



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. PHILIP
AT WORSHIP

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MAY 24, 2020

Voluntary

Serene Alleluias from a Soul Longing for Heaven
(from *L'Ascension*)

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed.** Alleluia!

Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

HYFRYDOL



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Here on the
4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, You the



scep - ter, his the throne. Al - le - lu - ia! His the
left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
Lord of lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
sin - ful Flee to you from day to day.
Mar - y, Earth your foot - stool, heav'n your throne.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him When the
In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, Earth's re -
You with - in the veil have en - tered, Robed in



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of ev - 'ry
for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for - get his
deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of all the
flesh, our great high priest; Here on earth both priest and



na - tion Has re - deemed us by his blood."
prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
you have raised Jesus from death to life,
and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him,
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
We have gone along with the ways of the world,
and failed to give him glory.

Forgive us,
and raise us from sin,
that we may be your faithful people,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world
and is head of the church, his body.

silent prayer

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

Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Response

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody.

MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

Words of Peace

In Christ, God is reconciling the whole world,
and God is entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ. God's appeal is being made through us.
Peace be with you. Peace be with all.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-14

Solo

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Allan Robert Petker
(b. 1955)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see,
'Til they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiance Divine, scatter all my unbelief.
More and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day. Amen.

— words by Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Sermon

Anywhere to Everywhere

Keatan King

Solo

Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning

John Barnard
(b. 1948)

Christ triumphant, ever reigning, Savior, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining, hear us as we sing:
Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name.

Priestly king, enthroned forever high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name.

So, our hearts and voices raising through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing, this shall be our song:
Yours the glory and the crown, the high renown, the eternal name.

— words by Michael Saward (1932–2015)

Affirmation of Faith

**Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him.
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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.**

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made,
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns:
 5. Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring

Does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
 And prais - es thron - g to crown his head;
 Dwell on his love with sweet - est song;
 The pris - 'ners leap to lose their chains,
 Bless - ing and hon - or to our King,

His king - dom stretch from shore to shore,
 His name like sweet per - fume shall rise
 And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
 The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,
 An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,

Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 Their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 And all who suf - fer want are blest.
 And earth re - peat the loud A - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Tune: DUKE STREET, LM; John Hatton, c.1710–1793

Charge and Blessing

Closing Voluntary

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BWV 715
 (All Glory Be to God on High)

Johann Sebastian Bach
 (1685-1750)

SERVING TODAY

Liturgists

Deb Burks, Omar Rouchon and John Wurster

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist

Cecilia, soloist

Randall Swanson, pianist

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings from the Revised Common Lectionary are:

- Acts 1:6–14—*After Jesus' ascension, the disciples go to Jerusalem and pray.*
- Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35—*God rides upon the clouds, and gives power to the people.*
- 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11—*You are suffering now, but the God of grace will restore you.*
- John 17:1–11—*Jesus seeks the glory of God and prays for his disciples.*

MUSIC NOTES

Organ music — This morning's **opening voluntary** comes from one of Olivier Messiaen's most magical works, a 1930s suite on the subject of the Ascension of Christ. "Serene Alleluias" lives up to its name: this is a gently ecstatic musical world, yet one that relies on its composer's idiosyncratic and highly detailed way of organizing pitches and rhythms. The **closing voluntary** is one of several Bach settings of the German chorale tune *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her* (All Glory Be to God on High). With the lightly decorated melody riding above a sturdy four-part texture, Bach supplies imaginative links between phrases, as he seems to have done during congregational singing throughout his career.

Vocal music — This morning's **first solo** — *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies* — features Charles Wesley's well-known text set to new music in 1986 by Allan Robert Petker, who is conductor of the California-based Consort Chorale in the San Francisco Bay area, Santa Clarita Master Chorale, and Los Cancioneros Master Chorale in Torrence. • The words of today's **second solo** — *Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning* — were written by Michael John Saward, who also wrote the perhaps more familiar *Baptized in Water, Sealed by the Spirit*, (No. 482 in the *Glory to God* hymnal). Saward was a member of the clergy of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and a church commissioner and member of the general synod of the Church of England. Along with a number of other publications, Saward wrote nearly 60 hymn texts and served as text editor of *Hymns for Today's Church* (1982). The music for *Christ Triumphant* was composed by British conductor and organist John Barnard, and the tune GUITING POWER is named after the small Gloucestershire village of the same name in the Cotswolds, England.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families— Guy Aldrich; Pam Rush; Greg Moore; Marion Takehara; CJ Miller; Lonnie Fugit; Mezgebe Gebray; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; Nikolaus Malczewskyj—father-in-law of Jane Malczewskyj; David Block—brother-in-law of Nancy Lomax; John Beck—brother of Nancy Young; Margie Foster—mother of Mark Young; Tom Martin—father of Jon Martin; Dorothy McMillan—mother of Nancy Higgs; Keith Thomerson—brother-in-law of Susan Estill; Barbara Wilson—sister-in-law of Connie Mayfield; Jack Kindig—brother of Ginny Camfield; Shirley and Weldon Boggus, Sr.—grandparents 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; Jane English; Barbara German; George Helland; Donna Host; Arlette Keene; T.E. "Joe" Keever; Toto McGehee; Phillip McDaniel; Paul & Alice Pennington; Joyce Randolph; Van Rathgeber; Jean Nelson; Jody Tomforde; Penny Vieau; and Ruth Weber.

Friends of St. Philippians: Craig and Jamie Slein—friends of Steve Carmichael; Melissa and Sela Calvert—friends of Kay Cash; Dorcas Rhodes—friend of Jan Meyer; Dave Olson and Clayton Amacker—friends of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge; Frank Wallace—friend of Jim & Nadene Crain; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann III—friend of Robin & Gary Willis.

We also pray for health care workers, first responders, and caregivers; for those who are sick; and for those watch and wait.

The Session has voted to suspend activities at St. Philip indefinitely.

Pledge payments 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.