



Preparation for Worship

*God of glory,
your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem,
where the Light of the world is humbly born
into the darkness of human night.
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,
so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice,
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.*

Voluntary

Noël sur les jeux d'anches

Louis-Claude d'Aquin
(1694-1772)

Greeting

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

Call to Worship

✦ **Hymn 128** ([see page 7](#))

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

✦ **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God,
though we are in awe of the dawn of your light in Jesus Christ,
we remain self-centered and cling to the sin of the world.
We celebrate the birth of our savior,
yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him.
We are called to pursue justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly with you;
yet we are content to seek our own comfort
and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need.
By the light of the Christ child,
lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness,
as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation.**

silent prayer

Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✠ Hymn 132 [\(see page 7\)](#)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

✠ The Peace

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 148

O.T. pgs. 582-583

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

✠ Hymn 146 [\(see page 8\)](#)

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

N.T. pg. 59

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

Sermon

Keatan King

✠ Hymn 134 [\(see page 8\)](#)

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

✠ Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 be given anytime at www.saintphilip.net
 or text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts.

Offertory

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

Keith Chapman
 (1945-1989)

✦ Hymn 145 [\(see page 9\)](#)

What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Loving God,
 we give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
 the Word made flesh.
**Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility,
 meekness, and patience,
 that we might extend Christ's love to others. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 136 [\(see page 9\)](#)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo
 BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach
 (1685-1750)

SERVING TODAY

Liturgist

Omar Rouchon

Musician

Matthew Dirst – organist

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26 – *Ministering before the Lord, Samuel grows in stature and favor.*
- Psalm 148 – *Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth.*
- Colossians 3:12–17 – *As God's chosen ones, clothe yourselves in love; be thankful.*
- Luke 2:41–52 – *Three days after Passover, young Jesus is found in his Father's house.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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IN OUR PRAYERS

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

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

Friends of St. Philippians – Cathy Furrh – friend of Sharon Webb; Janet Arnold – friend of Eleanor Grant; 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

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

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

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

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

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

ATTENTION STOCK DONORS!

St. Philip's broker services are with **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 713-306-8267 or amariepoet@gmail.com.

PW RETREAT T-SHIRTS

We would like to open up to everyone the opportunity to purchase the retreat-shirt. It is a black, long-sleeve t-shirt that has been designed with the Wise Women artwork from Jan Richardson on the front of the shirt. If we receive a minimum of 10 shirts the cost will be \$25 each. If we ordered 25, cost would be \$19.00. At either price there will be an additional cost for larger sizes: XXL are +\$1.50, XXXL are +\$2.00. Due to cost variance, we are just asking if you will be buying a shirt, place your order by December 31. If yes, indicate size. Once we have the total number of shirts being ordered we will let you know how much you owe. They would be in by January 22.

Please contact Jan Meyer (jsmeyer9990@gmail.com), Judith Hiott (Judith.hiott@outlook.com) or call the church (713-622-4807) for any questions.

The Presbyterian Women's retreat program will be *Epiphany: Gifts of Wise Women*, drawing from retreat materials created by Jan Richardson—artist, writer, and Methodist pastor—to connect as PWs.

ST. PHILIP SECURITY ALARM

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



Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

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

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,

**we seek to be an inclusive,
grace-filled community,
engaging the world with open minds,
willing hands and generous hearts.**

WE LONG

**for deeper faith,
vibrant hope
and boundless love
for everyone, every day, everywhere.**

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 106 of the Education Building along the Sunday School Classroom hallway on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A Hearing Loop is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your “T switch” to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY’S HYMNS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

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

If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. We also live-stream a midweek prayer on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

Advent and Christmas Worship

✠ **January 2** – Second Sunday of Christmas Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The first communion of 2022 with John Wurster preaching.

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. The class will not meet December 29.

Hymn 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
 for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing
 Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 Swift are winging
 angels singing,
 noels ringing,
 tidings bringing:
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
 vigil till the morning new
 saw the glory, heard the story,
 tidings of the gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing,
 free from sorrow,
 praises voicing
 greet the morrow:
 Christ the babe was born for you!
 Christ the babe was born for you!

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Hymn 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 give ye heed to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today;
 ox and ass before him bow,
 and he is in the manger now.
 Christ is born today!
 Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 now ye hear of endless bliss:
 Jesus Christ was born for this!
 He has opened heaven's door,
 and we are blest forevermore.
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
 with heart and soul and voice;
 now ye need not fear the grave:
 Jesus Christ was born to save!
 Calls you one and calls you all
 to gain the everlasting hall.
 Christ was born to save!
 Christ was born to save!

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Hymn 146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

1 Gentle Mary laid her child
 lowly in a manger;
 there he lay, the undefiled,
 to the world a stranger.
 Such a babe in such a place,
 can he be the Savior?
 Ask the saved of all the race
 who have found his favor.

2 Angels sang about his birth;
 wise men sought and found him;
 heaven's star shone brightly forth,
 glory all around him.
 Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
 heard the angels singing;
 all the plains were lit that night;
 all the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her child
 lowly in a manger;
 he is still the undefiled,
 but no more a stranger.
 Son of God, of humble birth,
 beautiful the story;
 praise his name in all the earth;
 hail the King of glory!

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Hymn 134 *Joy to the World*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her king;
 let every heart prepare him room,
 and heaven and nature sing,
 and heaven and nature sing,
 and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

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Hymn 145 *What Child Is This?*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

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Hymn 136 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

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