



Preparation for Worship

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

—Hymn 36

Opening Voluntary

Nun danket alle Gott
BWV 657

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Introit

Blessed Are They

Eric H. Thiman
(1900-1975)

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house;
They will be always praising thee.

✠ Opening Sentences

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

We will praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song.

We will praise the Lord!

For the Lord has done great things.

We will praise the Lord!

Come, let us worship God.

✠ Hymn 665 [\(see page 9\)](#)

As Morning Dawns

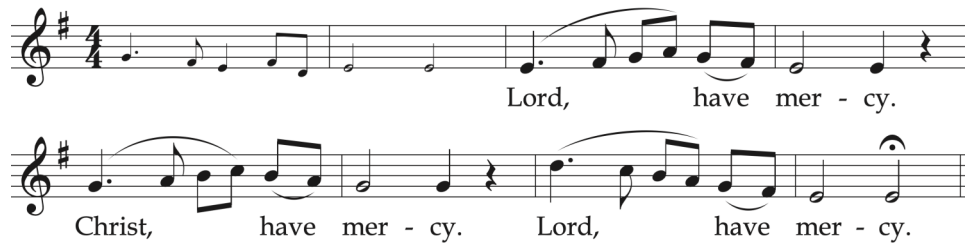
WAREHAM

✦ Prayer of Confession

Eternal God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:
Cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,
confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our refuge and strength;
through Jesus Christ your Son.

silent prayer

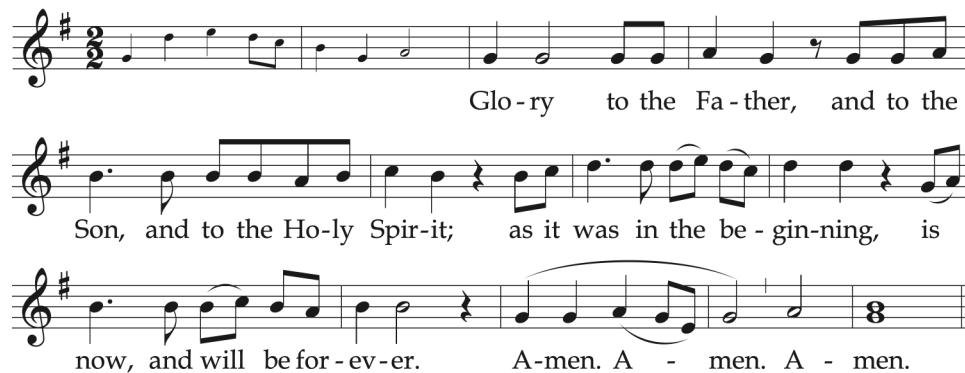
✦ Response



✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

✦ Response



✦ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

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

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

N.T. pgs. 28-29

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

Anthem*Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*Craig Carnahan
(b. 1951)

Hark, I hear the harps eternal
ringing on the farther shore,
as I near those swollen waters
with their deep and solemn roar.
Alleluia, glory to the great I AM!

And my soul, though stained with sorrow,
fading as the light of day,
passes swiftly o'er those waters
to the city far away.
Alleluia, praise the Lamb!
Glory to the great I AM!

Souls that crossed before me, saintly,
to that land of perfect rest;
hear them singing faintly
in the mansions of the blest.
Alleluia, praise the Lamb!
Glory to the great I AM!

Sermon

Show and Tell

Omar Rouchon

silence and stillness✠ **Hymn 367** [\(see page 10\)](#)*Come, Ye Thankful People Come*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

Colossians 1:15-20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. 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.**

Offering

Offertory

Fantaisie in E-flat: Con moto

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835–1921)

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Great and generous God, source of all our treasure.
We thank you for the gifts of our lives and the gifts of the earth.

**Help us to love you,
and to be thankful for all your gifts,
delighting to do your will,
by serving you and your creation
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 687 [\(see page 11\)](#)

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Fantaisie in E-flat: Allegro

Camille Saint-Saëns

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Cohen Carlin

Musicians

St. Philip Choir | Matthew Dirst, organist and interim choir director

FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given in honor of Jo Helland's birthday by her children and grandchildren who wish her many more.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings and prayers are borrowed from various sources such as:

- Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18 — *Beware, the day of the Lord is near; wealth will not save you.*
- Psalm 90:1–8; (9–11), 12 — *A thousand years are like a day to you; teach us to count our days.*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 — *Be ready: the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*
- Matthew 25:14–30 — *The parable of Talents; good and trustworthy servants are rewarded.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

Music reprints and online streaming by permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.

MUSIC NOTES

Bach's chorale prelude on *Nun danket alle Gott* ("Now thank we all our God") is an expansive treatment of this well-known chorale. Its imitative lower voices quote the hymn tune while supporting a long-note version of the same melody that sings out at the top of the texture. This setting comes from a collection Bach put together in Leipzig in the 1740s, to demonstrate for students and colleagues his diverse treatments of chorale melodies.

The hymn text *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal* dates from the late 19th century. As printed in William Walker's *Southern Harmony* collection, it has long been associated with the early American hymn tune INVI-TATION, a jaunty melody that has appealed to countless choral arrangers. This morning's setting comes

from Craig Carnahan, a Minneapolis-based composer of choral, chamber, and orchestral music.

One of the most facile and productive composers of his day, Camille Saint-Saëns published several volumes of solo organ works, many of which display the same charm, memorable tunes, and sheer *joie-de-vivre* as his better-known "Carnival of the Animals" or his "Organ Symphony." His *Fantaisie in E-flat* comprises two movements: a flowing introduction (marked *con moto* or "with motion") for the quiet flute stops of the organ and a boisterous *Allegro* that uses the instrument's full resources.

— Matthew Dirst

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—Susan Estill; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Pat Lindsay; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Shirley Coffman; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; John Palisin – brother of Peg Palisin; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Darryl Cazes – brother of Pam Taylor; Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine; John Anderson – brother of Tom Anderson.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians—Caitlan Prescott – friend of Mary McGuire; Mary Watters – friend of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Tom Barnett – friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach – friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; 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.

YOGA AND PRAYER—Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time. Join us for a morning of gentle yoga and silent prayer on Saturday 12/9 from 10:00- 12:00. We will enjoy the stretching, grounding and centering that comes with yoga, using chairs or your mats in the Gathering Area, led by Susan Lange. In the sanctuary, Meg Scott-Johnson will offer instruction on centering prayer/lectio divina. Then we will open our hearts and minds to God's presence with us in the quiet. All are welcome. No experience required. Babysitting available. Sponsored by the Christian Ed Committee. For more information, contact Betsy Boston—ehbluzerne@aol.com.



SATURDAY, DEC. 2ND 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE ARE WELCOMED > **THERE IS NO COST**

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4807 SAN FELIPE - EDUCATION BLDG.

*PLEASE BRING
A BAGGED LUNCH



&

WEAR CLOSED-TOE
SHOES



[FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER]

VISIT: **SAINTPHILIP.NET**

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY – Ages 3 – Kindergarten – Room 104

ELEMENTARY – Grades 1-5 – Room 105

YOUTH – Grades 6-12 – Room 205

FAITH & LIFE – Room 200 – An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. Using the short stories in *The Gift of Hard Things: Finding Grace in Unexpected Places* by Mark Yaconelli, participants will read a short text in class and then engage in conversation as a group. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Room 204 – We resume our study of the Kingdom of Judah at 2 Kings 18 with the story of King Hezekiah in Dr. Robert Alter's *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** 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 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. "A Rabbi Looks at the New Testament" Last May the Kulanu: Synagogues in Action Against Anti-Semitism and the Anti Defamation League sponsored a series of three programs addressing antisemitism in social media and antisemitism on campus. The third program - "Antisemitism in the New Testament -Reading the Gospel accounts of the trial and execution of Jesus" consisted of a dialogue discussion with Rabbi Steven Morgen, Associate Rabbi of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, and Mattias Henze, Ph.D., Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism at Rice University. Rabbi Morgen returns to Church & Society to address the theme "A Rabbi Looks at the New Testament." Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL – 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 con-

gregation 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 p.m. 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 reading and discussion group meets on the first Monday, 7-8 p.m., by zoom. As an activity of the Peacemaking/Social Justice Committee, the group provides a forum for the study and discussion of social justice topics (racism, immigration, globalism, climate change, current events, etc.) within the framework of the church and guided by our faith. The current study book is *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, by Emmanuel Acho. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at sjj10223@gmail.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster **meets weekly**. The class meets 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. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome!

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Dec. 14** at 7:00 p.m. and it will be a social. 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 a.m. We are studying *They Walked With God* by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that he has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at ggardne148@aol.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate; to be directed to a group leader please email welcomes@saintphilip.net.

Monday Morning Saints – 2nd Mon. of each month
@ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Circle – 3rd Sun. of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

Thursday Evening Circle – 1st Thurs. of each month
@ 7:00 p.m.



Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphilip.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 HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

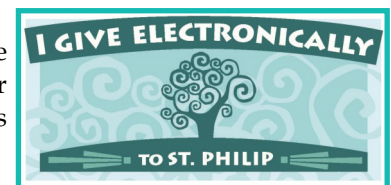
Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

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.

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 665

As Morning Dawns

WAREHAM

1 As morn - ing dawns, Lord, hear our cry. O sov - ereign
 2 Be - fore you, Lord, the wick - ed fall, and none shall
 3 Your stead - fast love shall wel - come all who seek your
 4 Let all who seek you then re - joice, and sing to

God, now hear our sigh. As first light brings the
 dwell with - in your hall. The proud shall nev - er
 house and on you call. O lead us, Lord, in
 you with joy - ful voice. For you shall bless the

sun's warm rays, ac - cept our sac - ri - fice of praise.
 gain a place, nor e - vil live to see your face.
 righ - teous - ness, as through this day your name we bless.
 righ - teous, Lord. For - ev - er be your name a - dored.

This paraphrase of Psalm 5 emphasizes shared human experience by beginning with the common hope that a new day offers new opportunities and by recasting the lone psalmist's voice into plural expressions. The tune is named for the composer's birthplace in Dorset, England.

TEXT: Fred R. Anderson, 1986
 MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738
 Text © 1986 Fred R. Anderson

WAREHAM
 LM
 (alternate harmonization, 320)

[Return to page 2](#)

Hymn 367

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har-vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har-vest home.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.
 MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1858

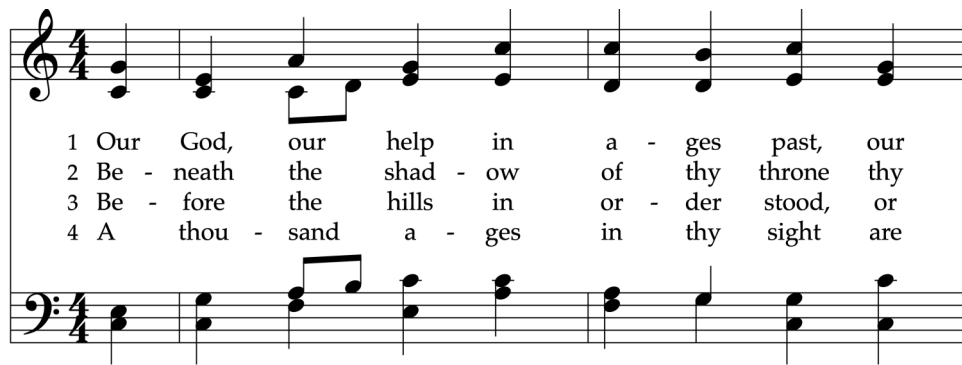
ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
 7.7.7.7.D

[Return to page 3](#)

Hymn 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
 CM

[Return to page 4](#)