



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP  
AT WORSHIP

DECEMBER 1, 2019 | 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Preparation for Worship**

*Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.  
Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert  
as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Tolling of the Hour**

**Greeting**

*Please sign and pass the friendship folder.*

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

**Voluntary**

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

**Introit**

*Advent*

Richard Shephard  
(b. 1949)

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,  
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

✦ **Hymn 349**

*"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us*

WACHET AUF

## ✦ 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)*

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## ✦ Response

WINCHESTER NEW



Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.

## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## ✦ Response

WINCHESTER NEW



All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose  
ad - vent has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## ✦ The Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Signs of peace and reconciliation may be exchanged.*

## Conversation with Children

*Afterwards, children may stay with their parents, or infant to age 4  
may go to child care in Room 106.*

## Prayer for Illumination

## First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

O.T. pgs. 631-632

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

*Never Weather-Beaten Sail*

Thomas Campion  
(1567-1620)

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,  
never tired pilgrims' limbs affected slumber more,  
then my weary sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:  
O come quickly, O come quickly,  
O come quickly sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of heaven's high paradise.  
Cold age deafs not there our ears, nor vapor dims our eyes.  
Glory there the sun outshines, whose beams the blessed only see:  
O come quickly, O come quickly,  
O come quickly glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee.

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

N.T. pgs. 27-28

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Unexpected, As Usual

John W. Wurster

*Silence and stillness*

## ✠ Hymn 104

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

## Offering

*Gifts may be given anytime at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)  
or text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.*

## Offertory Voluntary

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Johann Sebastian Bach

## The Sacrament of Lord's Supper

### Invitation to the Lord's 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.**

It is truly right . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**REFRAIN** *Cantor or Choir first, then all:*

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Cantor or Choir:*

Holy, holy, Holy Lord God of power and might. **REFRAIN** (*all*)

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. **REFRAIN** (*all*)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **REFRAIN** (*all*)

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior . . .  
Great is the mystery of faith:



Through the Lord Jesus Christ, . . . we bless you, God of glory, now  
and forever.



As the children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**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 Voluntary

*Vater unser im Himmelreich*

Georg Böhm  
(1661-1733)

### ✦ Prayer after Communion

Living Christ, Jesus of Nazareth,  
Teacher and Friend, Savior and Lord,  
we long for your presence.  
**As we follow the story of your coming,  
touch us by your Spirit,  
that through the people we know  
and through people we have yet to meet,  
we may hear your voice and heed your call. Amen.**

### ✦ Hymn 384

*Soon and Very Soon*

SOON AND VERY SOON

*Communion offering gifts may be brought to the basket in the front.  
The coins collected this month in the jar by the basket support our hunger ministries.*

### ✦ Charge and Blessing

*Kindly remain in silence during the closing voluntary, or depart very quietly.*

### ✦ Closing Voluntary

*Fugue in c minor*  
BWV 537

Johann Sebastian Bach

✦ Indicates worshipers are invited to stand in either body or spirit.  
**Words in bold type** are to be read or sung together.

## SERVING TODAY

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Godly Play Class —Teachers:  
*Omi Ford, Joyce Fox, Ruthie Waldrop*

### MUSICIANS

St. Philip Choir  
Joe Russell, organist  
Randall Swanson, conductor

### GREETERS

Education Committee

### PASTORS

John W. Wurster

Keatan King

Omar Rouchon

## WORSHIP NOTES

Communion today is received by intinction. Please come forward via the center aisle, take a piece of bread, and dip it into the chalice of grape juice. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. All the bread is gluten-free and the serving station closest to the windows has individual cups of grape juice. Persons with difficulty coming forward may receive communion in their seats by signaling the servers in the side aisles. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated. Gifts brought forward during today's final hymn support the Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering, which provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Today's readings from the Revised Common Lectionary are:

Isaiah 2:1–5—*Turn swords into plowshares; walk in the light of the Lord.*

Psalms 122—*I was glad when they said, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*

Romans 13:11–14—*Salvation is near: wake up; live honorably; put on Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 24:36–44—*The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Today's **opening voluntary** is based on the German Advent chorale *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* ("Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us), which we also sing as our opening hymn this morning. Bach's setting originated in his *Cantata 140* as a trio movement scored for violin obbligato, tenor, and continuo. The composer's own arrangement of this delightful piece for organ solo appeared in a collection of six such works published in 1748 by Johann Georg Schübler, which have long been known colloquially as the *Schübler Chorales*. • This morning's **offertory voluntary** comes from Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book). A setting of the well-known chorale *Savior of the Nations, Come*, its accompanying motif in the lower three (sometimes four) parts is derived from a *suspirans* in the melodic line, formed of a 16th-note rest — a "breath" — followed by three 16th notes and a longer fourth note. The mystery of the coming of the Savior is reflected by the somewhat hidden chorale melody over harmonies constantly reinventing themselves. • The **communion voluntary** is Georg Böhm's setting in chorale prelude form of Martin Luther's nine-verse paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, which he completed in 1538. • Today's **closing voluntary** was most likely written during Bach's time in Weimar, and uses a steady theme four times in a row that can be easily recognized each time it reappears.

This morning's **choral introit** comes from a collection of *Seasonal Sentences* — short works for use on various occasions during the church year — by prolific British composer Richard Shephard, who serves in various administrative and liturgical capacities at England's York Minster Cathedral. • Today's **choir anthem** comes from a collection of airs for voice(s) and lute by Thomas Campion, published in 1613. *Never weather-beaten sail* is perhaps Campion's most famous work, and — though his works were largely forgotten for some 200 years after his death — he is highly regarded today for the consistent high quality of his artful poetry wedded so beautifully and carefully to compelling music. T. S. Eliot called Campion, "except for Shakespeare . . . the most accomplished master of rhymed lyric of his time."

— Joe Russell and Randall Swanson

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP



2019-2020 SEASON

— NEXT SUNDAY at 11 —

### Advent Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 8, 2019 | 11:00 a.m.



Next weekend we offer our annual service of **Advent Lessons and Carols**, with readings and music celebrating the anticipation of Christ's coming at Christmas, carols sung by everyone, and anthems sung by the **St. Philip Choir**. This year's anthems include works by **Thomas Foster**, **Craig Carnahan**, **Will Todd**, **David Ashley White**, **William Mathias** and **Charles Villiers Stanford**.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church | 4807 San Felipe Street | Houston, Texas



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