

BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 12, 2025

Preparation for Worship

Air is our element, but water is our heart's delight.

-Frederick Buechner

Voluntary Chorale Prelude on *Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam* Johann Sebastian Bach
BWV 684 (1685-1750)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Introit At the River (excerpt) arr. Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, Where bright angels feet have trod, With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God.

Yes, we'll gather by the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints by the river That flows by the throne of God.

Robert Lowry (1865)

† Opening Sentences

† Hymn 12 (see page 10)Immortal, Invisible, God Only WiseST. DENIO

Prayer of Confession

In the waters of baptism, O God, you have cleansed us and claimed us. Forgive us for resisting your grace and for denying your name.

We have followed our own paths, and they have led us far from you.

Help us to live into our baptisms, to trust that all we need is in you, for you have marked us as your own, loving us without limit.

Wash us with your love yet again, so that with clean hearts we may go in the way of Jesus.

silent prayer

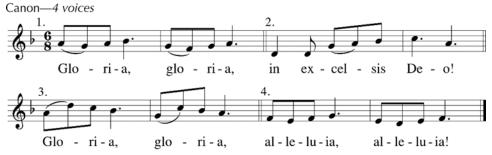
Holy One, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

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

 Presponse

 Jacques Berthier



Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

† The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Isaiah 43:1-7 O.T. pg. 672

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Judge Eternal Throned in Splendor

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Judge eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and king of kings, With thy living fire of judgement Purge this realm of bitter things: Solace all its wide dominion With the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining
For the hour that brings release:
And the city's crowded clangor
Cries aloud for sin to cease;
And the homesteads and the woodlands
Plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavour, Cleave our darkness with thy sword: Feed the faint and hungry heathen With the richness of thy word: Cleanse the body of this nation Through the glory of the Lord.

Amen.

Henry Scott Holland (1902)

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:21-22

N.T. pg. 60

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Sermon Watermark John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

† Hymn 490 (see page 11)

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

Ordination and Installation

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.

Offering

Offertory Selections from BWV 7 J.S. Bach

Dies hat Gott klar God has clearly displayed [proof of] this

Mit Worten und mit Bildern dargetan, With words and with imagery;

Am Jordan liess der Vater offenbar At the Jordan, [God] the Father manifestly

Die Stimme bei der Taufe Christi hören; Let his voice be heard during the baptism of Christ;

Er sprach: Dies ist mein lieber Sohn, He declared: "This is my beloved Son; An diesem hab ich Wohlgefallen. In this [man] I am well pleased."

Er ist vom hohen Himmelsthron He has come from heaven's high throne

Der Welt zugut For the benefit of the world,

In niedriger Gestalt gekommen, In lowly form,

Und hat das Fleisch und Blut And has accepted [incarnation with] the flesh and blood

Der Menschenkinder angenommen; Of the children of humankind; Den nehmet nun als euren Heiland an Now [then,] accept him as your savior *Und höret seine teuren Lehren!* And hear his precious teachings.

Des Vaters Stimme liess sich hören, [God] the Father's voice [has] let itself be heard;

Der Sohn, der uns mit Blut erkauft, The [divine] Son, who purchased us with [his] blood [on the cross],

Ward als ein wahrer Mensch getauft. Was baptized as a true human being.

Der Geist erschien im Bild der Tauben, The [Holy] Spirit appeared [at the Son's baptism]

in the imagery of the dove,

Damit wir ohne Zweifel glauben, Whereby we might believe, without doubts,

Es habe die Dreifaltigkeit That the Trinity itself

Uns selbst die Taufe zubereit. Had prepared [the sacrament of] baptism for us.

Adap. Baptismal hymn, Martin Luther (1541) transl. Michael Mariissen and Daniel R. Melamed

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God, we thank you that in our baptism you have called us by name and made us your own.

Help us to trust in your refreshing grace and cleansing love, as we follow after Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Hymn 485 (see page 12)

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary Chorale Fugue on *Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam* BWV 685

J.S. Bach

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Orlean Anderson

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Thomas O'Neill, tenor | St. Philip Choir | Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

On this Sunday, we remember that at the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. This is a Trinitarian event: as Jesus emerges from the water, the Holy Spirit descends from heaven as a dove, and we hear a voice naming Jesus as God's beloved Son. In ancient Christian tradition, the Baptism of the Lord is closely connected with the Epiphany as both are manifestations of God's saving purpose through Jesus Christ; accordingly, these festivals are adjacent to one another in the Christian calendar. The Baptism of the Lord also foreshadows the season of Lent, as the Gospels tell us that Jesus was driven into the wilderness for forty days after his own baptism. At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but also give thanks for the baptism we share with Christ.

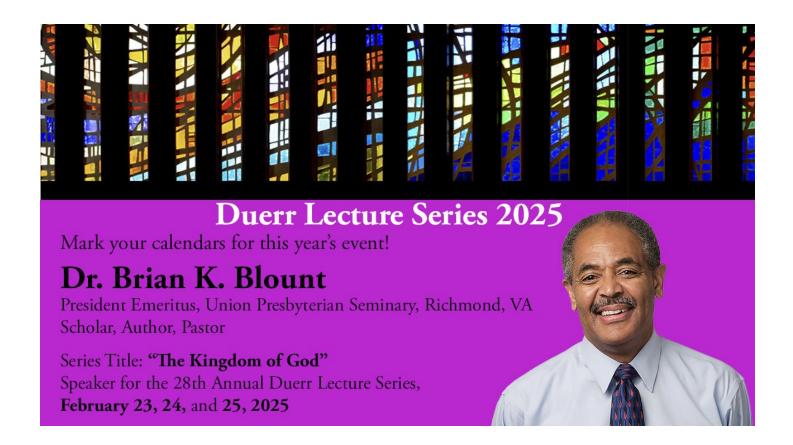
Ruling Elders ordained and/or installed today: Tina Bryan, Sherri Dees, Pam Keever, Sarah Victorian, Al Waldrop, and Denise Wilborn.

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Isaiah 43:1–7 Do not fear, I am with you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
- Psalm 29 *Glorify the name of the Lord, who reigns over the waters.*
- Acts 8:14-17 People previously baptized in Jesus' name receive the Holy Spirit.
- Luke 3:15–17, 21–22 John baptizes Jesus; the Spirit descends; God says: You are my Son.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Denise and Brice Wilborn to the glory of God and in honor of all elders - outgoing, present, incoming, and future.



MUSIC NOTES

Today's **organ voluntaries** are both settings of the German baptism chorale "Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam" ("Christ, Our Lord, to the Jordan Came"), from J. S. Bach's *Clavierübung III*, the so-called "Organ Mass." In the larger of the two (at the opening voluntary) Bach depicts the river's surging waters with a rippling left hand part. Above this constantly moving line is a duet played by the right hand, based mostly on arch-shaped triadic material though with a few allusions to the chorale tune, which itself eventually appears in long notes in the pedal. Bach's *manualiter* (hands only) setting of the same melody is a short fugue or fughetta.

Aaron Copland's music has become synonymous with Americana in the 20th century due to its musical features, subject matter, and fresh treatments of beloved American folk songs and melodies. At the River demonstrates Copland's respect for the familiar tune by 19th-century preacher and hymnist Robert Lowry through a restrained accompaniment and the economical use of musical material, almost all of which is drawn from the melody itself.

The extensive output of organist, composer, and conductor Malcolm Archer includes many anthems for

choir and organ that breathe new life into traditional Anglican hymn texts. **Judge Eternal Throned in Splendor**, normally sung on a Welsh tune, includes a meter that almost constantly switches between groups of two and three and a dancing organ accompaniment, which propels the music forward between verses.

Today's offertory includes the recitative and aria from J. S. Bach's sacred cantata *Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam, BWV 7* ("Christ, Our Lord, to the Jordan Came"), which was originally composed for the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Both movements are sung by the tenor soloist appropriately playing the role of an evangelist, who narrates a biblical declaration followed by the Lord's baptism. The text is paraphrased from Martin Luther's chorale of the same name unlike the outer movements of the cantata, which are taken directly from the outer stanzas. The aria also cleverly represents the Holy Trinity through several forms of the number 3, including the trio texture (two violin parts and tenor soloist) and the meter (9/8), which comprises three pulses per bar divided into three subdivisions.

-Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss

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IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families — Dan Cleveland: Robin Willis: Dick Howard; Jeremy Mattern; Carmen Stevenson; Nidhal Aldarraji; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; Roderick James; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Jacqui – cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; Raquel Calhoun -sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Paige Everhart – sister of Nancy E. Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound — Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians – Brenda Paulk – friend of Bonnie Moore; Janet Rowlands – friend of Mary Mcguire; Audrey Eubank Harris, Pete & Gloria Benevides, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Stephen Wedemeyer and Mary Watters - friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; Betsy Shear Lewis – friend of Laney Miller; 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

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

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

GODLY PLAY — Ages 3 — Kindergarten — Room 104 ELEMENTARY — Grades 1-4 — Room 205 — God's Family At Worship - Today - February 2 — The Education Committee is offering an intergenerational workshop for our elementary Sunday School students, their families, and the entire congregation. The workshop, "God's Family at Worship," is a series of five classes. The classes will be co-led by pastors, staff, and highlight the practices, rituals, and routines of worship in our community

YOUTH-Grades 5-12-Dining Room-Kids Against Hunger

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—We are studying Proverbs in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to 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 AM with presentations in person and by Zoom. Jan. 19 - To Commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day-The Amazing Journey of Houston Holocaust Survivors Linda and Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer - Hy Penn weaves an amazing tale of survival and hope as he takes us on the Holocaust journey of his parents Linda and Morris I. Penn and maternal grandmother Riva Kremer from eastern Europe to Houston, Texas. From the Grodno, Poland ghetto, Linda and her mother Riva survived 9 different camps including Majdonik, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, and Theresienstadt. Morris was hidden by Christian farmers near his home of Vilkaviskis, Lithuania. - Hyman Penn, M.D. is a longtime docent at Holocaust Museum Houston and a member of the museum's board of advisors. He is a recently retired pediatrician with Texas Children's Pediatrics. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: churchsociety stphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL – TODAY – 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

LAMBETH STUDY-Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is

a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets by Zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 PM to read and discuss our faith responses to social justice issues. The current study book is Barbara McQuade's *Attack from Within; how disinformation is sabotaging America.* Join us! Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Feb. 13** at 7:00 PM. Watch your email for details of the next meeting. 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 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

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 get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to:

john@saintphilip.net.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women.

Thursday Evening Circle - Feb. 6

meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Dining Room. Sarah Victorian sarah.m.0617@gmail.com

Monday Morning Saints - Jan. 13

meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room - Tricia Tolbert phtolbert@gmail.com

The Hallmark Circle - Jan. 15

meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm - contact Sue Shirley-Howard <u>sue@fluencyhouston.com</u> for location

Sunday Circle - Jan. 19

meets 3rd Sunday of each month after worship in the Dining Room. Jan Meyer jsmeyer9990@gmail.com

One More Chance Study for Everyone - Jan. 26

Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Library Lee Ardell leeardell@gmail.com

SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR 2025

Celebrate your wedding anniversary, family birthdays, or memorialize your mother and father by sponsoring the chancel flowers on Sunday morning. Please sign up to sponsor the flowers on the date you prefer by contacting Lorrie Castle at 713-622-4807 or lorrie@saintphilip.net or you may go to saintphilip.net the calendar page and click on the chancel flower picture. Sandra Truxillo, Flower Coordinator, will call you the week you chose to sponsor flowers to discuss the type of flowers and the message you would like in the bulletin. The standard arrangement for chancel flowers is \$130; special requests or exotic flowers may cost more.

PHILIP-EYE UPDATE

As we expand our use of social media platforms and e-mail updates to promote church events and activities, the Philip-Eye newsletter will transition to a once-a-month publication schedule beginning in February. This change will also allow for a more efficient allocation of staff resources. Remember Sunday worship bulletins, including the announcements and the prayer list, are always available on the church website.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER PACKING SESSION

On **Monday, January 20**, the youth are hosting a MLK Day of Service at 11 AM in the Dining Room/ Kids Against Hunger kitchen. We will pack meals to donate to Kids' Meals in recognition of Martin Luther King's committeemen to service. Spots are limited — email keatan king at <u>Keatan@saintphilip.net</u> if you would like to participate.





Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphlip.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 in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway 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 <u>saintphilip.net</u> and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to <u>lorrie@saintphilip.net</u>.

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 Room 100 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, text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.

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.



Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

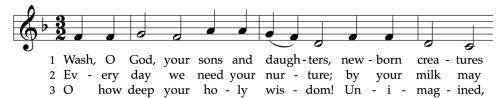


The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt. MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; arr. *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839 ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11

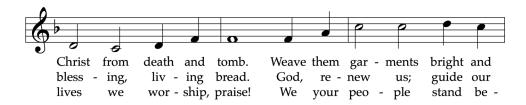
Hymn 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters





of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our





spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them; foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our



This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1987, rev. MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

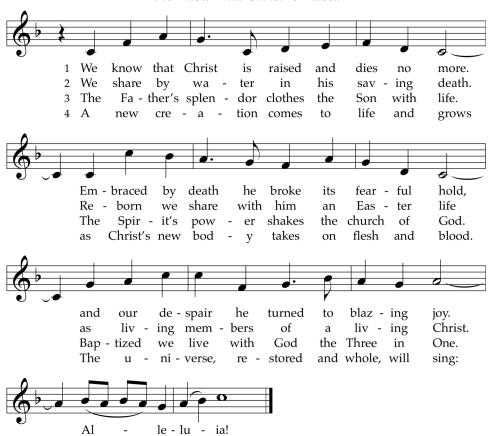
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BEACH SPRING

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Hymn 485

We Know That Christ Is Raised



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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