

December 3, 2024

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PHILIP-EYE

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Associate Pastor

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Art Director

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Custodian

Denise Ferrell
Bookkeeper

Lorrie Castle
Office Manager
Newsletter Editor



MONDAYS IN ADVENT—LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM—

December 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, **December 13** from 5:30-9 PM. Please email Keatan to RSVP at keatan@saintphilip.net

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 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

DECEMBER 24

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

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

ST. PHILIP VBS | ADVENT 2024 | LUKE 1:46-55

Mary's Magnificent Song

SATURDAY, DEC. 7TH 9AM-2PM
 ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE ARE WELCOMED > **THERE IS NO COST**

PLEASE BRING A BAGGED LUNCH & WEAR CLOSED-TOE SHOES

[FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER VISIT: SAINTPHILIP.NET]

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 4807 SAN FELIPE ST. - EDUCATION BLDG.

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 **December 10** (shifts 10 AM-1 PM and 1-4 PM) and **December 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.

SEAFARER CHRISTMAS BOX WRAPPING

On Sunday, **December 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.

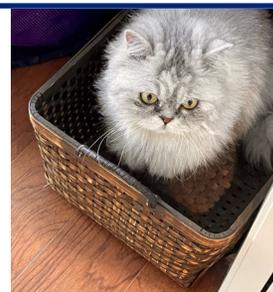
CCSC JINGLE BELL EXPRESS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

St. Philip members are invited to distribute toys, books, and gift cards to clients on Saturday, **December 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

CAT SEEKING A NEW HOME

Brady, a ten-year-old gray Persian, is seeking a new home. He is not a lap cat, but he is very gentle and affectionate and loves to be brushed with his special brush. He does have some health issue, including some clumps in his fur and some digestive problems that require a prescription pet food. If you or someone you know is seeking to adopt a new furry friend, contact Julie Estill at 832-541-1157.



A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Can you feel it? Can you hear it? The bustling holiday season is upon us and the sounds of holiday music fills the air!

This time of year brings many timeless traditions, including all kinds of musical goodies. From favorite Christmas hymns, classic crooner songs, Handel's iconic oratorio Messiah, and of course Mariah Carey coming out of hiding to dominate the radio airwaves, there is no shortage of seasonal music to mark the return of the holidays.

One piece that also gets plenty of playtime among concert halls and sanctuaries alike is *A Ceremony of Carols, Op. 28*, by Benjamin Britten, which has become a staple for choral ensembles and audiences alike. Originally scored for three-part treble chorus, solo voices, and harp, the larger set is structured in eleven movements with text taken from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*. Principally written in Middle English, with some Latin and Early Modern English, Britten composed the collection on a voyage Britten took from the United States to England in 1942, around the same time he completed another of his well-known works, *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, which shares many similarities.

Originally conceived as a series of unrelated songs, Op. 28 was later unified into one piece and bookended by a processional and recessional unison chant based on the Gregorian antiphon "Hodie Christus natus est." A harp solo based on the chant, along with a few other motifs from the second movement "Wolcum Yole", also serves to unify the set, along with harp-like effects, such as overlapping effects between voices in the movements "This Little Babe" and "Deo Gracias." Since this work was written originally with a treble boy choir, many of the movements are written as rounds (think "Row, Row, Row Your Boat") or call-and-response pieces, and are relatively simple lyrically for the sake of the children who would have participated in early performances.

Today's excerpt I'd like to share is probably my favorite movement for the set, "This Little Babe." With text taken from Robert Southwell's *Newe Heaven, Newe Warre* (1595), "This Little Babe" is written in a darker tone that contrasts with the other movements, often using imagery of hell with fiery music to match. The movement depicts a battle between the baby Jesus and Satan (good versus evil) through its swift tempo, polyrhythms, overlapping segments between the voices, and the fact that the song progressively grows in dynamic over the duration of the movement. The music reaches its climax with a striking key change and rhythmic manipulation, ending the piece in the parallel major key. Plainly, this movement rocks.

If you'd like to hear the rest of this wonderful work and much more, we hope you will make plans to attend our "Festival of Carols" this coming Sunday December 8th at 5pm, which will include the children's choir, bell choir, and ukuleles, wonderful harpist, fantastic soloists, and the St. Philip choir.

<https://youtu.be/-IEuxKCB6o8?si=eheFHHjkjseXvi70&t=661>

Justin



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

MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP



Festival of Carols

SUNDAY, DEC. 8TH 5 PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SEASONAL FAVORITES SUCH AS BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S "CEREMONY OF CAROLS," A CAROL SING-A-LONG AND MORE!

WITH CHOIR, HANDBELLS, HARP & UKULELES

Advent Meditations

WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER AT 12 PM

A WEEKLY OFFERING OF MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD

DEC. 4: RUSLAN BAI AZITOV, PIANO

DEC. 11: INGRID GERLING, VIOLIN & ANDREEA MUT, PIANO

DEC. 18: HOPE COWAN, HARP

LUNCH AVAILABLE AFTERWARDS IN GATHERING AREA



SCAN QR CODE TO VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE CAROL TO SING AS PART OF THE SING-A-LONG!

[M.A.S.P. CAROL VOTE]

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

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S Christmas Luncheon

CATERED LUNCH: \$20

Please bring COOKIES!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

AFTER 11 AM WORSHIP

[IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL]

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

RSVP & PAY BY DEC. 8



[PW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON]

WE ARE HAVING A LITTLE BROTHER!

Our sweet family from Afghanistan is having a baby! And yes it is a boy! Our family has worked hard to settle in to their new life here. It has not been easy but they are so grateful. And with no family here, I thought we could be their family. So! I am going to have a shower for Mommy. And if you cannot make it, I will put a box in the Gathering Area if you'd like to gift Mommy with a surprise for the baby. She will need lots of diapers and wipes, and I am sure cute little outfits will make her heart smile.

The baby shower will be **December 8** from 3 to 5 PM in the home of Tina Bryan. If you can attend she would love it! AND! This is not just a girl thing—men and women will be in attendance to celebrate. Give her a shout at 281.536.8816 or email her at tinairene@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks so much!
Tina Bryan



Poinsettias for the Chancel are purchased from The Brookwood Community. Brookwood provides an educational environment that creates meaningful work, builds a sense of belonging, and awakens genuine purpose in the lives of adults with disabilities.

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*

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

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.

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 **December 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. **December 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, **December 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! **December 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 Be-*

neath the Stars: Science & Spirituality Together. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@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 meets weekly at 9:30 AM, 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! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to:

john@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **December 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.



ARS
LYRICA
HOUSTON 

CROSSING BORDERS

Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30pm
St. Philip Presbyterian Church

A festive holiday program: Hispanic music
from the Renaissance and Baroque eras
starring Cecilia Duarte & Camille Ortiz

arslyricahouston.org/crossingborders



Ars Lyrica Houston invites St. Philip members to enjoy complimentary tickets to our festive holiday concert, *Crossing Borders*, on Tuesday, **December 17**, at 7:30 PM. Join us at St. Philip Presbyterian for an evening of music that celebrates Hispanic cultures throughout the Renaissance and Baroque eras, featuring vocal and instrumental works that illustrate how music knits together cultures across time and space. Register below for free tickets!

Please [register here](#).

For more information about the concert, [click here](#).

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. Philipians 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. Philipians – 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledge payments, communion gifts and other gifts to support the Church can be made anytime through our website (<http://saintphilip.net/>), 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 or Lorrie Castle at lorrie@saintphilip.net.

You can still turn in your pledge card via mail, dropping in the offering plate, the church office or going online :> **My St. Philip** (icon at top of webpage) > **Sign In** > enter email & password > **Sign In** > **My Giving Summary** > **Pledge Now** > **Add Pledge** > fill in the appropriate information > **Save**. Thank you!

The next edition of the Philip-Eye will be available:
Tuesday, December 17 - Deadline December 12—3:00 p.m.
 Stay connected with regular emails from the pastors until then.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Philip-Eye, please send them to:
philipeye@saintphilip.net or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Instagram



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