rutter's first composition to be published. Rutter and Willcocks later formed a publishing partnership and helped to compile the *Carols for Choirs* series of Christmas choral collections for [Oxford University Press](#). An interesting side note: prior to the breakup of the [Soviet Union](#), choirs in the [Baltic states](#) reportedly circulated photocopies and faxes of the *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* to be sung as a sign of resistance to Soviet control. The original choral version of the carol is for SATB choir and organ or small orchestra. This morning we hear a lively arrangement for solo voice and organ.

**Closing voluntary** — Today's concluding voluntary both treats a well-known Christmas melody popular during late Baroque. Bach's *organo pleno* version of *In dulci jubilo* (this morning's closing hymn) includes highly chromatic harmonies and brief improvisatory "connectors" between individual phrases of the melody.

— Matthew Dirst, Randall Swanson and \*Wikiwand

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


Art by Micah Meyers.

Vocal solo *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* text © 1969 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Hymn 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* harmonization © 1955, 1983 John Ribble, administered by Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. All reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.



## Opening Hymn 119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



MENDELSSOHN





1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!


Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.




Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"



Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.  
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN  
 7.7.7.7.D with refrain

## Hymn 110

## Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996  
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012  
 Text © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)

BRING A TORCH  
 9.9.10.9.9.8

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1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.  
 MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953  
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

IN DULCI JUBILO  
 6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Joyce Fugit and family upon the death of her husband Lonnie on December 20. Memorial service to be January 9, 2 p.m. via zoom.*

*Carolyn Vestal, Wesley Vestal and family upon the death of daughter/sister Sarah Elizabeth Vestal on December 1 in Oklahoma.*

*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; 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 3 - *All the Things We Didn't Know* -** Rev. John Wurster 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 our congregation in 2021. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes—[mmcgm63@gmail.com](mailto:mmcgm63@gmail.com).

# *Merry Christmas*

*Thank you to those who have contributed  
poinsettias this Christmas to adorn our chancel.*

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>In our memories...</i>
Molly Boren	Cliff Cleveland, my beloved son
John Wurster & Deb Burks	Darnall Burks, Deb's father
David & Lorrie Castle	Sue Castle, David's mother
Kathryn Clark	My sister, Jeanne West
Sharon Coufal	My husband, Alan Coufal & my father-in-law, Edward R. Coufal
Liz & Steve Crowell	Dona Willemson
Carl & Janet Eskridge	John & Rita Hannah
Susan & Robert Estill	Glenn Bannerman
Susan & Robert Estill	Sam Lanham
Ruth Ewing	Jack Ewing
Velma Guy Tolbert	Leslie M. "Jack" Tolbert
Nancy Higgs	My father, Claude McMillan
Nancy Higgs	My brother, Bob McMillan
David & Suzanne Kerr	Anna Claire & Richard Henderson
David & Suzanne Kerr	Frances & Rev. David King Kerr
David & Suzanne Kerr	Nancy Kerr
David & Suzanne Kerr	Janet Dundore
Walter & Margaret King	H.E. King, Jr.
John Lemen	Joseph & Virginia Lemen
Jan Meyer	My parents, Don & Valerie Meyer
Bonnie Moore	Our parents, Ross & Gertrude Neeley and Gene & Betty Moore
Peg Palisin & Gary Gardner	Jean Alan Hartsfiel
Peg Palisin & Gary Gardner	Eddie Daw
Cathy Patterson, David & Charlie Wood	Barbara Wood Scott, David's sister
Barbara Runge	My husband, Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Bill & Nita Davis
Barbara Runge	Gene & Ruth Howard
Barbara Runge	Bill & Martha Runge
Barbara Runge	Glen & Affie Tate
Barbara Runge & Shirley Stubblefield	Trudy Cleveland
Tom Sands	My wife, Mary Ann Sands & son, Rod Sands
Rhonda Sands	My mother, Mary Ann Sands & brother, Rod Sands
David & Hallie Spence	Paxton Williams
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Ruthie's dad, W. Kenan Rand, Jr.
Mary Linda Williams	Paxton Williams
Hope Wilmarth	Lance Wilmarth
Jennifer Wilson	Helen Wilson

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we honor...</i>
Guy & Melissa Aldrich	The wonderful music ministry of St. Philip Presbyterian Church
Bob & Lee Ardell	Property Committee
Bob & Lee Ardell	The staff of St. Philip Presbyterian Church
Linda Bevill	Essential Workers
Susan & Robert Estill	All caregivers, health care workers and first responders during the crisis
Nancy Higgs	My mother, Dorothy McMillan
Dick & Sue Howard	Our church family
Jan Malczewskyj	St. Philip staff and volunteers
Bonnie Moore	Our children, Zach, Clint, Audra & Alex
Stephen Paine	The St. Philip staff
David & Hallie Spence	Mary Linda Williams
David & Hallie Spence	Thanksgiving for the St. Philip Family
Bill & Jacqueline Taylor	Natalie Taylor, Bill's mother
Bill & Jacqueline Taylor	Donna Andrews, Jacqueline's aunt
Mary Linda Williams	Hallie, Dave, Winfield, & Monica
Hope Wilmarth	Isabelle & Jeb Burkhart
Hope Wilmarth	Arden & Gertrude Hermann-Wilmarth
Hope Wilmarth	Clara & Elliot Lance Gates-Wilmarth
Jennifer Wilson	Bill Wilson, Vicky, Billy, Kim and Navy
Marilyn & Sarah Burks	John Wurster & Deb Burks

# GIVE BLOOD.ORG

## St. Philip Presbyterian - Houston

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

Free Hero Hoodie &  
COVID-19 Antibody Test  
for donors!

Please schedule at  
[www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org)  
sponsor code: 0496  
or contact  
Lorrie Castle (713) 622-4807



Artemio, blood recipient



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