



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Preparation for Worship

*Because there is still much unrest in the world and in our hearts, we light a candle of peace.
 Because hatred is still strong, we light a candle of peace.
 May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming,
 on earth as it already is in heaven.*

Voluntary

Variations on *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

Greeting

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

Bell Introit

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Kris Anthony
NOËL NOUVELET

Sing we now of Christmas,
 Noel, sing we here!
 Hear our grateful praises
 To the babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
 Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

- Traditional French carol, 15th century

Lighting of the Advent Candles

✠ Hymn 93 ([see page 13](#))

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

✠ Prayer of Confession

Cleansing God,
 we hear the call to repentance,
 but we struggle to respond.
 A voice tells us to turn around,
 but we prefer our own ways.
 You seek to purify us in love,
 but we constantly elude your searching hand.
 Our sin leads us in other directions,
 away from you, away from life.
 Look with mercy upon us.
 Clear a place within us
 so that something new might be born,
 so that we might return
 to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.
 Amen.

silent prayer

✠ Response *(sing 3times)*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

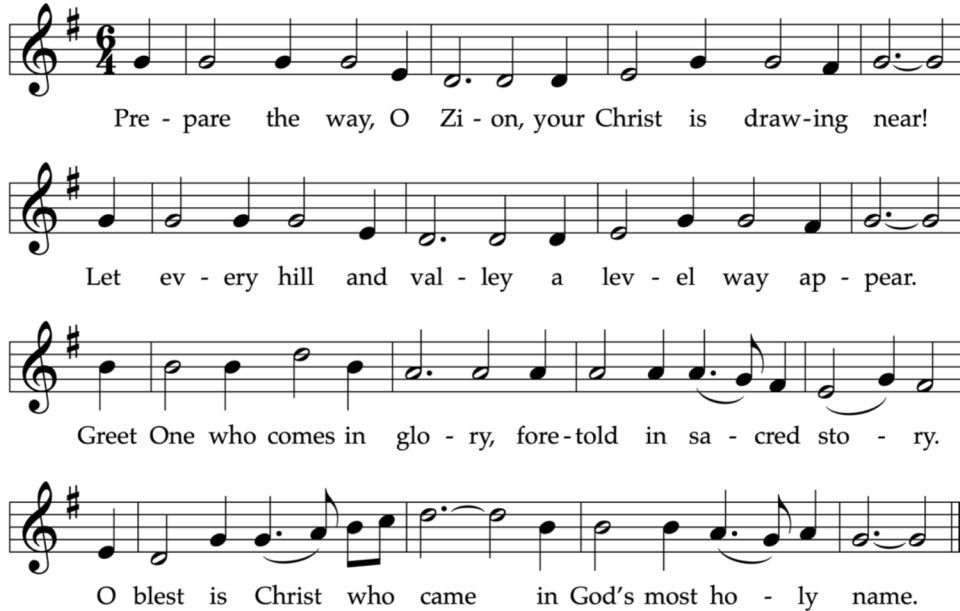
TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
 Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WAIT FOR THE LORD
 8.8

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✦ Response



Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

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 VÅG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.6

✦ The Peace

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

Anthem

He Is Born

arr. Trevor Manor

He is born the divine Christ Child;
 Play on the flute and the bagpipes merrily!
 He is born the divine Christ Child;
 Sing we all of the Savior's birth.

In a stable He was born;
 In a manger was His cradle.
 In a stable He was born,
 Humble Babe of Bethlehem.

Through long ages of the past,
 Prophets have foretold His coming;
 Through long ages of the past;
 Now the time has come at last!

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
 Coming as a Child among us,
 Jesus, Lord of all the world,
 Grant to us Thy heavenly peace.

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

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

O.T. pgs. 889-890

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

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

N.T. pg. 60

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

Anthem

Deo Gracias – Adam lay i-bounden
From Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

Deo gracias!
Thanks be to God!

Adam lay i-bounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.

And all was for an appil, an appil that he tok,
As clerkès finden written in their book.

Ne had the appil takè ben, the appil takè ben
Ne haddè never our lady a ben hevenè quene.

Blessèd be the time that appil takè was.
Therefore we moun singen.

- Macaronic poem, 15th century

Sermon

Ready – Or Not?

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

✦ **Hymn 104** ([see page 14](#))

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" 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

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted
 from *Messiah*, HWV 56

G.F. Handel
 (1685–1759)

Every valley shall be exalted,
 And every mountain and hill made low;
 The crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

- Isaiah 40: 4

✦ Litany for Advent

Among the poor, among the proud,
 among the persecuted, among the privileged,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

In the private house, in the public place,
 in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word,
 with a clear conscience, with burning love,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe,
 that the proud might stumble, that the hidden might be seen,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, behind us, before us,
 in this place, in every place, in this time, for all time,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Christ is coming to make all things new – even you, even me.
Christ is coming. Thanks be to God!

✦ Hymn 105 ([see page 15](#))

People, Look East

BESANÇON

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Toccata on Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Hugo Distler

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

John Judson

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Bell Canto | Ann Frautschi, flute | St. Philip Choir
Children's Music, Julia Fox and Cecilia Duarte, directors | Sherri Dees, percussion | Thomas O' Neill, tenor
Justin Langham, director of music

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Walter King to the glory of God and in celebration of his wife Margaret's upcoming birthday.

WORSHIP NOTES

Advent Candle lighting is led this week by the 2024 Confirmands.

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.*

IN OUR PRAYERS

Robert Estill and family upon the death of Susan Estill on November 26. A memorial service will be held on Monday, December 23 at 11:00 AM.

St. Philippians and their families – Janet Davis; Dick Howard; Elizabeth Cochran; Nancy E. Johnson; Jeremy Mattern; Carmen Stevenson; Nidhal Aldarraji, Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Raquel Calhoun-sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Terese Murphy- cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Douglas Everhart – brother of Nancy E. Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Edith Patterson; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

Friends of St. Philippians – Pete & Gloria Benevides; Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte - friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Annette Covey – friend of Guy & Melissa Aldrich; Stephen Wedemeyer and Mary Watters - friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Bill Ward, Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; 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

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

MUSIC NOTES

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 his contrapuntal yet modernist musical language. 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* (“Sleepers, Wake, A Voice is Calling”) and *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (“Savior of the Nations, Come”). Both chorales date from the 16th century, when this musical idiom was the rage among Luther’s many followers. Today’s **opening** and **closing 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.

Today’s music features several carols of the many that will be a part of this evening’s “Festival of Carols” program, all of which are connected by either a shared region or time period. The French carol *Noël Nouvelet*, or “new Christmas,” exemplifies the joyous singing in community gatherings that took hold as an emerging tradition of the day, as opposed to the more reverent, subdued atmosphere of typical Roman Catholic masses. While still one of the most commonly sung carols in France, the carol is perhaps equally famous in English, which we present in a spirited arrangement as our **introit** featuring flute and a variety of handbell techniques.

Another French carol, **He Is Born** (*Il est né*), often considered the most well-known of the traditional French carols, is recognized by a jubilant refrain and vivid imagery of the humility and joy in a stable at Christ’s birth. Today, the children of St. Philip present a whimsical version that brings the bustling image of the nativity scene in the text to life with flute, percussion, and handbells.

Benjamin Britten’s *A Ceremony of Carols*, Op.28 remains a staple in the choral repertoire during the Advent season due to its timeless text and accessible tunes. Returning to 15th century source material, today’s **anthem**, a setting of a familiar Macaronic poem of unknown origin, relates the events in the third chapter of Genesis as described in medieval theology. The first and second verses draw from the poem’s original narrative of Adam’s bondage until the crucifixion of Christ (“4000 winters”) to the temptation by Eve and the serpent, followed by subsequent redemption of man through the birth of Christ by Mary who was to become the Queen of Heaven (“hevene quen”). The carol ends with Thomas Aquinas’ concept of Adam’s “blessed fault” (*felix culpa*), which led to the redemption of humanity through the death of Christ. Britten illustrates this narrative by gradually increasing in volume, dynamic, and tessitura throughout the movement until arriving in the new key of A major at the start of the third verse. This shift not only redeems the starting key of A minor, but also concludes the set of carols in the same tonal center where it began.

This week’s **offertory**, a continuation of our weekly selections from Handel’s *Messiah*, serves to complete an accustomed pairing of tenor solos along with last Sunday’s introit, “Comfort ye, my people.” Written as a response to the preceding recitative, this animated movement is characterized by rising and falling melodic passages and melismas (many notes sung on one syllable) as musical peaks and valleys. As with many other movements from the oratorio, Handel uses similar ideas to portray accompanying text, such as a cresting figure followed by downward leap at the phrase “and hill made low,” or transforming the words “crooked” and “rough places” from complex phrases into smooth and linear lines at the arrival of the words “straight” and “plain.”

– Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

Festival of Carols

TODAY **AT 5 PM**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SEASONAL FAVORITES
SUCH AS BENJAMIN BRITTEN’S “CEREMONY OF CAROLS,”
A CAROL SING-ALONG, AND MORE!

WITH CHOIR, HANDBELLS, HARP, & UKULELES

Free Admission | St. Philip Presbyterian Church
4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056 | saintphilip.net

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip

f i x

It is the time to adorn our chancel with poinsettias. Beginning right away you have the opportunity to make a donation to assist with this. You can go to the website, saintphilip.net, and click on Make a Contribution. Choose *Flowers/Holiday*. In the optional memo put "Point". Email your honor/memorial designations to Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net. Otherwise, you will receive an email, within a few days asking for names of people you want to honor/remember. Questions? Call Church Office at 713-622-4807.

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 Tuesday, **December 10**. 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*

MONDAYS IN ADVENT—LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM—Dec. 9, 16, and 23 at 9:00-9:20 AM—*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.

YOUNG ADULTS are invited to Keatan and Nate's home for a Christmas Open House on Friday, **Dec. 13** from 5:30-9 PM. Please email Keatan to RSVP at keatan@saintphilip.net

SAVE THE DATE: DEC. 22 at 1:15 PM, anyone filled with Christmas cheer is invited to attend a screening of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at Rooftop Cinema across the street on top of Whole Foods. You can purchase tickets (first come, first serve) online at <https://rooftopcinemaclub.com/houston/venue/uptown/>

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

4:30 PM—A Whimsical Telling of the Birth of Jesus

7:00 PM—Communion Service with the St. Philip Choir

SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH THE MISSION COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PCHAS ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is recruiting volunteers to sort and inventory all the Angel Tree gifts received. They have 3 time slots open right now. They need volunteers to help **Dec. 10** (shifts 10 AM-1 PM and 1-4 PM) and **Dec. 11** (1-3 PM.) The sorting and inventory will take place at PCHAS' Cypress office located at 10242 Greenhouse Road, #501. You can sign up to help by clicking [here](#). If you have family or friends that would like to help, please feel free to share this link with them. If you have questions email mission@saintphilip.net

SEAFARER CHRISTMAS BOX WRAPPING – On Sunday, **Dec. 8**, from 10:30 - 11 AM in the Gathering Area, join us in wrapping the Seafarer boxes with Christmas paper. After church, the wrapping will continue in the Arts & Crafts room from 12 - 1 PM. Sign up in the Gathering Area at the mission table if you can help with the holiday service project.

CCSC JINGLE BELL EXPRESS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – St. Philip members are invited to distribute toys, books, and gift cards to clients on Saturday, **Dec. 14**, first shift 8:45-11:30 AM. The Jingle Bell Express event will take place at Bellaire United Methodist Church (4417 Bellaire Blvd.). If you can join us to spread Christmas cheer sign up in the Gathering Area on Sundays in November and December, or email:

mission@saintphilip.net



O Come all ye hopeful seekers

FOR GENTLE YOGA & CENTERING PRAYER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
10 AM - 12 PM
[MEET IN THE GATHERING AREA]

ALL ARE WELCOME!
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

CONTACT BETSY BOSTON FOR MORE INFO.

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4807 SAN FELIPE, HOUSTON, TX 77056 | SAINTPHILIP.NET



Advent Meditations

WEDNESDAYS AT 12 PM

A WEEKLY OFFERING OF MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 A.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—ROOM 103

CHILDREN: Grades 1-4—Room 105—From the Manger—Olga Piskor & Jon Martin. Hunger is a universal human experience, so it's no wonder that the story of Jesus—the one who came to feed the hungry—begins, ends, and centers around food. We will see how the baby born in a bread town continues to feed a hungry world today. Matching Advent calendars available for children, families, and anyone else who wants them.

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—DINING ROOM—On recess until January.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—On Dec. 8, we will begin our study of Proverbs in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 to 10:40 AM 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 AM—10:40 AM with presentations in person and by Zoom. Dec. 8 - *The Music for Advent at St. Philip* - Presented by Justin Langham. Come to C & S class for a time to get better acquainted with our St. Philip Director of Music, composer, performer, and educator - Justin Langham. Justin will give us a preview of "Festival of Carols" which will be on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:00 PM Festival of Carols features an evening of seasonal favorites such as Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols," a carol sing-a-long and more, with choir, handbells, harp and ukuleles! Dec. 15 - The Hidden History of Smallpox, Slaves, Turks, and Puritan Preachers - Many Americans have heard the story of the Pilgrims arriving on the Mayflower and surviving the first winter with the help of Indians. A century later, a ship arrived in Boston that brought an even greater challenge to Puritan society. That usually untold story counters our modern myth that religion and science have usually been in conflict. The seemingly improbable hero of those events in the early 1700's was a Puritan preacher who sought to do good using science. Presented by Bruce Yaeger, author of *Wrestling Brothers: Rethinking-Science Relationships* and *Spirited Bodies Beneath the Stars: Science & Spirituality Together*. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_sphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing 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. The Children's Chapel is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 PM to read and discuss our faith responses to social justice issues. The current study book is Barbara McQuade's *Attack from Within; how disinformation is sabotaging America*. Join us! Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at: sjj10223@gmail.com.

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan King at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible Study with John Wurster is on recess until Jan. 10, 2025.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is Dec. 12 at 7:00 PM. This will be a social gathering. 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 AM. We are learning from *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

Thanks to all who have already made a 2025 pledge. Pledge cards can be placed in the offering plate Sunday or mailed to the church office. There is also an online option through [MySaintPhilip](#).

2024 pledge payments and additional gifts will help us bring this year's budget into balance.

PLEDGES AS OF 12/1/24


Year	# of pledge cards	Pledged	Difference from 2024
2024	144	\$1,100,552	
2025	116	\$993,748	(\$106,804)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S
Christmas Luncheon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
 AFTER 11 AM WORSHIP
 [IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL]

CATERED LUNCH: \$20
 Please bring **COOKIES!**

RSVP & PAY BY DEC. 8



[PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON]

All women are invited to participate in this time of Fellowship.

*Duerr
 Lecture
 Series*



NEXT YEAR 2025

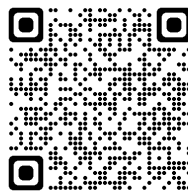
Mark your calendars for next year's event



Dr. Brian K. Blount

President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA
 Scholar, Author, Pastor

Speaker for the 28th Annual Duerr Lecture Series,
February 23, 24, and 25, 2025



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 BULLETINS 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.

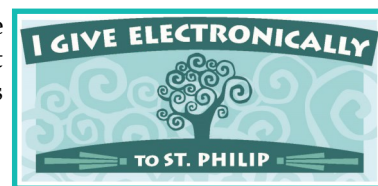
If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 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. 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. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.

Lost & Found – did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.

I Give Electronically – in response to parents' hopes that their children might be able to see their ongoing commitment to St. Philip and with the intent to better represent the totality of our giving as a congregation, we have available in the pews giving cards that can be placed in the offering plate by our electronic givers



Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bid. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

TEXT: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1776

TRURO
 LM

[Return to page 2](#)

Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

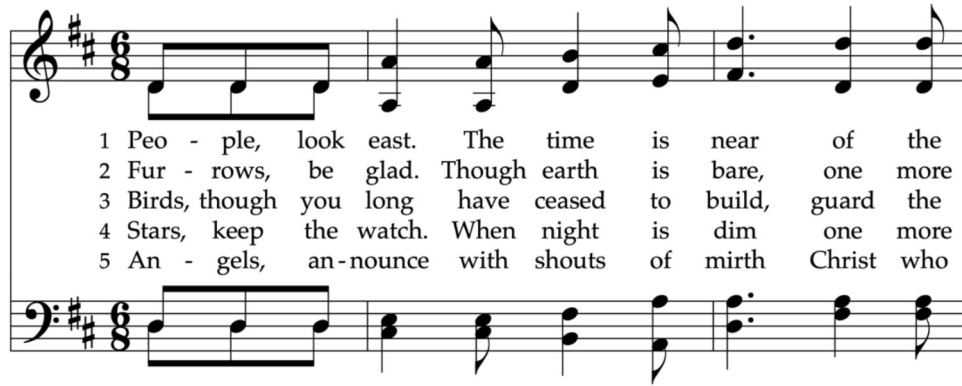
TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Melchior Teschner, 1614; harm. William Henry Monk, 1861

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
 7.6.7.6.D

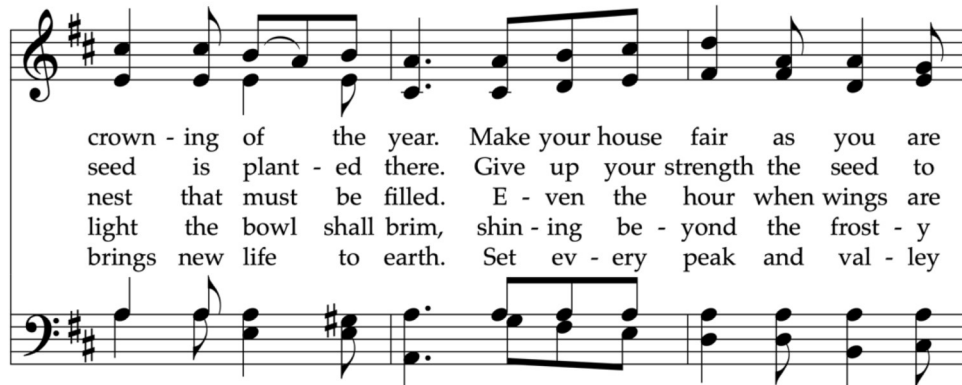
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Hymn 105

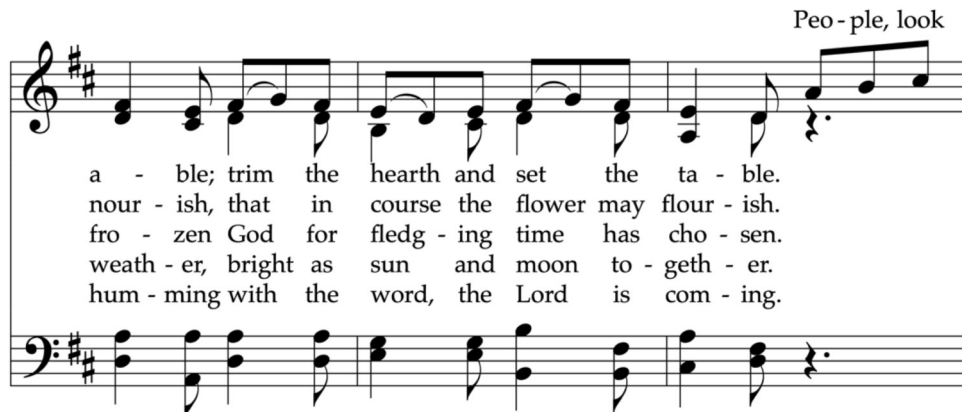
People, Look East



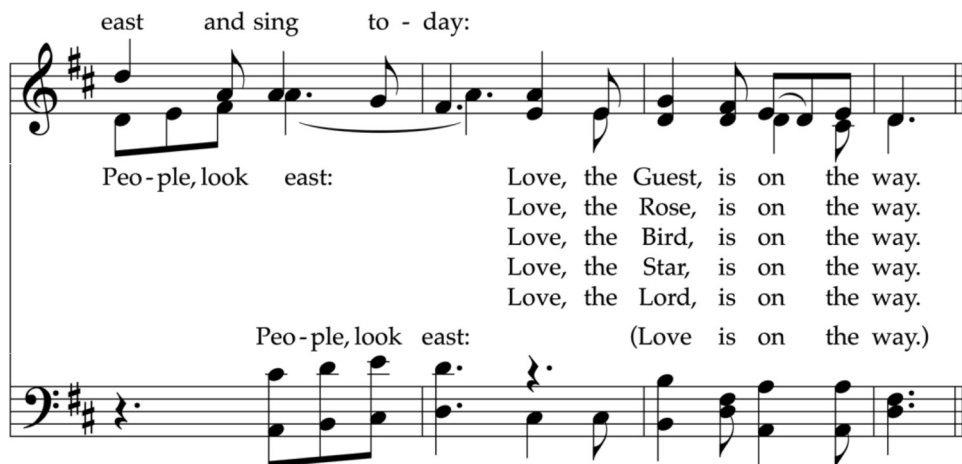
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



Peo - ple, look
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



east and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.
 Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.