



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 25, 2025

### Preparation for Worship

*There is perhaps no stronger reason for reading the Bible than that somewhere . . . there awaits each one of us, whoever we are, the one question that is the central question of our individual lives.*

— Frederick Buechner

### Voluntary

*Toccata in D Minor*  
(*Livre de 1656*)

Johann Jakob Froberger  
(1616-1667)

### Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

### Introit

*Cantate Domino*

Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni  
(1657-1743)

*Cantate Domino canticum novum,  
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.  
Lætetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum,  
et filii Sion exultent in rege suo.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the saints.  
Let Israel rejoice in He who made them,  
and the people of Zion rejoice in their King.

Psalm 149:1-2

### ✠ Opening Sentences

### ✠ Hymn 327 [\(see page 9\)](#)

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

## ✠ Prayer of Confession

Holy God,  
 you have shown yourself to us in Jesus,  
 perfect in every way,  
 compassionate and kind,  
 faithful and loving,  
 gracious and hospitable.  
 We stumble and fall as we seek to follow him,  
 struggling to make his ways our ways.  
 Our sins are real, and they are many.  
 Forgive our failings  
 and encourage us to start again.

*silent prayer*

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

## ✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## ✠ Response

Fintan O'Carroll



MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

## ✠ The Peace

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

## Conversation with Children and Teacher Recognition

*Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.*

*Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.*

## Prayer of Illumination

## Gospel Reading

John 5:2-9

N.T. pg. 96

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

**Anthem**

*The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God*  
from "The Creation," Hob. XXI:2

Franz Joseph Haydn  
(1732-1809)

The heavens are telling the glory of God.  
The firmament displays the wonder of his works.

As day after day his power declares;  
And night after night his honour affirms.  
In all the lands resounds the word,  
never unperceived, ever understood.

Libretto by Gottfried van Swieten (1733-1803)

**Sermon**

That Is the Question

John W. Wurster

*silence and stillness*

✠ **Hymn 691** ([see page 10](#))

*Lord, When I Came into This Life*

LAND OF REST

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

The Hispanic Creed

Creemos en Dios Padre todopoderoso, (We believe in God the Father almighty)  
**Creator of the heavens and the earth;**  
**Creator of all peoples and all cultures;**  
**Creator of all tongues and races.**

Creemos en Jesucristo, su Hijo, nuestro Señor, (We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord)  
**God made flesh in a person for all humanity,**  
**God made flesh in an age for all the ages,**  
**God made flesh in one culture for all cultures,**  
**God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.**

Creemos en el Espíritu Santo, (We believe in the Holy Spirit)  
**Through whom God incarnate in Jesus Christ**  
**Makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures;**  
**Through whom, God, Creator of all that exists,**  
**Gives us power to become new creatures;**  
**Whose infinite gifts make us one people: the body of Christ.**

Creemos en la Iglesia, que es universal, (We believe in the Church universal)  
**because it is a sign of God's Reign,**  
**Whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues**  
**Where all the colors paint a single landscape,**  
**Where all tongues sing the same praise.**

Creemos en el reino venidero — (We believe in the coming Reign of God)  
**the day of the Great Fiesta —**  
**When all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,**  
**When all peoples will join in joyful banquet,**  
**When all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.**

Y porque creemos, nos comprometemos (And because we believe, we commit ourselves)  
**To believe for those who do not believe,**  
**To love for those who do not love,**  
**To dream for those who do not dream,**  
**Until the day when hope becomes reality. 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 any time at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net)*

## Offertory

*Quia fecit mihi magna*  
 From Magnificat in D Major, BWV 243

Johann Sebastian Bach  
 (1685-1750)

<i>Quia fecit mihi magna</i>	For he who is mighty
<i>Qui potens est,</i>	Has done great [things] for me,
<i>et sanctum nomen eius.</i>	And holy [is] his name.

Luke 1:49  
 (trans. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed)

## ✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
 We give you thanks, great God,  
 for the hope we have in Jesus,  
 who died but is risen and rules over all.  
**We praise you for your presence with us**  
**and for the promise that nothing past,**  
**present, or yet to come can separate us from your love**  
**in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ✠ Hymn 295 [\(see page 11\)](#)

*Go to the World!*

SINE NOMINE

## ✠ Charge and Blessing

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

## Voluntary

*Toccata in G Major*  
 (Livre de 1656)

J. J. Froberger

## SERVING TODAY

### Pastors

John Wurster | Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

### Liturgist

Selena Brinegar

### Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir  
Tessa Larson, Cecilia Duarte, Thomas O'Neill, & Daniel Boyd, quartet  
Tessa Larson, Thomas O'Neill, & Daniel Boyd, trio | Daniel Boyd, baritone  
Justin Langham, director of music

## WORSHIP NOTES

Today we recognize our Sunday School teachers and give thanks for their ministry: Tim Burgess, Jacquie Colton, Jane Cooper, Sherri Dees, Omi Ford, Joyce Fox, Ken Fountain, John Hartman, Judy Hartman, Jon Martin, Ken Meyers, Liz Miguez, Olga Piskor, Al Waldrop, and Ruthie Waldrop.

### Today's Lectionary readings:

- Acts 16:9-15 – *Hearing Paul in Macedonia, Lydia and her household are baptized.*
- Psalm 67 – *May God be gracious and bless us; let the whole earth praise God.*
- Revelation 21:10, 21:22 – 22:5 – *A vision of the holy city; the river of life flows from God's throne.*
- John 14:23-29 – *Jesus says: Keep my word; the Spirit will teach you; I give you peace.*
- John 5:1-9 – *At the pool of Beth-zatha in Jerusalem, Jesus heals a paralyzed man.*

## FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Nick and Cara Biddle to the glory of God and in celebration of their one year wedding anniversary on June 1.

## MUSIC NOTES

The keyboard music of Johann Jakob Froberger, one of the most influential composers of the 17th century, illustrates how this well-traveled and versatile musician infused Germanic counterpoint into the new Italian genres of his day. The opening of his D-minor Toccata, today's **opening voluntary**, conjures a free improvisation, while its subsequent sections continue the serious mood but in an imitative vein. His Toccata in G Major, our **closing voluntary**, likewise combines free fantasy with imitative counterpoint in a work whose overall structure points toward the later "prelude and fugue" format of Bach and others. Froberger published both pieces in his first book of keyboard music from 1656, which comprises toccatas, canzonas, and capriccios in the Italian style.

The prolific Italian composer, organist, and *maestro di cappella* ("chapel master") Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni made significant contributions to the canon of Baroque choral music, estimated to have penned an astounding 3,500 known compositions, with still other works remaining undiscovered. His *Cantate Domino*, a jubilant setting of Psalm 149:1-2 ("Sing to the Lord a new song"), showcases a mastery of choral style and a reverence for sacred text. Characterized by simple, yet bright harmonies and contrapuntal clarity, this motet invites the congregation into joyful praise, reflecting the timeless call to worship with glad-

ness.

Drawn from *Die Schöpfung* ("The Creation"), Haydn's grand oratorio inspired by the Book of Genesis and the Psalms, today's **anthem** is a powerful declaration of God's majesty revealed in creation. Through his characteristically vibrant choral writing, Haydn gives musical voice to the Psalm 19 text in a contrasting dialogue between the choir and a trio of soloists—representing the day in C major and the night in C minor—in what is one of his most famous and recognizable choruses.

The text for today's **offertory**, beautifully set by J. S. Bach in this solo aria from his Magnificat, is taken from the Virgin Mary's song of praise in the Gospel of Luke. Although most commonly sung or read during Advent today, the Magnificat text was often presented in Latin on high holy days like Easter and Pentecost in Leipzig during Bach's time, and offers a compelling song of praise and gratitude regardless of the season. In what is a relatively brief movement, Bach conveys joy and firmly grounded faith through an unhurried and thoroughly charming melody—yet another earworm from the master.

—Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Meg Scott-Johnson and family upon the death of Meg's husband Richard Johnson on May 16. A memorial service will be held June 3 at 11 a.m.*

*St. Philippians and their families* — Philip McDaniel; Deborah Unruh; Stewart Coffman; Bonnie Moore; Rollie McGinnis; Russell Bahruth; Jeremy Mattern; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Susan Huffman; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Mary Jo Hadley Smith—cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes, daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Jacqui – cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; Terese Murphy - cousin of Gary Gardner and Peg Palisin; Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson and partner John Bonica; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Lillian Perkins – aunt and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

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

*Friends of St. Philippians*—Marianne Keeswood – friend of Kate Burkart; Ann Eustler & Janet Rowlands – friends of Mary McGuire; 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; Claude Bowden – friend of Peg Palisin and Gary Gardner; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett - friends of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, Bill Ward, and Joyce Freudenberg—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](mailto: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.

**THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**  
ST. PHILIP VBS | SUMMER 2025 | MATTHEW 22:34-40

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ARE WELCOMED > THERE IS NO COST**  
ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4807 SAN FELIPE - EDUCATION BLDG.

**LOVING GOD.  
LOVING NEIGHBOR.**

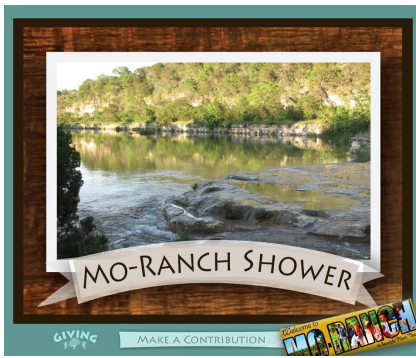
**WEAR CLOSED-TOE SHOES**  
**PLEASE BRING A BAGGED LUNCH**

**SATURDAY JUNE 14**  
9 AM - 2 PM

MORE INFO | REGISTER: [SAINTPHILIP.NET](http://SAINTPHILIP.NET)



[SUMMER VBS 2025]



## MO-RANCH SHOWER

It is a St. Philip tradition to gather funds to assist the housekeeping staff at Mo-Ranch with their work. Each year during the retreat, we present this “Mo Shower” gift as a tangible sign of the congregation’s care and support for the ranch. Please consider donating to this gift in support of Mo-Ranch. Anyone may donate to the fund by going to the [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting *MO SHOWER* as the fund. You may also contribute by writing a check with *MO Shower* in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE ON  
RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 7**

## ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

**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](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP**—What does it mean to be a Christian in these times? How does our faith guide our social justice involvement? Our Study Group meets by zoom on first Monday nights, 7-8 p.m. to read and discuss social justice issues of our day. Join us! Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at:

[sjj10223@gmail.com](mailto:sjj10223@gmail.com).

**WOMEN’S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. Watch your email for summer plans. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: [nnl@lambrightlaw.com](mailto: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. The class is on recess until September. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at [ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com).

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**— Wednesday Bible study with John Wurster meets weekly at 9:30 a.m., and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome! There will be one class on May 28 and then this class will go on summer recess. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: [john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women study year has ended for this year. We look forward to seeing you again in September.

## A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & A CALL TO PRAY

The congregation is being asked to submit recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders (Session), Trustees, and on the Central Mission Endowment Council.

We ask that the congregation wrap this process in prayer. Take some time to pray over the names in the church directory. Who do you believe exhibits spiritual leadership to take St. Philip to the next step? Who has a contagious passion for God? Who might enlarge our vision, empower our members, and embrace a bit of risk? How about you?

**Thank you for your help!**

**Your 2025 Nominating Committee:**

Selena Brinegar (chair), Omi Ford, Sara Jean Jackson, Jane Lee, Dick Nunn, Gay Van Osdall

Please use the online form by scanning the QR code, visiting [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) or going to <https://giving.myamplify.io/App/Form/747420bf-e507-4fbd-9ed4-d0c439560931>



[LEADER NOMINATION]

## DAY SCHOOL WISHLIST

If you would like to donate anything from a children's book to a crib to an Amazon gift card, we would be enormously grateful for your contribution! Review the wish list here: <https://a.co/5d3k87D> or scan the QR code.



[ST PHILIP DAY SCHOOL WISHLIST]

## ST. PHILIP DAY AT DROP OF THE CREATOR

Sunday, **June 8** from 3-5 PM—Come to congratulate Lori and Jeromy Murphy on the opening of their brewery and distillery, Drop of the Creator Spirits Company! Located at 10929 Chimney Rock Rd, 77096, the congregation is invited to stop in for a tour, buy a beverage (alcoholic and non-alcoholic are available), and cheer on the Murphys! Children welcome in the



4807 San Felipe • Houston 77056  
713.622.4807 • [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net)



#### 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](http://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 100 off of 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](http://saintphilip.net) and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net).

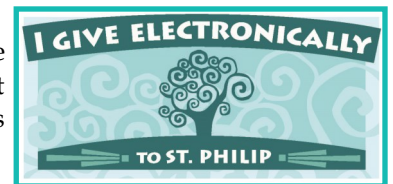
**If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church** by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 327

## From All That Dwell Below the Skies

*Unison*

1 From all that dwell be-low the skies let the Cre-a-tor's praise a-  
 2 In ev-ery land be-gin the song; to ev-ery land the strains be-  
 3 E-ter-nal are thy mer-cies, Lord; e-ter-nal truth at-tends thy

*Harmony* *Unison*

rise: Let the Re-deem-er's  
 long: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! In cheer-ful sound all  
 word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev-ery land, in ev-ery tongue.  
 voic-es raise and fill the world with joy-ful praise.  
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

*Harmony*

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

*Unison*

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.

TEXT: Stanzas 1, 3, Isaac Watts, 1719; stanza 2, *A Pocket Hymn Book*, 1781  
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 LM with alleluias  
 (This tune in a lower key, 10)

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## 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

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

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

LAND OF REST

CM

(alternate harmonization, 545)

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## Hymn 295

*Go to the World!*

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.  
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
 for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1985  
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

SINE NOMINE  
 10.10.10 with alleluias

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