



## Preparation for Worship

*We all are called to service to witness to God's name.  
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,  
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.*

—Rusty Edwards, Hymn 733

## Voluntary

*Carillon*

William Mathias  
(1934-1992)

## Greeting

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

## Handbell Introit

*To God Be the Glory*

arr. Jason Krug  
(b. 1978)

## ✦ Opening Sentences

## ✦ Hymn 401 [\(see page 9\)](#)

*Here in This Place | Gather Us In*

GATHER US IN

## ✦ Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you know our weaknesses.  
Fearful of the future,  
we forget what you have done in the past.  
We see scarcity where you supply abundance.  
We complain when conditions challenge us.  
We begrudge others their success,  
allow envy to divide us,  
and live lives that are unworthy of the gospel.

Generous God, forgive us.  
Help us remember your wonderful works,  
to trust your gracious provisions,  
and to abide in your faithful presence.

*silent prayer*

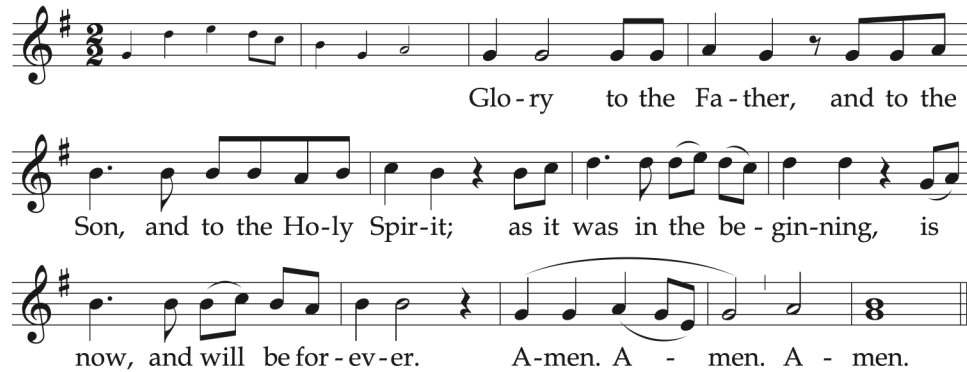
Holy One, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

## ✦ Response

John Weaver  
(1937-2021)



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the  
Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is  
now, and will be for - ev - er. A-men. A - men. A - men.

## ✦ The Peace

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

### Anthem

#### *The Call*

Z. Randall Stroope  
(b. 1953)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light, as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

— words by George Herbert (1593–1633)

## Prayer for Illumination

### Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-41

N.T. pg. 45

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

Tattling or Following?

John Wurster

## ✦ Hymn 432 [\(see page 10\)](#)

*How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

REPTON

## ✦ Affirmation of Faith

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
 and binds us together with all believers  
 in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
 The same Spirit  
 who inspired the prophets and apostles  
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
 claims us in the waters of baptism,  
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
 and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.  
 In a broken and fearful world  
 the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
 to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
 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!"  
 With believers in every time and place,  
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Anthem

*God's Got the Whole World*

Mark A. Miller  
 2020

God's got the whole world in God's hands.  
 God has you and me in those hands,  
 God's got the whole world in God's hands.

— African American spiritual  
 adapted by Mark A. Miller

## 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.

✠ **Hymn 748** ([see page 11](#))  
*(sung twice, second time in canon)*

*Go with Us, Lord*

TALLIS' CANON

## Congregational Meeting

## Charge and Blessing

### SERVING TODAY

#### Liturgists

Keatan King and Omar Rouchon

#### Musicians

Lee Ardell, Steve Carmichael, Elizabeth Duerr, Jeanie Flowers, Jane Malczewskyj\*,  
 Bonnie Moore, Diana Weiss — handbell ensemble      *\*handbell conductor*  
 Julia Fox, Erin McDaniels, Cecilia Duarte, Emily Jenkins,  
 Thomas O'Neill, Nicholas Rathgeb and Kirby Traylor — choral ensemble  
 Matthew Dirst — organist | Randall Swanson — music director

### WORSHIP NOTES

Today's lectionary readings:

- Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 – *Among the elders erupts a controversy over who can prophesy.*
- Psalm 19:7-14 – *Clear me from hidden faults; let my words be acceptable to you.*
- James 5:13-20 – *Pray for one another; faithful prayer brings healing and forgiveness.*
- Mark 9:38-50 – *The disciples find someone else casting out demons in Jesus' name.*

### FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Elizabeth Duerr to the glory of God and in memory of her mother, Goldie Ham Hanson (G. Suttle Ham, MD) a charter member of St. Philip.

## MUSIC NOTES

### Organ Music

Welsh composer William Mathias was one of the leading lights of British church music for many years. His compositions include numerous anthems sung by the choir here at St. Philip over the years, including a spirited setting of *Lift Up Your Heads* and *Let the People Praise Thee, O God*. Among his numerous organ works is this morning's *Carillon* whose varying textures—from gentle tintinnabulations to clangorous ostinatos—remind us of the diverse kinds of sounds of church bells but via various sonorities of the organ.

— Matthew Dirst

### Handbell Music

This morning's instrumental introit is a brief hymn-tune arrangement by Indianapolis-based composer Jason Krug, who has written over 400 handbell compositions, as well as other works for piano, organ, choir, and string orchestra. Krug's setting of *To God Be the Glory* is written for a small handbell ensemble of just six ringers.

### Choral Music

Today's **first anthem** is by American composer and conductor Z. Randall Stroope, whose composition teachers included Cecil Effinger and Normand Lockwood, both students of the renowned French teacher/composer Nadia Boulanger, who was herself a student of Gabriel Fauré. That lineage is evident in Stroope's profound setting of its even more profound text by George Herbert. Herbert's poetry, like that of his contemporary, John Donne, is a field of contest in which the poet grapples with God,

confronting his own sin and doubt. But Herbert's verse also radiates joy and gratitude. *The Call* is an affirmation of faith so powerful it bursts the bounds of its plain language, welling up and spilling over with emotion.\* Composed in 2006, Z. Randall Stroope's deeply affecting musical setting of Herbert's poem is written for four-part choir and organ.

This morning's **second anthem** is a new work by American composer Mark A. Miller, based on the well-known African American spiritual of similar title. *God's Got the Whole World* was written in 2020 and dedicated to Ken Dake and the Marble Collegiate Church Sanctuary Choir in New York City, and is composed for unaccompanied four-part choir with some divisi in up to seven parts. Its text is freely adapted from the original spiritual, and its music hints at the original without ever directly quoting it. The dreamlike result is moving and prayerful and new in every way. A graduate of The Juilliard School (M.Mus. in Organ Performance) and Yale University (B.A. Music), Mark A. Miller has been a Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School since 2006. He also serves as Professor of Church Music, Director of Chapel, and Composer in Residence at Drew University in Madison New Jersey, and Minister of Music at Christ Church (UCC & American Baptist) in Summit, New Jersey. In 2017 he was appointed to serve on the Hymnal Revision Committee of the United Methodist Church, his home denomination.

— Randall Swanson and \*Deb Burks

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Micah Meyers.

Gloria Patri © Estate of John Weaver. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*St. Philippians and their families*—Joyce Fugit; Sondra Sullivan; Orlean Anderson; Dorothy Murphey; Bill Slick; Deb Burks; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Shirley Coffman; Ellen MacDonald; Arlette Keene; CJ Miller; Mezgebe Gebray; Dan Hayes—father of Lorrie Castle; Dave Berry—husband of Sam Fisher; 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; Alice Barron—sister-in-law to Beth Atkinson; 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 Jaqueline 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; Rob Bond, Lavon Thomas, and Jackson Tavel—friends 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](mailto:deacons@saintphilip.net).

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

**CHURCH & SOCIETY - Today** - 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. by Zoom - *Rachel Carson and Glimpses of God* - A discussion of an article by Bruce Yaeger - This presentation will show how religious, spiritual, and literary influences became integrated with scientific knowledge in the life of Rachel Carson. **October 3**—*Concentrated Poverty in Schools as Redlining's Legacy - Undoing it Should be Ours* presented by Prof. Ruth Lopez Turley - Director, Houston Education Research Consortium, Associate Director of Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Prof. Of Sociology, Rice Univ. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes: [churchsociety\\_stphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net)

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

**Save the date** The mission committee will have a collection drive on **October 16** from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. for [House of Tiny Treasures](#) a program of Search.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting today, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service of worship. The purpose of the meeting is the election of elders for the Session class of 2024. The meeting will be a hybrid – members can participate in-person or online through the livestream on the church website. The meeting will appear on the livestream immediately following the service.

The Congregational Nominating Committee will nominate **Melissa Aldrich, Beth Atkinson, Walker Fair, Angelina Fonseca, Nancy Higgs, Susan Leonard, and Jon Martin**. Additional nominations may be made at the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

FYI—The membership of the Session consists of ordained and installed Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (Pastors), all elected by the congregation. Session members are responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation and for oversight of all the programs and ministries of St. Philip. The Session carries out its work primarily through its Standing Committees. The session meets the third Tuesday of each month.



### Coming in October: Fresh Air Fellowship

The Christian Education Committee invites you to Fresh Air Fellowship: an intergenerational time for us to reconnect on Sunday mornings in October between the 9 and 11 o'clock worship services. Starting October 3, we invite St. Philippians of all ages to gather on the lawn from 9:45-10:30am for conversation, prayer, crafts, and games in response to a different big question posed in the gospel of Mark. Breakfast and coffee will be available. Watch your email for more details in coming weeks!





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](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 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](http://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.

**MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE—Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.** This service is live-streamed from the Sanctuary and also available for later viewing on our website. If you’d like to attend the midweek service in-person contact the church office.

**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.





1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a - way: here in this place the new light is shin - ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly;  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

## Hymn 432

*How Clear Is Our Vacation, Lord*

REPTON



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
 2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:  
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -  
 if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -  
 whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your  
 in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to



stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
 wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.  
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.  
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1981  
 MUSIC: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

REPTON  
 8.6.8.8.6.6

[\*Return to bulletin\*](#)

## Hymn 748

## Go with Us, Lord

## TALLIS' CANON

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and

ev - ery com - ing day, that in your Spir - it

strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

*\*May be sung as a canon.*

This very accessible sung prayer was created by the director of children's ministry at the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, for use by their children's choir, but it is suitable for people of all ages. The familiar tune makes it easy to learn and to memorize.

TEXT: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986  
 MUSIC: Thomas Tallis; adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c. 1561  
 Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

TALLIS' CANON  
 LM

[Return to bulletin](#)