



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

Opening Voluntary

Celebration on HYFRYDOL

arranged by Dan R. Edwards
(1951-2020)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Introit

How Glorious Sion's Courts Appear

Christopher Tye
(c1505-1573)

How glorious Sion's courts appear,
the city of our God;
His throne he hath established here,
here fixed his loved abode.
Lift up the everlasting gates,
the doors wide open fling;
enter, ye nations,
who obey the statutes of our King.

✦ Opening Sentences

✦ Hymn 267 [\(see page 9\)](#)

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

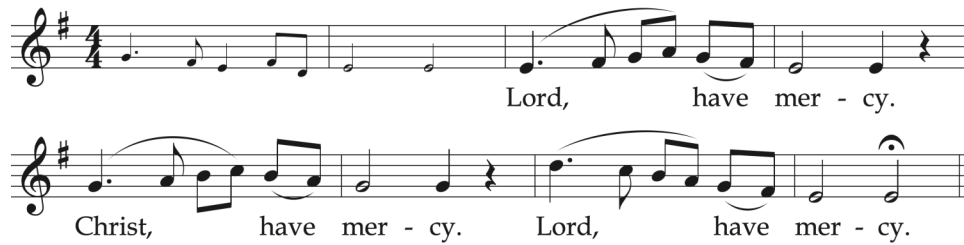
MADRID

✦ 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

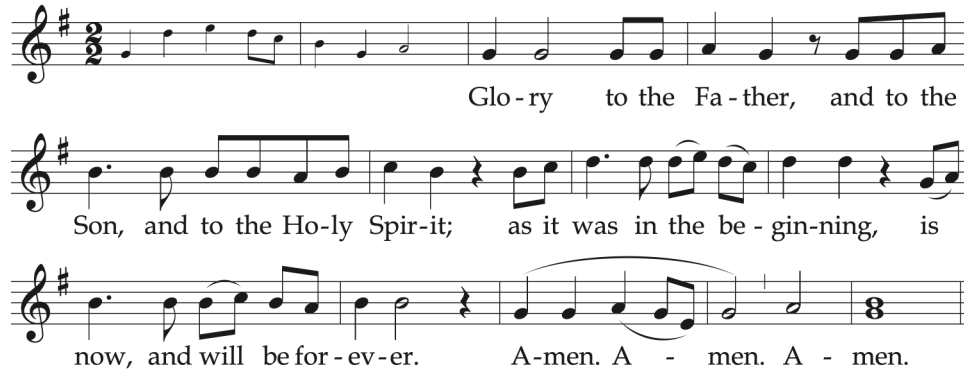
✦ Response



✦ 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

*Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.
Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.*

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

N.T. pg. 29

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

Anthem

O Sing Joyfully

Adrian Batten
(1591-1637)

O sing joyfully unto God our strength;
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song, bring hither the tabret,
the merry harp with the lute.
Blow up the trumpet in the new-moon;
even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-day.
For this was made a statute for Israel;
and a law of the God of Jacob.

(Psalm 81:1-4)

Sermon

What If It's True?

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

Offertory

Kommst du nun, Jesu, von Himmel herunter
 BWV 650

Johann Sebastian Bach
 (1685–1750)

✦ 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 363 ([see page 11](#))

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

DARWELL'S 148TH

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Lobt Gott den Herrn, ihr Heiden all

Helmut Walcha
 (1907-1991)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Judith Hiott

Musicians

Bell Canto | Jane Malczewskyj, handbell director | St. Philip Choir

Matthew Dirst, organist and interim choir director

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.

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

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 — *I will be the shepherd of my sheep, says the Lord; I will save them.*
- Psalm 100 — *Make a joyful noise to the Lord; we are the sheep of God's pasture.*
- Psalm 95:1-7a — *The Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture.*
- Ephesians 1:15-23 — *Christ is seated at God's right hand; all powers are under his feet.*
- Matthew 25:31-46 — *The king will judge: just as you did it to the least, you did it to me.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

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

MUSIC NOTES

This morning's **opening voluntary**, played by Bell Canto, was arranged by Dan R. Edwards, whose works include over 300 pieces for adults and children's choirs, handbells, and small instrumental ensembles. Its melodic material is drawn from the hymn tune HYFRYDOL, which appears in our *Glory to God* hymnal at No. 366 ("Love Divine, All Love's Excelling") and 260 ("Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"). Staccato bass bells add a spark to this lively setting, which creatively reharmonizes the original melody into a very energetic piece!

Both **choral anthems** were composed during the English Renaissance. Organist Christopher Tye served in his native Cambridge and at Ely Cathedral before a short period at court, as music master to Edward VI. His English-language church music shows an affinity for both counterpoint and concision, with imitative ideas carefully wedded to individual phrases of text. Adrian Batten, who held positions at Westminster Abbey then St Paul's Cathedral in London, was also an accomplished composer of Anglican anthems. His setting of Psalm 81:1-4 ("O Sing Joyfully") plays with particular words and phrases to create memorable pictures in sound.

J. S. Bach himself first published our **Offertory** as part of *Six Chorales of Various Kinds* (1748). This collection, known colloquially as the "Schübler Chorales" after his longtime engraver, comprises organ transcriptions from the composer's own cantatas. The original version of *Kommst du nun, Jesu, von Himmel herunter* ("Come, Lord Jesus, from Heaven to Earth") combines a solo alto chorale against a sparkling violin obbligato—a texture that adapts beautifully to the organ, where three busy contrapuntal lines can be realized effectively by two hands and two feet.

A closely related German chorale tune animates Helmut Walcha's *Lobt Gott den Herrn, ihr Heiden all* ("Praise the Lord, All Ye People"), this morning's **Closing Voluntary**. This contemporary chorale fantasy begins with the hymn melody in the soprano before it migrates to the pedal, around which imitative voices dance and play.

— Matthew Dirst & Jane Malczewskyj

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families—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— Aleksandra Y. Skochilenko – Nancy Higgs; 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.



Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time. Join us for a morning of gentle yoga and silent prayer during this busy season. We will enjoy the stretching, grounding and centering that comes with yoga, using chairs or your mats in the Gathering Area. In the sanctuary, instruction will be offered 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. COME. SEEK. FIND. For more information, contact Betsy Boston at ehbluzerne@aol.com.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IN THE GATHERING AREA—

Join the Education and Mission Committees on **December 3** at 9:45 a.m. for a festive morning! We will wrap Seafarers' Christmas boxes, do a little Advent crafting, swap favorite holiday recipes, and sing a few carols. You are invited to bring your favorite recipe(s), printed or written out. You can bring copies for people to take home, or you can just bring one copy for people to photograph. If you want to bring samples, yum! All ages are welcome, in the Gathering Area.

ADVENT AT ST. PHILIP Everyone is invited to attend **midweek Advent services**, continuing on **December 6, 13, and 20**. The service begins at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. Lunch is available in the Gathering Area at 12:30. These services of scripture and song are grounded in the Advent themes of hope and expectation. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. Prepare the way of the Lord!

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN invite all ladies of the church (regardless if you attend a PW study circle or not) to the Christmas Luncheon! The luncheon gives all of us an opportunity to meet new women, catch up with friends we know, enjoy a catered meal, listen to a lesson from the PW study book, and sing Christmas carols. We invite you to bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share for dessert. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 17, 2023, from 12 PM to 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall, to join the St. Philip women to celebrate the birth of Christ together. The meal cost is \$15 per person. Financial assistance is available, please call the church office at 713-622-4807. Payment is accepted at the church website, in the gathering area, or at the luncheon. RSVP via the church website, in the gathering area on Sundays, or call the church by December 11, 2023. We look forward to sharing the love of Christ with you at this enriching and joyous luncheon. Peace and blessings, Presbyterian Women's Luncheon Committee.

ST. PHILIP VBS | ADVENT 2023

The Message of Angels

MATTHEW 1:18 - 24 **LUKE 1:26 - 38**

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**

Christmas Poinsettias

Donations of any amount accepted

(circle one) **I / we** would like to make a donation to purchase poinsettias to adorn our chancel during this Christmas season

(circle one) **in honor of / memory of** _____

Donor - Your Name(s) (Please print legibly) _____

Please place envelope in the offering plate or return it with your **payment** to the church office by Monday, **December 13**. Use additional space below if needed.

I have included a _____ check, _____ cash or _____ will pay online.

Pay online by going to the saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *Flowers/Holiday* as the fund and putting **POINT** in the memo. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). *Email if you wish to honor/remember to lorrie@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. **Dec. 3** - "St. Philip Quilts for God's Precious Children" - Hope Wilmarth (Fiber Artist and St. Philip Stitchers) tells the story of the origin of the St. Philip Stitchers, who have provided hundreds of beautiful hand-made quilts for children at SEARCH Homeless Services' House of Tiny Treasures, children in refugee families, and countless children in need. 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 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 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.

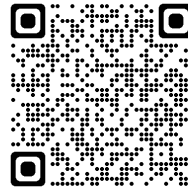
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster **meets weekly**. The class meets at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to john@saintphilip.net. Bible novices, 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.

MONDAYS IN ADVENT–LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM – **December 4, 11, and 18** at 9:00-9:20 a.m. – *What is Lectio Divina?* The ancient desert fathers and mothers believed that scripture was like a love letter written to us by God. Thus, the meditative, guided scriptural reflection known as *Lectio Divina* ("divine reading") assumes that God speaks to us intimately, God is already praying in us, and we'll experience a profound encounter with the heart of God, rather than an intellectual study of scripture. Keatan King will guide the group through the four cycles of Lectio (read, reflect, respond, rest) for 20 minutes every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for the season of Advent. To prepare, you are encouraged to choose a comfortable place to sit wherever you are (at home, work, in the car) and all participants will have video off and sound off during the Zoom. If you would like to participate email Keatan at keatan@saintphilip.net.



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.**

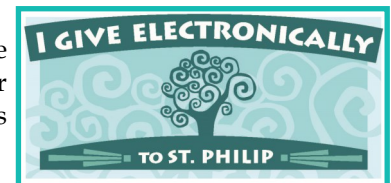
Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

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.

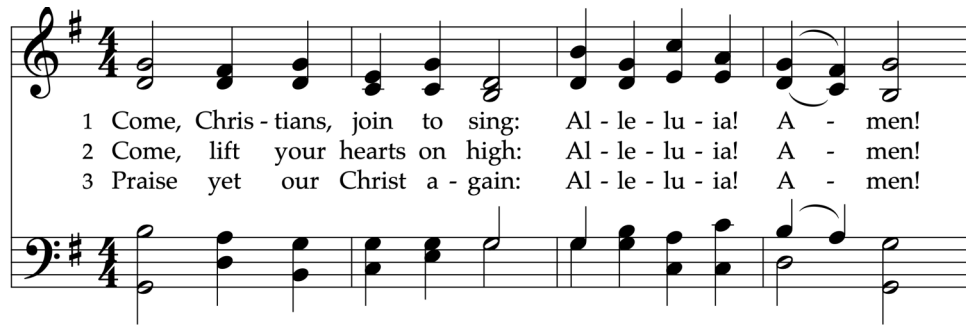


You can still turn in your pledge card via mail, dropping in the offering plate, the church office or going online :> **My St. Philip** (icon at top of webpage) > **Sign In** > enter email & password > **Sign In** > **My Giving Summary** > **Pledge Now** > **Add Pledge** > fill in the appropriate information > **Save**. Thank you!

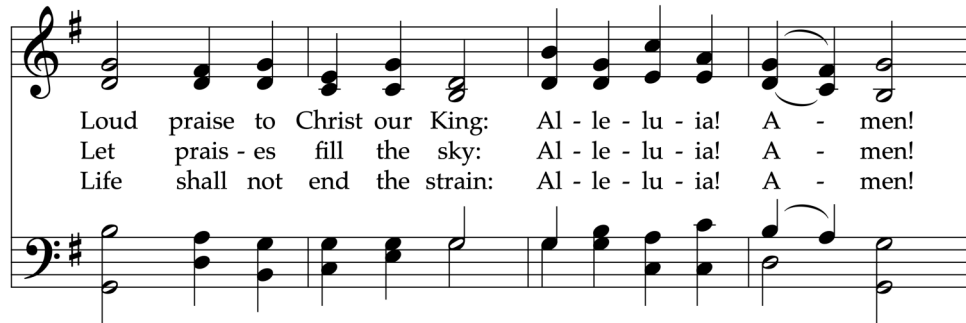
Hymn 267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

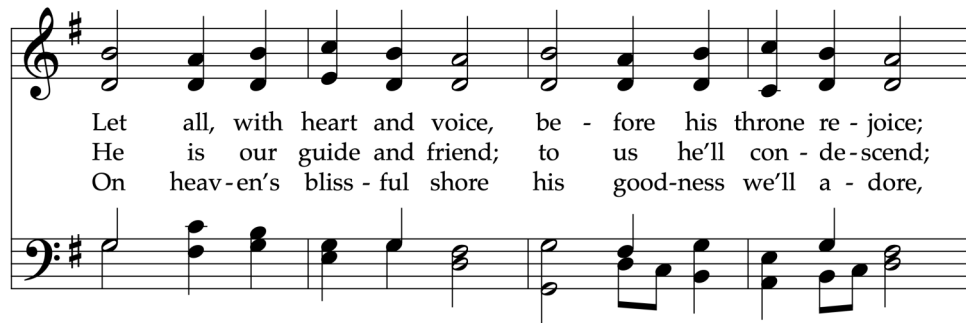
MADRID



1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!



Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,



praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

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

[Return to page 2](#)

Hymn 274

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

PICARDY



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our



prince and slave. You, peace - mak - er and sword-bring - er
 on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory;



of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing
 have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing



in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 in - stant; you who are both gift and cost.
 in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

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

[Return to page 3](#)

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re-joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a-dore!
 2 Our Sav-ior, Je-sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king-dom can-not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri-umph ev-er-more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a-bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je-sus given.
 and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4.
 "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune
 (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1746, alt.

MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770; desc. Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 20th cent.

Music Desc. © 1985 Hymns Ancient & Modern (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

DARWALL'S 148TH

6.6.6.6.8.8

[Return to page 3](#)