



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

11:00 A.M.

JANUARY 2, 2022

Preparation for Worship

*Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth
might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day.*

- John Bell and Graham Maule, Hymn 138

Voluntary

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern
BuxWV 223

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

Greeting

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

Introit

Arise, Shine, for Thy Light is Come

Healey Willan
(1880-1968)

Arise, shine, for thy Light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia.

— Isaiah 60:1

✠ Opening Sentences

Arise, shine! Our light has come!

Arise, shine! The glory of the Lord has appeared among us.

✠ Hymn 152 [\(see page 10\)](#)

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

✠ Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, wondrous star, light no darkness can overcome,
drive out the sin in our hearts.

Forgive us for turning from your way,
for denying your truth,
for resisting the life you would have us live.

Refresh us and restore us.

Focus us on the brilliant light of Jesus Christ
that we may see him more clearly
and follow him more nearly, this day and every day.

silent prayer

✦ Response

Hymn 121 | v4
ST. LOUIS

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!

✦ 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.**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. pg. 2

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

*Brightest and Best*Malcolm Archer
(b. 1952)

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Say, shall we yield him in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

— words by Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

Sermon

New Year, Old Story

John Wurster

✦ Hymn 151 ([see page 11](#))*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

Offering

Offertory Solo

New Year

John Rutter
(b. 1945)

Turn your eyes to the light;
cast away the works of darkness, let them go:
turn your eyes to the light.
Turn your face to the sun;
feel the warmth, the hope of new beginnings with each new year.
The light was always there, if we could but see it;
and warmth was in the air, if we'd known how to feel.
Turn your eyes to the light, turn your face to the sun:
new light, new hope, new year.

Turn your ears to the sound;
somewhere near, a voice is calling: hear the news,
turn your ears to the sound.
Turn your heart to the love;
Christ is come to bring the world new life, to bring new life.
The voice is always there, if the world will hear it;
and love is always there, if you search your heart.
Turn your ears to the sound, turn your heart to the love:
new life, new love, new year.

New life, and love, and light, and hope, this good New Year.

— words by John Rutter

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

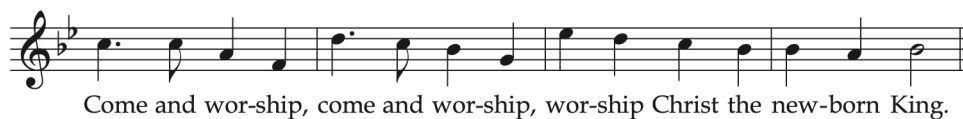
Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God . . . Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:



Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior . . .

We offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.



Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us . . .

We bless you, God of glory, now and forever, offering the prayer we've been 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 Solo

Three Kings

Peter Cornelius
(1824-1874)

Three kings have traveled from lands afar
To Jordan, led by the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travelers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh their offering.

O child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are traveling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Will shine on the way to his resting place.
And though no gift you bear for the King
Give him your heart as offering!

Communion Voluntary

Noël sur les Flûtes

Louis-Claude Daquin
(1694-1772)

✠ Prayer after Communion

God of all the nations,
we thank you for the wideness of your table,
where there is room enough and food enough
for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

**As we have met the living Christ in this meal,
transform our lives that we may become the body of Christ in the world. Amen.**

✠ Hymn 744 ([see page 12](#))

Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

In dir ist Freude
BWV 615

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

SERVING TODAY

Liturgist

Omar Rouchon

Musicians

St. Philip Choir | Cecilia Duarte and Kirby Traylor — soloists
Matthew Dirst — organist | Randall Swanson — music director and pianist

WORSHIP NOTES

Communion today is received by intinction. Please come forward via the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, and take a small cup of grape juice. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Those with difficulty coming forward may receive communion in their seats by signaling the servers. 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 offering supports Houston International Seafarers Ministry. Recognizing that all humans are a gift of God, the mission of the chaplains to the Port of Houston is to carry out a ministry of presence, outreach, witness, worship, service, and advocacy to, with, and for seafarers and their families from around the world. The Seafarers Ministry supports Presbyterian chaplains who work alongside chaplains of other denominations to minister to the social and spiritual needs of seafarers on merchant ships calling on the Port of Houston. Chaplains endeavor to visit every ship that visits the port, as many seafarers are restricted to their ship due to security regulations. Some crews are currently restricted aboard ship while in port by their ship captains or ship owners for health reasons.

For more information regarding the ministry visit: <http://pbyofnewcovenant.org/mission-partners>

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Jeremiah 31:7-14 — *God will gather the scattered people and turn their mourning into joy.*
- Psalm 147:12-20 — *Praise the Lord! God protects, blesses, and gives guidance.*
- Ephesians 1:3-14 — *God adopted us, making us heirs through Christ Jesus.*
- John 1:(1-9), 10-18 — *The Word became flesh and lived among us.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

This morning's **opening voluntary** is Dieterich Buxtehude's setting of the *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* ("How brightly shines the Morning Star"), incorporating this familiar Epiphany chorale melody in multiple variations, with rhythmic figuration that grows steadily more joyous. The custom of a connecting series of organ versets on the same hymn melody was well established by Buxtehude's day, having been invented by Italian organists who wrote their own contrapuntal elaborations on Gregorian hymns. As time allows, during **communion** we have the comparable genre among French Baroque composers: a set of variations on a gentle French Noël melody. Today's **closing voluntary** is a more concise German Baroque setting of the Epiphany chorale *In dir ist Freude* ("In Thee is Gladness") from J. S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book).

Choral and Vocal Music

This morning's **introit** was composed by Anglo-Canadian composer and organist Healey Willan, who was one of the most prolific and highly regarded composers of 20th-century church music. Willan was associated with the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (Anglican Church of Canada) in Toronto for nearly 50 years, and many of his choral works were written for the choirs there, which remain to this day among the finest all-volunteer choirs in North America.

Today's **anthem** by Malcolm Archer, *Brightest and Best*, was originally composed for children's treble voices, but is heard this morning in a new scoring for two-part mixed adult voices. The spritely setting of this well-known text by Reginald Heber is typical of Archer's sunny and often lively music. Before his retirement in 2017, Malcolm Archer served with great distinction at cathedrals in

Norwich, Bristol, Wells, and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and finally as Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College.

Sung as this morning's **offertory solo**, John Rutter's *New Year* carol was composed in celebration of the 80th birthday year of Queen Elizabeth II, and first sung in her presence by the choir of Sandringham Church on New Year's Eve 2006. Instantly singable, and with the warm, tuneful lyricism so characteristic of Rutter's music, the carol offers a simple message of hope as we look forward to a new year.

Today's **communion solo** comes from the song cycle for voice and piano titled *Weihnachtslieder* (Christmas Songs), Op. 8, by 19th-century German composer Peter Cornelius. Cornelius himself wrote the texts for the songs in the cycle, which wonderfully retell the biblical Christmas narrative as seen through the eyes of an unquestioning child. At the same time, this is deeply spiritual and emotional music. Cornelius himself revised the music a number of times on the advice of Liszt and others, and as a result of his own insecurities about his music. In *Three Kings*, it was upon the suggestion of Liszt that Cornelius added the Lutheran chorale *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* ("How brightly shines the Morning Star" — No. 827 in the *Glory to God* hymnal) in the piano accompaniment, which adds a level of commentary to the story of the Three Kings. The polyphonic combination of song melody above and chorale tune below creates a unique and beautiful sonority.*

— Matthew Dirst, Randall Swanson
and *James Deaville ©

IN OUR PRAYERS

William Howard upon the death of his brother Leon Howard on December 25 in Virginia.

St. Philippians and their families – Jack Fox; Jo Helland; Beth Flowers; Lee Larkin; Janet Davis; Susan Huffman; Joyce Fugit; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Linda Shoup – cousin of Cynthia Shoup; Alma Fonseca – mother of Angelina Fonseca; Bill Polk – brother-in-law of Sharon Webb; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Gretchen Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Carol Paine Kendrick – sister of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson; Mac & Beverly Wilson – parents of Butch Wilson; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Dottie Laas and family – cousin of Sam Fisher; Shirley Boggus – grandmother of Omi Ford; Dona Rowe – mother of William Rowe; and Elizabeth Carlton Lithio – granddaughter of Jeanie Flowers.

Homebound – Walter Baker; John Bobbitt; Paulie Carlson; Kitty Curry; George Helland; Jean Nelson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Marion Takehara; and Jody Tomforde.

Friends of St. Philippians – Janet Arnold – friend of Eleanor Grant; Auden McCarty – friend of Mary McGuire; Ted & Susan Hirtz – friends of Jacqueline and Bill Taylor; Paul English; Matt Scalapino and Laura Chilton – friends of Stephen Paine; Shirley Stubblefield – friend of Barbara Runge; Paul Ratliff – friend of Jo Helland; Rob Bond – friend of Curt and Sharon Webb; Clayton Amacker – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; and Walter "Buddy" Hammann 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

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday continues with Zoom sessions Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Email John for details and to get on the list - john@saintphilip.net.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—9:40 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom— Jan. 9 - "State of the Presbytery of New Covenant and Preview of the 2022 Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA." - Focus on the challenges and opportunities facing the presbytery in the year 2022 and preparation for the 225th. General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, June 18 - July 9. - Presented by Rev. Lynn Hargrove - General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process for Presbytery of New Covenant. - Jan. 16 - "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow for St. Philip" - Presented by Rev. Dr. John Wurster Email Mickey Meyers at churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net if you would like to join any of the classes.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS is meeting again each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 204 of the Education Building. We will resume our study of the last ten Psalms with Dr. Robert Alter's *The Book of Psalms* (2007) and then return to the Kingdom of Israel at I Kings 2.13 with Dr. Alter's *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us for more discoveries in Dr. Alter's translation and commentary on the Biblical Hebrew. All are welcome.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—Returns **January 7** - Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets in person each Friday in the Dining Room from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We are currently studying the book *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Also, while there is an in person meeting, that meeting is carried live via Zoom for those who want to join the meeting but are either out of town or prefer to meet from a distance. Please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com if you would like to be a part of this interesting group.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP will have its next meeting tonight, Tuesday, **January 4**, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The study book is *Race in America; Christians respond to the crisis*, edited by David Maxwell and Laura Cheifetz. It is available from Amazon or from the PC(USA) bookstore. Persons interested in joining the group can send an email to welcomes@saintphilip.net and type PSJ Study Group in the subject line.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. At our next meeting on **January 13** at 7:00 p.m., we will discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah, watch your email for details of where we will be meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

LENT CLASSES—The Education Committee will offer a five-week class during Lent called "Experiencing God," an opportunity to see how the Holy Spirit connects with people in unique and personal ways in their daily life. Two or three church members will informally share one of their spiritual practices for 10-15 minutes. There will be also time for individuals to try these different ways to encounter God. The goal is to encourage and learn from one another on our journeys of faith. If you feel God might be calling you to share in this way, please contact Betsy Boston at ehbluzerne@aol.com or Omar Rouchon at omar@saintphilip.net.

ST. PHILIP SECURITY ALARM

The property committee has recommended that we utilize the security alarm on campus. This means anyone that enters the Administration Building, Sanctuary/Education Building or Fellowship Hall outside of business hours and scheduled St. Philip activities will have to have a code to deactivate the alarm. If you have any keys or an access card to the church facilities, please email Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net and she will provide you with a code. Due to the holidays and staff orientation on the equipment this will go into effect **February 1**. Lorrie must receive notice from you by **January 15**.



Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

We are glad you are here! Please scan the QR Code to access our digital guest-book. We invite you to sign in and let us know you are worshipping with us.

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 HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

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. We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. 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.

Hymn 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -



love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let



sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the



ti - dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light.
 guid - ance of your light to use.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

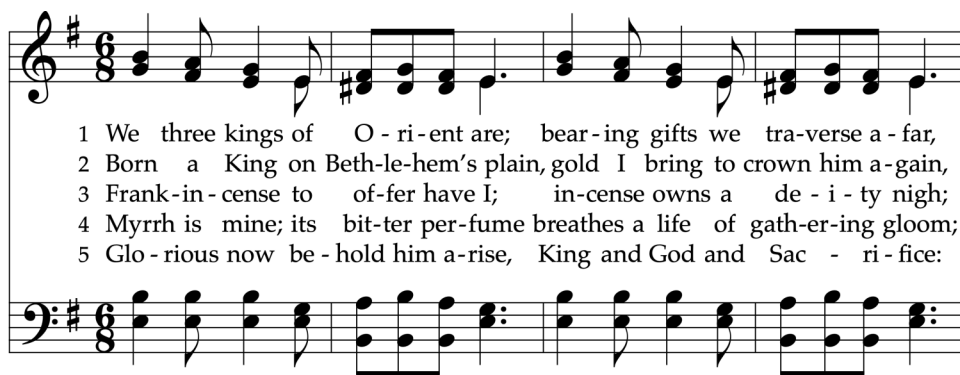
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
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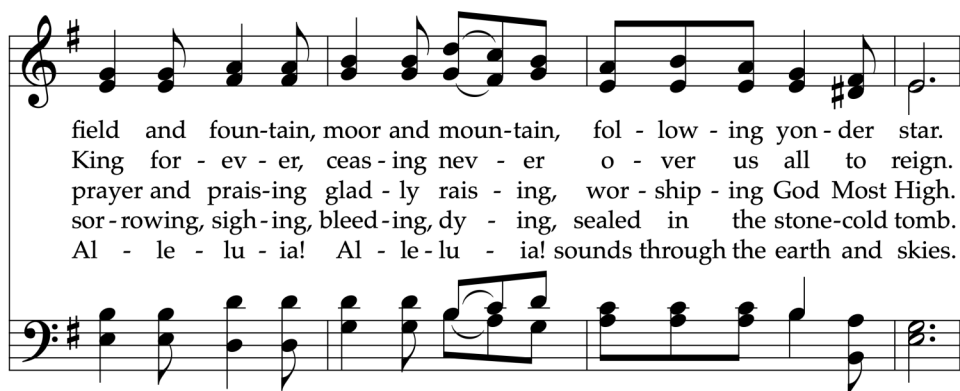
Hymn 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain


O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

TEXT and MUSIC: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1857, alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT
8.8.8.6 with refrain

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Hymn 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1-2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
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