



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

Preparation for Worship

*As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen.*

- Book of Common Prayer

Voluntary

Adagio
from "Caecilia Tonstücke für die Orgel"

Carl Ferdinand Becker
(1804-1877)

Greeting

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

Introit

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (excerpt)

arr. Lloyd Pfautsch

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

I am bound for the kingdom,
Will you go to glory with me?
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.

Robert Robinson (1735–1790)

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 687 [\(see page 9\)](#)

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

✠ Prayer of Confession

O God, maker of all things,
 forgive us for pursuing a way that is not your way,
 for embracing truth that is not your truth,
 for living a life that is not the life you have shown us in Jesus Christ.
 Forgive us for a lack of reverence for your creation,
 for a hurried pace that causes us to overlook things that matter,
 for a lack of trust in your providence.
 We have given ourselves to idols.
 We have neglected the needs of others.
 We have falsely believed that everything depends on us.

Forgive us, cleanse us, and restore us.
 Create new hearts within us
 so that we may follow more closely in the way of Jesus.

silent prayer

✠ Response

Justin Langham

Gently ♩ = 72 *Choir*

O God, ac - cor - ding to your un - fail - ing love,

Have mer - cy, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✠ Response

Justin Langham

Gently ♩ = 72 *Choir*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu -

- ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

✠ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-19

N.T. pg. 84

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Anthem*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

arr. Lloyd Pfautsch

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.

I am bound for the kingdom,
 Will you go to glory with me?
 Hallelujah, praise the Lord.

Oh! To grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be!
 Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter,
 Bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love;
 Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,
 Seal it from thy courts above.

Robert Robinson (1735–1790)

Sermon**Who Will Be a Witness?**

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✠ **Hymn 716**[\(see page 10\)](#)*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

verses from The New Testament

**This is the good news which we have received,
 in which we stand,
 and by which we are saved,
 if we hold it fast:
 that Christ died for our sins
 according to the scriptures,
 that he was buried,
 that he was raised on the third day,
 and that he appeared first to the women,
 then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
 and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
 the Son of the living God.
 Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
 the beginning and the end;
 he is our Lord and our God.
 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 for today and pledges for 2026 may be placed in the front basket.
 Gifts may also be given any time at saintphilip.net*

Offertory

He's Got the Whole World In His Hand

arr. Moses Hogan

He's got the whole world in His hands. . . .
 He's got all the power in His hands. . .

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands,
 He's got you and me, sister, in His hands,
 He's got the little baby in His hands,
 He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got mother and father in His hands,
 He's got the stars and moon right in His hands,
 He's got everybody in His hands,
 He's got the whole world in His hands

Traditional African-American Spiritual

✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Dear God,
 with hope and thanksgiving
 we offer ourselves to you.
**Bless our gifts and commitments,
 deepen our faith,
 and strengthen us to follow in the way of Christ,
 as we seek to use well all that we have received. Amen.**

✠ Hymn 691 ([see page 11](#))

Lord, When I Came into This Life

LAND OF REST

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Recessional
from "Ceremonial Suite"

Carlotta Ferrar
(b. 1975)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Juliana Vahora

Musicians

Daniel Boyd, guest organist | St Philip Choir | Mark Marotto, guest conductor |
Daniel Boyd, piano | David Le, baritone | Justin Langham, director of music

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover design by Diana Weiss. The Affirmation of Faith is from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6, Mark 16:9, Matthew 16:16, Revelation 22:13, and John 20:28

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Today's worship service includes traditional African-American Spiritual music. The Black composers of this music are unknown to history and therefore unable to receive royalties directed to their estates for the use of their songs. To remedy this inequity, a fund has been created and approved by the Session where we will collect voluntary "royalties" for using this music. Anyone may donate to the fund by going to the www.saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting African-American Spirituals as the fund. You may also contribute by writing a check with *African-American Spirituals* in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office. This small gesture of reparation seeks to help heal the long history of injury to Black persons. Contributions received over the course of the year will be donated annually to a local organization supporting Black musical traditions.

CAMPUS PLANNING UPDATE - NEXT WEEK

Following worship on **November 23**, we will have a congregational forum in Fellowship Hall with updates on our campus planning process. Earlier this year, the Session authorized an exploration of how to optimize our buildings and grounds to support our current and future ministry. The architectural firm English+Associates was engaged to lead this study. Among the topics considered was the current use of spaces across the church campus, maintenance costs, looming capital expenditures, operational efficiency, environmental sustainability, and security. As the architects studied these topics, they met regularly with our planning team (Dan Boston, John Hartman, John Lemen, Rhonda Sands, Peter Schneider, and John Wurster) and gathered information from the congregation via a summer survey. At last month's Session meeting, the architects shared a very general design concept of an efficient campus plan that involves removing buildings that are past their useful lives and adding a new building that will provide better space for our ministry. In response to expressed needs from the congregation, the plan seeks to preserve green space and develop more convenient parking. The Session received this report with a consensus that it should be shared with the congregation for review and comment. In addition to the forum in Fellowship Hall on **November 23**, a presentation will also be held in the dining room on **December 14** at 9:30 a.m. Please come and help us consider how best to use our resources in service to Jesus Christ.

MUSIC NOTES

German organist, composer, and writer Karl Ferdinand Becker was an influential figure in the Leipzig musical scene in the early 19th century, especially regarding the history and music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Beginning his training at the Thomasschule, where Bach himself had also taught, Becker eventually worked as organist at prominent churches in central Leipzig and was one of the founders of the Leipzig Bach Society in 1850. Our **opening voluntary** comes from a Bach-like compilation of short pieces for the organ.

Written by then 22-year-old pastor Robert Robinson, the familiar hymn **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"** dwells on the theme of divine grace found in 1 Samuel 7:12. Normally set to the tune "Nettleton," today's arrangement by Lloyd Pfautsch instead features the "Warrenton" tune, which first appeared in the "Southern Harmony" collection in 1838 and is written in a duple meter (4/4 or 2/2 cut time) rather than the triple meter found in most hymnals. To make this alternative tune fit the text, the second half of each verse is replaced with a revival-style refrain. Pfautsch's version also highlights the character of each text with various dynamic and vocal shifts between verses.



IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Kay Cash; Pam Taylor; Deb Burks; Sondra Sullivan; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Wilma Grether – mother of Kurt Grether; Raquel Calhoun & family - sister-in-law of Pam Keever; Kathy Bailey and family-sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith – cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes – daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; George and Larraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians – Ann Swanson- friend of Deborah Unruh; Kitty Manson and family; Sidney Roach, Lori Childers O'Connell, Joyce Freudenberg- friends of Stephen Paine; Chris Deflandre – friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood – friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende – friend of Beth Atkinson; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; Mary Watters and Mindy Cooper-Smith – friends of Bill and Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett - friends of Robin and Gary Willis; 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

Moses Hogan's arrangement of the traditional spiritual **"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"** transforms the familiar spiritual into a powerful statement of faith. Beginning with gentle simplicity, the familiar tune grows in drama and dynamic with each passing verse, culminating in a declamatory conclusion. The simple tune is enhanced by a constantly flowing piano accompaniment, which supports its musical and emotional transformation throughout.

Award-winning Italian composer Carlotta Ferrari, known for a distinctive blend of past and present musical styles, has been commissioned and performed around the world. A champion of fellow women composers, her recordings such as *Women of History: Music for Organ* by Carlotta Ferrari highlight influential figures from previous eras. Our **closing voluntary**, the final movement of her *"Ceremonial Suite,"* contains several nods to Baroque style like imitative counterpoint, sustained notes in the pedal, and modernized harmonic relationships.

- Justin Langham



MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SEARCH **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21**
10:30 AM - 12 PM
 HOMELESS SERVICES SEARCH HOMELESS SERVICES OFFICE
 2015 CONGRESS STREET | 77002

**HELP SERVE A MEAL, MINGLE & PLAY BINGO
 WITH HOMELESS CLIENTS!**

**SIGN UP BY CALLING MARY MCGUIRE
 OR EMAIL: MSTXMAC@YAHOO.COM**



Advent at St. Philip

Advent Lectio Divina

Mondays of Advent-December 1-22, 9:00-9:20 am on Zoom

Lectio Divina is an ancient method of contemplative reading of scripture. Keatan will read scripture, prompt reflection, and offer space to reflect silently via Zoom, so that participants may take time to slow down in the season of Advent to joyfully anticipate the coming of Christ. Email Keatan King at keatan@saintphilip.net to receive the weekly Zoom link.

Praying toward Bethlehem:

Advent Self-Directed Prayer Stations

Sundays of Advent-November 30-December 21 9:15-10:50 am in Room 205

To orient our hearts to the great joy awaiting us in Bethlehem, you are invited to a weekly rotating set of self-directed prayer stations centered on God's covenant promises in Scripture to love us, save us, and come among us in Christ. Using the art and devotional readings of Ann Voskamp's *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift*, each station invites you to pray at your own pace using a variety of meditation techniques and sensory experiences

**VACATION
 BIBLE SCHOOL**
DECEMBER 6, 9-2 PM
[register]
SAINTPHILIP.NET

**DONATIONS REQUESTED
 FOR THE SEAFARERS**
 CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

DISPOSABLE RAZORS
BAND AIDS (FABRIC)
 COTTON SWABS CHEWING GUM
 HANDKERCHIEFS OR HARD CANDY
GOLD BOND CREME
SINGLE-WRAPPED TOOTHBRUSHES
 TOOTH PASTE POCKET-SIZED NOTEBOOKS MAGNETS
 SHAVING CREAM
 SEWING KIT (SMALL) SOCKS
 TEXAS SOUVENIERS TISSUES WORD SEARCH / SODUKO
 EARBUDS/HEADPHONES
 DENTAL FLOSS LIP BALM
 BODY WASH (LIQUID)
 FLASHLIGHTS (W/ BATTERIES) HAIR COMBS
 PLAYING CARDS T-SHIRTS (NEW)
 BASEBALL CAPS (NEW) NAIL CLIPPERS
 MECHANICAL PENCILS/PENS
 NON-PERISHABLE SNACKS

**PLEASE PLACE THE ITEMS IN THE DESIGNATED
 BOX IN THE GATHERING AREA OR IN
 THE CHURCH OFFICE MAILROOM.**

Financial Update

Total Revenue: \$1,276,053

Total Expenses: \$1,433,745

Pledge payments and other gifts will help bring our budget into balance by the end of the year. Thanks!

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP

GLORIA!
St. Philip Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 7 | 5 pm



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 has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off the Gathering Area 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 the Library 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, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.



St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. To support the school, **please make all contributions directly to St. Philip Day School**, rather than to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Please make checks payable to “St. Philip DAY SCHOOL” You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

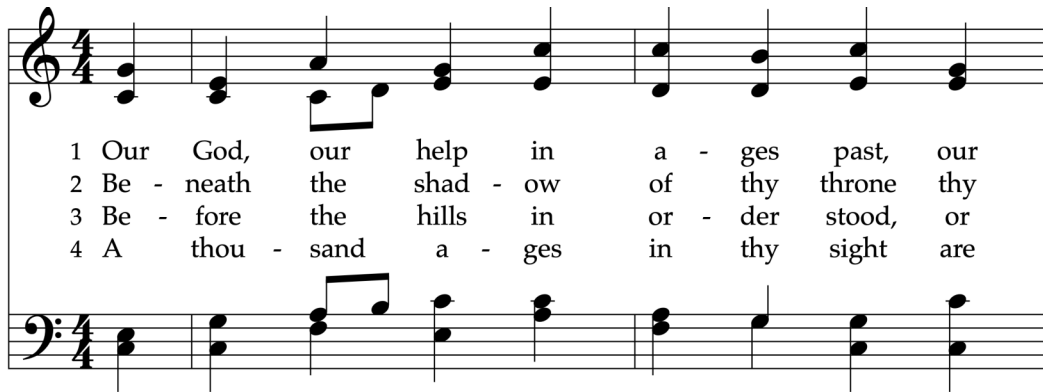
Lost & Found—did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.

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.



Nametags—Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.

Hymn 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past


1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
 CM

Hymn 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.

MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 *The Hymn Society* (admin. *Hope Publishing Company*)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D

Hymn 691

Lord, When I Came into This Life

1 Lord, when I came in - to this life you
 2 With - in the cir - cle of the faith, as
 3 In all the ten - sions of my life, be -
 4 So help me in my un - be - lief and

called me by my name; to - day I come, com -
 mem - ber of your cast, I take my place with
 tween my faith and doubt, let your great Spir - it
 let my life be true: feet firm - ly plant - ed

mit my - self, re - spond - ing to your claim.
 all the saints of fu - ture, pres - ent, past.
 give me hope, sus - tain me, lead me out.
 on the earth, my sights set high on you.

Written for the confirmation of the author's son, this text of self-dedication also voices our recurring individual need to recommit ourselves in less formal ways. The familiar shape note tune enhances a sense of finding our place among God's people from all times and places.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1976

MUSIC: American folk melody; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

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Music Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 545)