



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Voluntary

Chorale Partita on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

Greeting

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

Introit

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Jacques Berthier
(1923-1994)

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

— Isaiah 40:3b | 52:10b

† **Opening Sentences**

A voice cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Lift every valley; lift every voice.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

† **Hymn 83**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

† **The Peace**

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

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Bidding Prayer

First Lesson

THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 11:1-10
O.T. p. 640**Choir Carol***A Shoot Shall Come Forth*Richard Horn
(1938–2004)

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse,
and a bud shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of life shall be with him,
the spirit of wisdom and truth.

*Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard,
and the lion eat straw with the ox,
for the hand of a child shall lead them
to the peaceable kingdom of God.*

From out of the wells of salvation
will he draw us the water of life;
his waist shall be girdled with justice,
the heart of his heart shall be Love.

He'll come from the end of his heaven,
and the earth shall be torn from its place;
our lives shall be filled with his radiance
as the floodwaters cover the sea.

Second Lesson

THE PROMISE OF PEACE

Luke 1:68-79
N.T. p. 58**Choir Carol***Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates*William Mathias
(1934–1992)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory.

– Psalm 24:7–10

Third Lesson

THE PROMISE OF A CHILD

Luke 1:26-38
N.T. p. 56**Solo Carol**

Quia fecit mihi magna
(from *Magnificat* • BWV 243)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

SUNG IN LATIN | TRANSLATION

<i>Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est, et sanctum nomen ejus.</i>	Because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
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Fourth Lesson

THE PROMISE OF PRESENCE

Matthew 1:18-25
N.T. p. 1

Choir Carol

*Never Weather-Beaten Sail*Thomas Campion
(1567–1620)

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 deafs not there our ears nor 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!

Fifth Lesson

THE PROMISE OF LIGHT

Revelation 21:22–22:5
N.T. p. 260

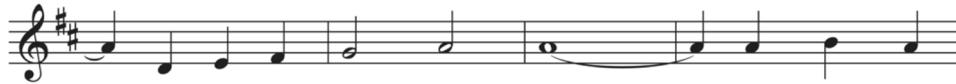
† Congregational Carol

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

LUCENT



1. As the dark a - waits the dawn,
 2. As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
 3. As the moon re - flects the sun
 4. Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

TEXT: Susan Palo Chervien (b. 1953) | © 1996 Susan Palo Chervien, administered by Augsburg Fortress
 MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk (1929–2021) | © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

LUCENT
7.6.8.6.6

Offering

Offertory

Kommst du nun, Jesu, von Himmel herunter
 BWV 650

Johann Sebastian Bach
 (1685–1750)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

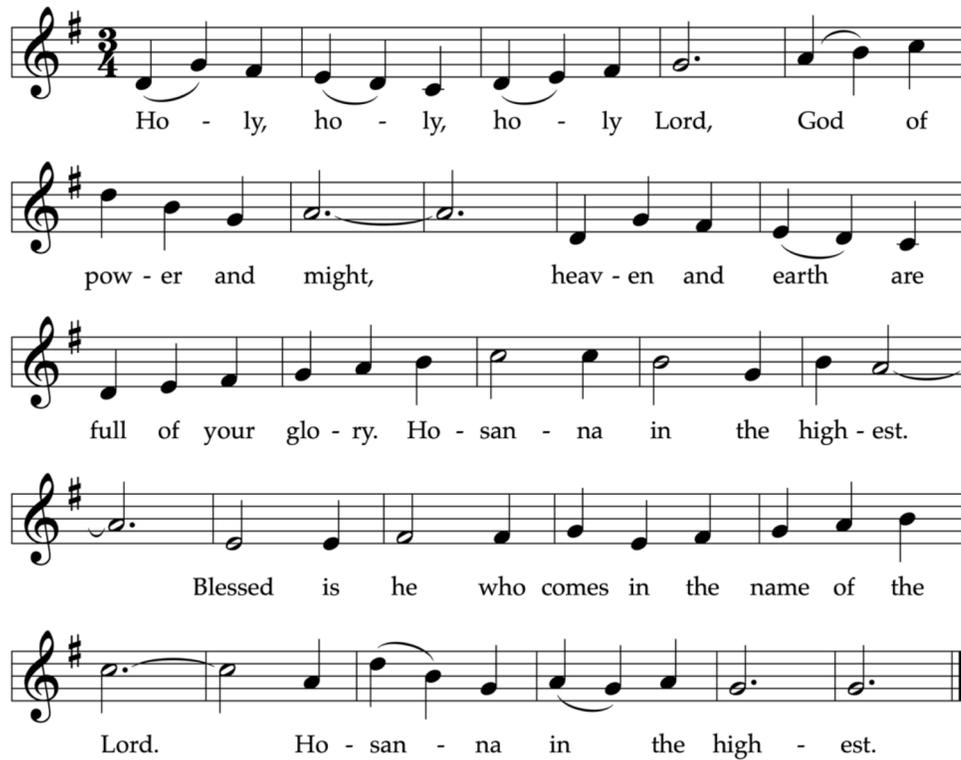
Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:

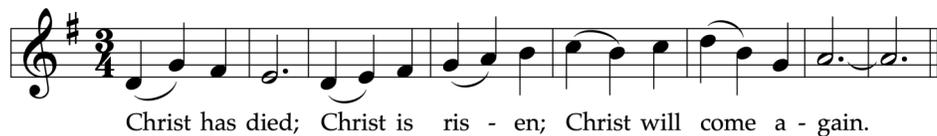


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

SANCTUS (Pavlechko)

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior . . . Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Pavlechko)

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, . . . we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

AMEN (Pavlechko)

As the children of God, let us pray together:

**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.**

The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Anthem

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITUR ALME SIDERUM
setting by Joe Cox
(b. 1954)

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

In sorrow that the ancient curse
should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

— 9th-century Latin hymn
translated by John Mason Neale (1818–1866)

† Prayer after Communion

† Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

† Charge and Blessing

*Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.***Closing Voluntary**Chorale Verset on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*

Georg Böhm

LITURGISTS

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon, John Wurster, Deb Burks and Cathy Patterson

MUSICIANS

St. Philip Choir | Kirby Traylor – baritone soloist

Matthew Dirst – organist | Randall Swanson – music director

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Wayne and Sandra Truxillo to the Glory of God and in remembrance of Wayne's sister Linda and Sandra's brother Emil.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's lectionary readings:

- Malachi 3:1-4 – *The Lord is like a refining fire; God's messenger will prepare the way.*
- Luke 1:68-79 – *Zechariah's song: Blessed is the Lord God, who has come to save us.*
- Philippians 1:3-11 – *The work that God has begun will be completed at Christ's coming.*
- Luke 3:1-6 – *In the wilderness John cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MUSIC NOTES

Organ Music

Today's **opening** and **closing voluntaries** are taken from Georg Böhm's chorale partita (variations) on the Advent chorale *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele* ("Rejoice, O my soul"), a tune that also appears in the Calvinist tradition as Genevan 42, to which we sing the words of the hymn "Comfort, comfort now my people." Böhm's chorale-based works are often highly motivic, with one rhythm or figure animating each section or movement. These variations, which range from the intimate to the celebratory, represent the kind of musical art that attracted the young Sebastian Bach to a boarding school in Lüneburg, near the court of Celle, where Böhm was the Duke's chief musician.

Coming during this morning's **offertory**, Bach's setting of the Advent chorale *Kommst du nun, Jesu, von Himmel herunter auf Erden* BWV 650 ("Come thou, Jesu, from heaven to earth") is the final chorale prelude from a publication of *Six Chorales of Various Kinds* (1748), known colloquially as the "Schübler Chorales" after Bach's longtime engraver. This collection consists entirely of organ transcriptions made by the composer himself from various cantata movements. In the case of BWV 650, the original is an aria for alto with violin obbligato, which makes for a perfect fit on the organ, where three busy contrapuntal lines can be realized effectively by two hands and two feet.

Choral and Vocal Music

Today's **introit** is a joyful four-part canon by French composer and organist Jacques Berthier. Born into a musical family (both of his parents were musicians, his father organist of Auxerre Cathedral), Berthier was approached in 1955 to compose music for the then-fledgling monastic community of Taizé, some 200 miles southwest of Paris. Six years later he became organist at the Church of the Jesuits in Paris, Saint-Ignace, where he worked for the rest of his life. In 1975 Berthier was again asked to write music for Taizé, this time for increasing numbers of young people from around the world coming to worship there. By the time of his death in 1994, he had composed some 232 songs in 20 different languages. *Prepare the Way of the Lord* is one of these, written for the Taizé Community in 1984.

This morning's **first choir carol** was composed in 1993 by Richard Horn, who was a largely self-taught church musician active for many decades in Madison, Wisconsin. *A Shoot Shall Come Forth* features a very simple, melancholic melodic and harmonic framework for verses that open into joyful exuberance at the refrain "then

the lamb shall lie down with the leopard." The carol ends quietly as we are led to "the peaceable kingdom of God."

Our **second choir carol** is a perennial favorite of the choir here at St. Philip. *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates* by Welsh composer William Mathias is "perky, confident, wickedly militaristic and full of Welsh dragons" (Roderic Dunnett © 2009). It was commissioned for the 1973 Oxford University Press choral collection *Anthems for Choirs I*.

Following the third lesson, this morning's **solo** comes from Bach's *Magnificat*, one of his only church works in multiple movements known for its concision. Likely heard for the first time on Christmas Day 1723, it remains a favorite of choirs around the world, thanks to its lively and varied choruses. The verse "Quia fecit mihi magna" ("He who has done great things for me"), set for just solo bass and basso continuo, makes fully human words that often summon bombast in other concerted settings of this canticle.

Today's **third choir carol** is taken from a collection of airs for voice(s) and lute by Thomas Campion, published in 1613. *Never weather-beaten sail* is perhaps Campion's most famous work, and—though his works were largely forgotten for some 200 years after his death—he is highly regarded today for the consistent high quality of his artful poetry wedded so beautifully and carefully to compelling music. T. S. Eliot called Campion, "except for Shakespeare . . . the most accomplished master of rhymed lyric of his time."

This morning's **communion anthem** is a modern setting for mixed voices and piano of the 9th-century Sarum plainsong hymn *Conditor alme siderum*. This arrangement of *Creator of the Stars of Night* was written in 1993 by Texas composer Joe Cox, who was educated in music and theology at Austin College in Sherman and Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The anthem's lilting melodic rhythm and gently flowing piano accompaniment are interrupted only once as the music opens into four-part vocal harmony and more even rhythms at the fifth verse, "in sorrow that the ancient curse..." Returning to the rocking rhythm at the doxological final verse "to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One..." the anthem ends quietly with continuous rippling in the piano accompaniment.

— Matthew Dirst and Randall Swanson



Reaching for the Stars

For Sarah Valentina Hernandez Solache, the colorful city of Zitácuaro in the highlands of Mexico — where millions of Monarch butterflies bathe the fields and forests in a sea of orange during their annual migration — was, and always will be, home. But, despite its beauty, Valentina admits that it simply wasn't a safe environment for her.

"I had an amazing childhood there," said Valentina, who was raised Presbyterian in her local church. "Mexico is beautiful, with the best climate and the best food ever. But it is also a really dangerous country."

The ongoing violence against young girls that terrorized her community while she was growing up was one of the primary reasons her parents decided to send her, like her older sister before her, to pursue her education in the U.S. at the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas. Established in 1911, the school is an international, college-preparatory, boarding school related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that motivates and equips young people for lives of Christian leadership in the global community.

"We met the school thanks to our church, which has a relationship with Pan Am," Valentina said, referring to her alma mater by its common nickname. "They send scholarship award letters to people all over Mexico."

The experience was life-changing and transformative. Both sisters are now distinguished graduates of Pan Am. Valentina is a pre-med student on a full scholarship at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, and her sister is a Houston-based architect.

"Coming to Pan Am and to this Christian community is where I actually found myself and my faith, and where I knew that I loved God," she said. "I found my blessing here."

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, like Pan Am, prepare young people to become leaders in the Church and the world.

"The generous people who give to Christmas Joy give us scholarships and the opportunity to continue our education in the United States," she said. "I will always be grateful for that. But beyond that, they have also given us a lot of hope. All of the things I always dreamed about, thanks to them, they are making me feel like it can actually happen."

The president of Pan Am, Dr. Gordon A. Govens, states, "Through the sharing of the Christmas Joy Offering — and prayers — every student receives the gift of reaching his or her full potential." In other words, with our gifts to this offering, hope turns into dreams. Dreams turn into reality. And all of a sudden, those stars are within reach.

You may give to the Christmas Joy Offering throughout December in worship at St. Philip or through the online giving portal in MyStPhilip.

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Beth Flowers; 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; Kelsey Higgs Gallegos & family – daughter of Nancy Higgs; 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 – 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

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

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.



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.

Payments can be made online – please choose Flowers/Holiday, then in the memo note 'Point'. Email whom you wish to honor/remember to lorrie@saintphilip.net

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

[Our website](#) has information about **opportunities on Zoom and in person** for fellowship and spiritual formation.

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP - 11:00 a.m. each Wednesday in December. A service of scripture, song, and prayer with brief reflections from the pastors. Join us in-person or online.

CHURCH & SOCIETY - 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom - **December 12** - Current and Future Plans for the Rothko Chapel - The Rothko Chapel, one of the world's most celebrated sacred art contemplative spaces, is undergoing a comprehensive restoration and campus expansion as part of its 50th Anniversary and the *Opening Spaces* site development plan. This holistic plan includes restoration of the Chapel, enhanced grounds, and new facilities including a visitor welcome house, administration and archives building and program center allowing the Chapel to further its dual mission: to offer a space for community and interfaith encounters, celebration and contemplation, as well as to foster community engagement on critical social justice issues. The *Opening Spaces* restoration campaign ensures the Rothko Chapel's future for generations to come as it strives to meet the needs of an increasing number of visitors and more fully address the pressing human rights issues of the day. Presented by David Leslie - Executive Director of the Rothko Chapel. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes church: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

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 Nina Lambright at NNL@lambrightlaw.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.

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.



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 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 AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP—Midweek service of scripture, prayer, and song; Wednesdays at 11 a.m. The Christmas services will be **December 24** with a 5:30 p.m. with a whimsical telling of the story of Jesus’ birth and a candlelight service at 8:00 p.m.