

Reign of Christ November 23, 2025

Preparation for Worship

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne; Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own! Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

- Matthew Bridges, Hymn 268

Voluntary Paean Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

Greeting

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Introit Now Thank We All Our God

Harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1840) NUN DANKET

Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms Has blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Song and Spirit blest,
Who reign in highest heaven
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Original German text by Martin Rinkhart (1636) Transl. Catherine Winkworth (1858)

- **†** Opening Sentences
- **†** Hymn 267 (see page 9)

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

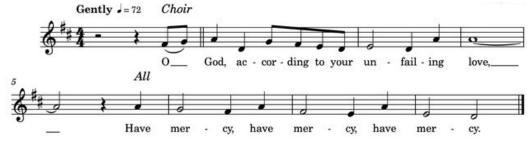
† Prayer of Confession

Righteous God,
you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord.
We confess that we have not bowed before him,
and are slow to acknowledge his rule.
We give allegiance to the powers of this world,
and fail to be governed by justice and love.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Raise us to acclaim Christ as ruler of all,
as we seek to follow his example
of humble service and extravagant love.

silent prayer

† Response

Justin Langham



Declaration of Forgiveness

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

Response

Justin Langham



† The Peace

Peace be with you. Peace be with all.

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery. Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:33-43

N.T. pg. 87

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Now Thank We All Our God BWV 79/3 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Sermon

Between Turkeys and Reindeer

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

† Hymn 274 (see page 10)

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

PICARDY

† Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus,

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 confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! 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

Gifts may also be given any time at saintphilip.net

Slyš, o Bože, volání mé,
Pozoruj modlitby mé!
Nebo jsi býval útočiště mé
A pevná věže před tváří nepřítele.
Budu bydleti v stánku Tvém na věky,
Schráním se v skrýši křídel Tvých.
Bože! Bůh silný můj Ty jsi,
Tebe t' hned v jitře hledám,
Tebe žízní duše má,
Po Tobě touží tělo mé,
V zemi žíznivé a vyprahlé,
V níž není vody;
A tak, abych Tobě dobrořečil
A s radostným rtů prozpěvováním
Chválila by Tě ústa má.

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
Give ear unto my cry!
For thou art my refuge and my hope,
Thou shalt tread down my enemies.
I will dwell forever in Thy tents,
And hide me in the shadow of Thy wings.
Lord! Thou art indeed my God,
Yea, I will seek Thee early.
My soul is faint,
My body longeth after Thee,
In a barren desert where there is no water.
Now I will bless Thee daily
And lift my hands in prayer and adoration;
Yea, my lips shall praise Thee

The Bible of Kralice (16th century) Based on Psalms 61 & 63

All my life long.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

We praise you, great God, for you are ruler of the universe, and you have sent your Son to be King of kings and Lord of lords.

We rejoice that he has triumphed over all the powers of this world, and governs the nations in justice and righteousness. By your Spirit, empower us to be faithful witnesses of his glory and joyful servants in his kingdom. Amen.

† Hymn 643 (see page 11)

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Presto from Concerto in G Major BWV 592/3 Johann Ernst (1696-1715) transcribed by J.S. Bach

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a congregational forum with updates on our campus planning process.

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Cindy Judson

Musicians

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

FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by Stephen Paine to the glory of God and for thanksgiving to all our St. Philip members and staff.

WORSHIP NOTES

Reign of Christ is the final Sunday of the church year. This day centers us on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God has exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. (*The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*). As the season of Advent begins next Sunday, so also begins a new church year and a new year in the lectionary calendar.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a meeting of the congregation for **November 30**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an elder for the Session Class of 2028; an elder for a one-year unexpired term in the Session Class of 2026; and a member to serve a two-year term on the congregational nominating committee. William Rowe is being nominated to serve on the Session in the Class of 2028; William Howard is being nominated to serve for the one-year term on the Session in the Class of 2026; Mary Grace Carter is being nominated to serve on the nominating committee. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

MUSIC NOTES

Kenneth's Leighton wrote his *Paean* (a "song of praise") for Simon Preston, who premiered it at London's Royal Festival Hall in January of 1967. A vigorous processional character is clear from the outset of this work, today's **opening voluntary**, as peals of brilliant arpeggiated chords give way to a striding theme in a gently polytonal texture. Syncopated and highly rhythmic interludes alternate with the opening material throughout, and the work climaxes with a blazing coda.

The hymn text Nun danket alle Gott ("Now Thank We All Our God") by German Lutheran pastor Martin Rinkart is a testament to his incredible faith in difficult times. Around the hymn's inception, Rinkart's town of Eilenburg in Saxony – a walled city that became refuge for political and military fugitives near what is now Leipzig was overrun with deadly disease and famine due to the Thirty Years War. His home was regularly used to house and provide for victims of the war, and the following year he performed more than 4,000 funerals, including that of his wife. The text was set in the now familiar hymn tune more than a decade later by German hymnist Johann Crüger, translated by 19th-century English writer Catherine Winkworth, and has since been incorporated by many composers. Today, we present two well-known versions of the hymn: the first and last verse using Mendelssohn's commonly sung harmonization from our hymnal as our **introit**, and J. S. Bach's arrangement of Rinkart's first stanza from his cantata *Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild* ("God the Lord is sun and shield") as our **anthem**.

Composed in 1984, *Biblical Songs*, Op. 99 consists of ten selected texts drawn from the Book of Psalms found in the 16th-century Czech-language Bible of Kralice. Dvořák, who was living in New York at the time, wrote these songs to cope with his feeling homesick and longing for his native Bohemia. He returned to Europe the following year, after only two years in America. Our **offertory**, number 6 of the set, was first sung in New York in September 1895. This was the first public performance of any of the songs.

Our **closing voluntary** is the final movement of a *concerto grosso* by Prince Johann Ernst of Saxe-Weimar, as transcribed by the young J. S. Bach for organ. Bach's encounter with the genre came about thanks to this music-loving prince, who collected publications by Antonio Vivaldi and other masters. As court organist in Weimar, Bach had the opportunity to share his employer's enthusiasm for the latest Italianate music and to transcribe numerous such pieces for either harpsichord or organ.

- Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IN OUR PRAYERS

Steve Nettles and family upon the death of his father on November 19.

St. Philippians and their families — Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kay Cash; Pam Taylor; Deb Burks; Sondra Sullivan; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Wilma Grether — mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family – sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Kathy Bailey and family – sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith — cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes — daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud — cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolf; George and Larraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians—Greg Anderson—friend of Lorrie Castle; Ann Swanson—friend of Deborah Unruh; Kitty Manson and family; Sidney Roach, Lori Childers O'Connell, Joyce Freudenberg—friends of Stephen Paine; Chris Deflandre—friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood—friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende—friend of Beth Atkinson; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash—friend of Jane Cooper; Mary Watters and Mindy Cooper-Smith—friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kenneth and Donna Benton—friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett—friends of Robin and Gary Willis; 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



ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA—Mondays of Advent-Dec. 1-22, 9:00-9:20 a.m. on Zoom—Lectio Divina is an ancient method of contemplative reading of scripture. Keatan will read scripture, prompt reflection, and offer space to reflect silently via Zoom, so that participants may take time to slow down in the season of Advent to joyfully anticipate the coming of Christ. Email Keatan King at keatan@saintphilip.net to receive the weekly Zoom link.

PRAYING TOWARD BETHLEHEM: ADVENT SELF-DIRECTED PRAYER STATIONS—Sundays of Advent—Nov. 30-Dec. 21 9:15-10:50 a.m. in Room 205—To orient our hearts to the great joy awaiting us in Bethlehem, you are invited to a weekly rotating set of self-directed prayer stations centered on God's covenant promises in Scripture to love us, save us, and come among us in Christ. Using the art and devotional readings of Ann Voskamp's *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift*, each station invites you to pray at your own pace using a variety of meditation techniques and sensory experiences.

ADVENT MEDITATIONS — Wednesdays in December at 12:00 p.m. A weekly offering of music and spoken word. Lunch available afterwards in the Gathering Area for a \$10 contribution.





Financial Update 10/31/2025

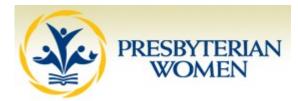
Total Revenue: \$1,371,960 Total Expenses: \$1,573,292

Pledge payments and other gifts will help bring our budget into balance by the end of the year. Thanks!

The church office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 in recognition of Thanksgiving!



Mission committee still needs items for the Seafarers Christmas boxes, the last day to turn items in is **Nov. 30**. Email Caryn Baruth at <u>carynrussell@gmail.com</u> to see how specifically you can help.



All women of the church (visitors, members and clergy) are invited to the PW Christmas Luncheon on **Dec. 21** following the worship service.

More details to follow.

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 that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area.

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 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY - Ages 3-Kindergarten - Room 103

ELEMENTARY – Grades 1-5 – Room 205

YOUTH - Grades 6-12 - meet again in January

ADULT BIBLE STUDY — Room 204 — Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 a.m. We are studying Ecclesiastes, the final book in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to all of 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 a.m. with presentations in person and by Zoom. Nov. 30 Presentation by Rabbi Steven Morgan entitled "It Takes Two to Relevate: A Modern Jewish Approach to Understanding the Prophets."

To learn more about the classes offered at St. Philip visit our website at www.saintphilip.net.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets for an hour once a month on Zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of concern in today's world. Our current topic is Christian Nationalism, one definition of which is "that America is God's chosen nation and should be defended and governed as such." Attitudes already influencing our legislators include opposition to gay rights, opposition to gun safety efforts, promotion of Christian religion in schools and libraries, book bans, etc. Our current study book is Brian Kaylor's *Baptizing America*; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian Nationalism. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson sjj10223@gmail.com.

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 at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

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 join us as we look at the lectionary passages for the coming Sunday! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

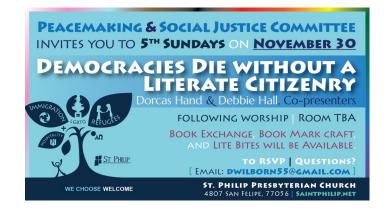
WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting will be a social on **Dec. 11** at 7:00 p.m. Please watch your email for details about location. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at:

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 wrapping up studying "*The Tears of Things*" by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

ggardne148@aol.com





4807 San Felipe • Houston 77056 713.622.4807 • 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.



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.

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 has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off the Gathering Area 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 the Library 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, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.



St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. To support the school, **please make all contributions directly to St. Philip Day School**, rather than to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Please make checks payable to "St. Philip DAY SCHOOL" You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at <u>Director@stphilipdayschool.org</u>.

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.

Nametags—Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

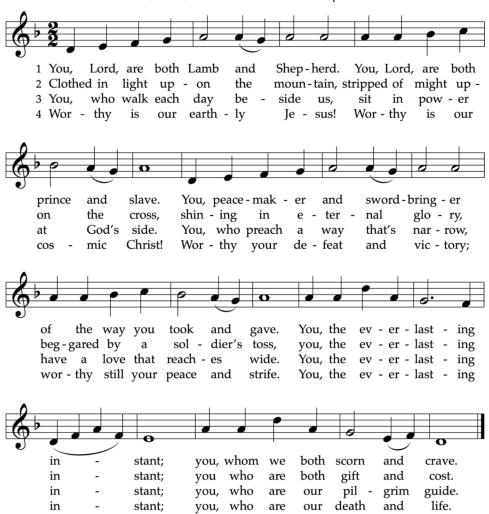


Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.

TEXT: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843 MUSIC: Spanish folk melody; arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. David Evans, 1927 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press MADRID 6.6.6.6.D

Hymn 274

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



When it was first published, the author called this text "Christus Paradox," because so many attributes of Christ stand in tension with each other. Mindful of the works of Søren Kierkegaard, she drafted it on a commuter bus after "a particularly bad day" of prison ministry.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984 MUSIC: French melody, 17th cent. Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7

Hymn 643

Now Thank We All Our God



Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

TEXT: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt. MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT 6.7.6.7.6.6.6