



# PHILIP-EYE

## ADVENT AT ST. PHILIP

Everyone is invited to attend **midweek Advent services**, on **Wednesday, December 6, 13, and 20**. The service begins at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. Lunch is available in the Gathering Area at 12:30. These services of scripture and song are grounded in the Advent themes of hope and expectation. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will also be celebrated. Prepare the way of the Lord!

## OTHER ADVENT ACTIVITIES

- Dec 10 - A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent at 11 am
- Dec 10 - St. Philip Families matinee at Rooftop Cinema at 1:30 pm
- Dec 17 - [Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon](#)
- Advent Mondays - 9 am Zoom Lectio Divina with Keatan

**Rev. Dr. John W. Wurster**  
Pastor, Head of Staff

**Rev. Keatan King**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Omar Rouchon**  
Associate Pastor

**Dr. Matthew Dirst**  
Organist & Interim Choir  
Director

**Diana Weiss**  
Interim Art Director

**Wilbert Parada**  
Facilities Supervisor

**Dimas Parada**  
Custodian

**Denise Ferrell**  
Bookkeeper

**Lorrie Castle**  
Office Manager  
Newsletter Editor

**Susan Estill**  
Editor Emerita



**O COME  
ALL YE HOPEFUL  
SEEKERS**

FOR GENTLE YOGA  
& SILENT PRAYER

SATURDAY - DEC. 9, 2023 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.  
**AT ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
4807 SAN FELIPE | HOUSTON, TX 77056

Come. Step away from the holiday hustle. Give yourself the gift of time. Join us for a morning of gentle yoga and silent prayer during this busy season. We will enjoy the stretching, grounding and centering that comes with yoga, using chairs or your mats in the Gathering Area. In the sanctuary, instruction will be offered on centering prayer/lectio divina. Then we will open our hearts and minds to God's presence with us in the quiet. All are welcome. No experience required. Babysitting available. COME. SEEK. FIND. For more information, contact Betsy Boston at [ehbluzerne@aol.com](mailto:ehbluzerne@aol.com).

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!





### **MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Child care will be available upon advanced notice.  
The menu is gluten free.

**RSVP on Sundays in the gathering area,  
via the Church office, or online at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)**

The church office may be reached at 713-622-4807  
or by email to: [welcome@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcome@saintphilip.net)  
4807 San Felipe Street, Houston, TX 77056

*We look forward to sharing the love of Christ with you  
at this enriching and joyous luncheon.*

*Peace and blessings,*  
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON COMMITTEE**

Saintphilip.net—look for the Presbyterian Women Luncheon  
icon and follow the link to register and pay.

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. PHILIP

### DECEMBER 24

11:00 a.m.— *Let Heaven and Nature Sing*  
A Christmas service of readings, art and music.

### *Candlelight Services*

4:30 p.m. – A Whimsical Telling of the Birth of Jesus

7:00 p.m. – Communion Service with the St. Philip Choir

**MONDAYS IN ADVENT—LECTIO DIVINA ON ZOOM—December 11, 18 at 9:00-9:20 a.m.—***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](mailto:keatan@saintphilip.net).

### PLEDGES AS OF 11/29/2023

Year	# of pledge cards	Pledged	Difference from 2023
2024	104	\$895,262	(\$243,805)
2023	141	\$1,139,067	

Thanks to all who have already made a 2024 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](https://www.saintphilip.net). 2023 pledge payments and additional gifts will help us bring this year's budget into balance.

### *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 Monday, **December 13**. Use additional space below if needed.

I have included a \_\_\_\_\_ check, \_\_\_\_\_ cash or \_\_\_\_\_ will pay online.

Pay online by going to the [saintphilip.net](https://www.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](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net)*



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](https://www.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](mailto: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.

### 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 104

**ELEMENTARY**—Grades 1-5—Room 105

**YOUTH**—Grades 6-12—Room 205

**CHURCH & SOCIETY** -Room 201—Join us from **9:30 a.m.—10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **December 10** - Film Study - “Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio.” We all know the story of Pinocchio - or do we? The story of Pinocchio is famous for the wooden puppet’s longing to “be a real boy.” The character’s desire gently confronts us with what we understand being “real” to mean. Guillermo del Toro returns to the real-life history of its original story, rooted in Italian fascism between the World Wars. Del Toro, well known for his exploration of how our theology is reflected in our relationships, also has much to say about life, death, resurrection, human identity, and the relationship between fathers and sons. Presented by St. Philip Media Guru Kate Burkart - Kate minored in film at Penn State and has been leading film/media studies at St. Philip since 2002. **December 17** - “Our Summer Spiritual Pilgrimage to Montreat and Historical Sites of the Civil Rights Movement” - Join Rev. Keatan King, Rev. Omar Rouchon, and St. Philip senior highs as they recall their journey to the 2023 Montreat Youth Conference - “In-Joy” and their visits to sites of the Civil Rights Movement, including the Edmund Pettus Bridge, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice - (The Lynching Memorial), the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, Little Rock, Arkansas Central High School, and the Whitney Plantation. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

[churchsociety\\_stphilip@comcast.net](mailto:churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net).

**FAITH & LIFE** – Room 200—An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. Using the short stories in *The Gift of Hard Things: Finding Grace in Unexpected Places* by Mark Yaconelli, participants will read a short text in class and then engage in conversation as a group. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**—Room 204—We resumed our study of the Kingdom of Judah at 2 Kings 18 with the story of King Hezekiah in Dr. Robert Alter’s *Ancient Israel, The Former Prophets* (2013). Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40**

**a.m.** 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.

**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. Children will be able to participate in this during the worship service.

## ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**— Wednesday Bible Study with John Wurster is on recess until January 10, 2024.

**LAMBETH STUDY**—Keatan King leads young adults in study every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. 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).

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB**—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **December 14** at 7:00 p.m. and it will be a social so watch your email for details of the next meeting. 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 a.m. We are studying *They Walked With God* by Max Lucado. The book talks about 40 people in the Bible and how God used them. It lets us know that He has a place for us too. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at [ggardne148@aol.com](mailto:ggardne148@aol.com).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP**—This reading and discussion group meets on the first Monday, 7-8 p.m., by zoom. As an activity of the Peacemaking/Social Justice Committee, the group provides a forum for the study and discussion of social justice topics (racism, immigration, globalism, climate change, current events, etc.) within the framework of the church and guided by our faith. The current study book is *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*, by Emmanuel Acho. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at [sjj10223@gmail.com](mailto:sjj10223@gmail.com).

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Tom Anderson and family upon the recent death of his brother John Anderson in Indiana.*

*St. Philippians and their families*—Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Mark Takayama; Ben Dees; Shirley Coffman; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy Johnson; Beverly Baker; Beverly Hudson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Carolyn Vestal; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Alice Woodall-Chisholm – cousin of Mary McGuire; Sheila Kinsky and her children – sister of Bill Connolly; John Palisin – brother of Peg Palisin; Vera Moore – mother of Chuck Johnson; Carla Burns – cousin of Sharon Webb; Robert Kirtley – father of Amanda Kirtley; Susan Everhart – niece of Nancy Everhart Johnson; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Darryl Cazes—brother of Pam Taylor; and Ann Perkins Cloud—cousin of Stephen Paine.

*Homebound*—Elizabeth Arp; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Mary Sinderson; and Sondra Sullivan.

*Friends of St. Philippians*— Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Magdalena Rustomji - friend of Mickey & Ken Meyers; Aleksandra Y. Skochilenko – Nancy Higgs; Caitlan Prescott – friend of Mary McGuire; Mary Watters – friend of Jacqueline Hamilton Taylor; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach– friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Boyd – friend of Kate Burkart; 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).

### 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.

Next edition: **Tuesday, December 19; Deadline December 14—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](mailto:philipeye@saintphilip.net) or call 713-622-4807 and ask for Lorrie.



MATTHEW 25



MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS



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