



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Preparation for Worship

*Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations.
Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert
as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Voluntary

Variations on 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland'

Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

Greeting

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

Handbell Introit

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
arr. by Cathy Moglebust
(b. 1958)

✦ Opening Sentences

adapted from Jeremiah 33:14-16

When will God's promise be fulfilled?

The days are surely coming.

When we will be saved?

The days are surely coming.

How will we know the signs to take place?

**The days are surely coming when a branch from David shall come forth
to execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

What shall it be called?

The Lord is our righteousness.

✦ Hymn 102 [\(see page 10\)](#)

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

✦ Prayer of Confession

Coming Christ,
 you may not find us as you hoped.
 We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.
 We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.
 We are numb to inconvenient truths.
 Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.
 Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.
 Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.
 Sober our lives addicted to privilege.
 Show us the signs of your coming,
 that we may stand before you, the Son of Man,
 in whose name we pray.

silent prayer

✦ Response

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and homophonic. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second line of music continues with the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!" The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass clef.

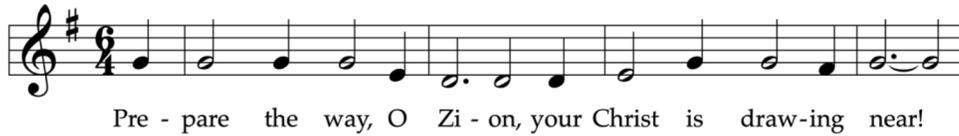
TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
 Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WAIT FOR THE LORD
 8.8

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

✦ Response



TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; translated by Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapted by Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.6

✦ The Peace

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

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

As we light our first Advent candle,
 We pray for the holy hope of God.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
 Come now, O Prince of Hope.

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

O.T. pg. 738

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem*Hark, I Hear the Harps Resounding*

INVITATION • from *Southern Harmony*, 1854
arranged by Craig Carnahan, 2014

Hark, I hear the harps resounding!
"Christ is near," we hear them say.
"Cast aside the work of darkness,
all you children of the day."

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lamb!
Alleluia, alleluia, glory to the great I AM!

"Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who toil and tremble,
mourning under sorrow's load.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and pain release us;
let us find our hope in thee.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King;
born to live in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

N.T. pgs. 85-86

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Falling Stars

John Wurster

✦ **Hymn 357** ([see page 11](#))

The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

from *The Confession of 1967*

**The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ,
the Word of God incarnate,
to whom the Holy Spirit
bears unique and authoritative witness
through the Holy Scriptures,
which are received and obeyed
as the word of God written. Amen.**

Anthem*Never Weather-beaten Sail*

Charles Wood
(1866-1926)

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
Than my weary sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise,
Cold age deafe not there our ears now vapor dims our eyes;
Glory there the sun outshines, whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

— words by Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

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.

✠ Hymn 352 ([see page 12](#))

My Lord, What a Morning

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

Charge and Blessing

Voluntary

Toccata on 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland'

Hugo Distler

SERVING TODAY

Liturgists

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon and St. Philip Youth

Musicians

Lee Ardell, Mary Benson, Deb Burks, Steve Carmichael, Maggie Dement, Emily Estill, Jeanie Flowers, Nancy Johnson, Abby Tieken and Diana Weiss — handbell ensemble | Jane Malczewskyj — handbell conductor
 Julia Fox, Emily Jenkins, Thomas O'Neill, Nicholas Rathgeb and Kirby Traylor — choral ensemble
 Matthew Dirst — organist | Randall Swanson — music director

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Jeremiah 33:14-16 — *The days are coming; God's promise of salvation will be fulfilled.*
- Psalm 25:1-10 — *O Lord, teach me your paths; you are the God of my salvation.*
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 — *May God strengthen your heart until the coming of the Lord Jesus.*
- Luke 21:25-36 — *Signs in the heavens show that the kingdom of God is near; be alert.*

Pledge cards can be turned in or mailed to the Church Office. Or you can make your pledge in MyStPhilip.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

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

MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Hugo Distler was one of the pioneers of what is often called the “neo-Baroque” movement in the early 20th century, an appellation that acknowledges the contrapuntal yet modernist tonal and rhythmic idioms of these composers. A lifelong church musician, Distler left a small number of works to posterity, among which are two sets of organ pieces on familiar Advent chorales: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (usually translated as “Sleepers, Wake, A Voice is Calling”) and *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (“Savior of the Nations, Come”). Both tunes date from the 16th century, when the chorale represented the cutting edge of music-making among Martin Luther’s many followers. Today’s organ voluntaries are both drawn from the outer portions of the latter work, which includes a quirky set of variations, a grandiose chaconne, and a fiery toccata.

Handbell Music

Following upon this morning’s organ voluntaries, today’s handbell introit is another arrangement of the well-known Advent hymn tune NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, which also serves as this morning’s opening hymn. The arrangement heard this morning is by South Dakota handbell specialist, composer, and music educator Cathy Moglebust. Her arrangement of *Savior of the Nations, Come* was composed in 1996 for the Hosanna Ringers of Nativity Lutheran Church in St. Anthony, Minnesota. In the composer’s own words, “*Savior of the Nations, Come* illustrates the quiet anticipation characterizing the Advent season; anticipation of the arrival of a Savior who came to earth in human form to reclaim us from sin. This mysterious and melancholy music reminds us not only of the events of 2,000 years

ago surrounding the birth of Our Lord, but the continued, patient anticipation of yet another Coming.”*

Choral Music

This morning’s **first anthem** is a rousing arrangement of the early American hymn tune INVITATION by Minnesota composer Craig Carnahan (b. 1951). Carnahan received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and did graduate studies in composition with Dominick Argento and Paul Fetler at the University of Minnesota. He is in consistent and high demand as a composer for many of the finest choirs and ensembles in North America. His arrangement of *Hark, I Hear the Harps Resounding* was originally composed in 2012 for four-part men’s chorus (TTBB). The version for mixed choir (SATB) heard this morning is from 2014.

Today’s **second anthem** is a setting of the beautiful 16th-century Thomas Campion text *Never Weather-beaten Sail*. Written for SATB voices with organ accompaniment, the music is by early 20th-century Irish composer Charles Wood, who studied with both Charles Villiers Stanford and Charles Hubert Hastings Parry at the Royal College of Music in London. Chiefly remembered for his Anglican church music, Wood taught at Cambridge, becoming the first director of music and organist at Gonville and Caius College in 1894, and later succeeding Stanford as Professor of Music following the latter’s death in 1924.

– Matthew Dirst, Randall Swanson
and *Cathy Moglebust

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philipians and their families – Richard Johnson; Lee Larkin; Janet Davis; Susan Huffman; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Bellamy – great nephew of Pat Lindsay; James Graham McGall - cousin of Mickey McGall Meyers; Dale McAllen – brother of Orlean Anderson; 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. Philipians – 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; Lavon Thomas – 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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ADVENT VBS - Saturday, December 4 - 10:00 a.m. – Noon – Children ages 3 - Grade 5 are invited to join for an outdoor morning of vacation bible school for Advent. Our time will be filled with bible lessons, drama, music, mission activities and more! Come and explore how we can share good news, as we are called to "Go Tell it on the Mountain!" Registration is online at saintphilip.net. Please contact omar@saintphilip.net if you'd like to help shepherd our children or for more information.

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.

CHURCH & SOCIETY – 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom – *History of the Rothko Chapel on The Rothko's Fiftieth Anniversary* - The Rothko Chapel is a spiritual space, a forum for world leaders, a place for solitude and gathering. It's an epicenter for civil rights activists, a quiet disruption, a stillness that moves. It's a destination for the 100,000 people of all faiths who visit each year from all parts of the world. Come learn the story of the history of this unique sacred space, as the Rothko Chapel celebrates 50 years in Houston. Presented by Suna Umari – Archivist for the Rothko Chapel. Email Mickey Meyers at churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net if you would like to join any of the classes.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP – 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, **December 7**, 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 welcome@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 **December 9** at 7:00 p.m., which will be a social event, watch your email for details of where we will be meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright or Sarah O'Dell at sarah.odell6@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – invitations were sent last week to all women members of the church for the Christmas Luncheon on **December 12** - 12:15 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the church. Please RSVP by **December 6** by calling the Church Office at 713-622-4807 or emailing welcome@saintphilip.net. Please include your lunch preference that is included in the invitation.

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip changed broker services to Frost Bank in the beginning of 2021. We ask you to call:

Yvette Webb at Frost Bank - 713-388-1231 for transaction information. Our new account number is #037-293183.

Please let the bookkeeper, know you are making a stock donation. You may email bookkeeper@saintphilip.net

If you have any questions, you may always contact Ada Fuller, treasurer at amariepoet@gmail.com or by phone at 713-306-8267.



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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE—The 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services are open for in-person attendance in the Sanctuary and masks are required. The Sunday 11:00 a.m. will continue to be live-streamed.

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE—**Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.** This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you'd like to attend the midweek service in-person contact the church office.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH JOHN WURSTER—A look via Zoom at the Bible readings for the coming Sunday has returned 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.

ADVENT AT ST. PHILIP—Midweek service of scripture, prayer, and song; Wednesdays at 11 a.m. beginning **December 1**. A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols with the St. Philip Choir, **December 5** at 11 a.m. (There will be no 9 a.m. service on **December 5**).

Hymn 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
 English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;
 English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006
 MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594
 English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
 7.7.7.7

[Return to page 2](#)

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

This text uses imagery from Jeremiah 33:14–16 and Matthew 24:29–36/Mark 13:24–32/Luke 21:25–36. These passages are especially associated with the beginning of Advent, a season that looks forward to Christ's second coming while also preparing us to remember his first coming.

Hymn 352

My Lord, What a Morning

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

Refrain

My Lord! what a morn - ing; my Lord! what a morn - ing;

O my Lord! what a morn - ing, when the stars be - gin to

Fine
fall, when the stars be - gin to fall. 1 You will hear the trum - pet
2 You will hear the sin - ner
3 You will hear the Chris - tian

sound
cry, to wake the na - tions un - der ground,
shout,

to Refrain
look - ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29-30/Mark 13:24-26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
Irregular

[Return to page 5](#)