



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Voluntary

Prelude on REJOICE, REJOICE

Aaron David Miller
(b. 1972)

Greeting

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

✦ **Opening Sentences**

✦ **Introit**

Sing the Lord, Ye Voices All (excerpt)

Franz Josphe Haydn
(1732-1809)

Sing the Lord, ye voices all!
Utter thanks all ye his works.
Celebrate his power and glory.
Let his name resound on high!

From *The Creation*, Hob.XXI:2 (1798)

✦ **Hymn 403** ([see page 12](#))

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

✦ **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name.

silent prayer

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

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✦ Response

Jacques Berthier

1. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 2. in ex - cel - sis De - o!

3. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, 4. al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music: Jacques Berthier, © 1979, 1988, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

✦ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

Afterwards, Children's Chapel meets in Room 203.

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

Anthem

I Choose Love

Mark Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
 In the midst of pain, I choose love.
 In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
 I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace,
 In the midst of war, I choose peace,
 In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
 I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise,
 When my world falls down, I will rise,
 When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
 I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

Lindy Thompson (2016)

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:17-31

N.T. pg. 46

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

One Thing

Brian Blount

✦ Hymn 610 [\(see page 13\)](#)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

✦ Affirmation of Faith

We believe that the church must together
 come to know the height and the breadth
 and the depth of the love of Christ.
 We believe that together we are built up
 to the stature of Christ, the new humanity.
 We believe that we must together
 know and bear one another's burdens,
 thereby fulfilling the law of Christ.
 We believe that we are called
 to admonish and comfort one another;
 to suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness;
 to pray together;
 and together serve God in this world. Amen.

Installation of a Ruling Elder

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

Offertory

Ev'ry time I feel de Spirit

arr. H.T. Burleigh

Ev'ry time I feel de Spirit movin' in ma heart, I will pray.

Up on de mountun ma Lord spoke,
 Out'o His mouth came fier an' smoke.
 Jerdan Ribber chilly an' col',
 Chill de body but not de soul.

All aroun' me look so shine
 Ask ma Lord if all was mine.
 Ain't but one train runs dis track,
 It runs to Heaven an' runs right back.

Traditional African American Spiritual

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we thank you
 for the majesty of your work,
 the wisdom of your word,
 and the generosity of your grace.
**Let the gifts of our lives bear witness
 to your goodness, mercy,
 and steadfast love for all. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 645 [\(see page 14\)](#)

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Suite du 2e Ton: Caprice sur les Grands Jeux

Louis-Nicolas Clémbault
 (1676-1749)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Colleen Nelson, soloist | Thomas O'Neill, soloist
 Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

DUERR LECTURE SERIES - Preaching this morning and speaker for the series, Dr. Brian K. Blount is President Emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary and currently Alonzo L. McDonald Chair in the Life and Teachings of Jesus and Their Impact on Culture at Emory University, Candler School of Theology. He is a graduate, B.A. degree, of the College of William and Mary where he was the first African-American to receive membership in the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Blount received the M.Div. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and then was called to be Pastor of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, VA, where he served from 1982 - 1988. After receiving the Ph.D. from Emory University in New Testament studies in 1992, Blount joined the faculty at Princeton Theological Seminary and served as the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation from 2004 - 2007, when he was called to be President and Professor Of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC, serving there until his retirement in 2023. Blount's primary work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation, and in cultural studies and hermeneutics. Sought after as lecturer, teacher, and preacher, Dr. Blount has published many articles and reviews and is sole author of six books including *Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection (Westminster John Knox Press, 2014)* and *Commentary on Revelation (Westminster John Knox Press, 2009)*. Blount is married and has two adult children.

Lee Ardell is being installed as a Ruling Elder in the Session Class of 2027.

Today's worship service includes traditional Negro 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 saintphilip.net homepage and selecting *Make a Contribution*, then selecting Negro Spirituals as the fund. Members can also access this page on the MyStPhilip app (also linked to from the homepage). You may also contribute by writing a check with *Negro 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.

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Genesis 45:3–11, 15 — *Joseph tells his brothers, "God sent me before you to preserve life."*
- Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 — *Trust in the Lord and do good; you will live in the land and be secure.*
- 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50 — *How are the dead raised? There is a spiritual body, raised in glory.*
- Luke 6:27–38 — *Jesus says, "Love your enemies. Be merciful. Do not judge, but forgive."*

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Elizabeth Duerr and Douglas Duerr to the glory of God in memory of Chris Duerr and in honor of Dr. Brian Blount, speaker for the 2025 Duerr Lecture Series.

MUSIC NOTES

Today's **opening voluntary** takes a recent hymn melody (No. 107 in *Glory to God*) on a rhythmic and colorful ride. Its composer, American organist and composer Aaron David Miller, is also one of the finest improvisers of his generation. Written for the 2016 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists here in Houston, this piece was subsequently published in the *Bayoubüchlein*, a collection of hymn-based organ works commissioned for that event.

Composed at the end of the 19th century, *Die Schöpfung* (The Creation) is widely considered one of Haydn's masterpieces. The grandness and scale of the work is believed to be inspired after Haydn attended productions of Handel oratorios in England, where he experienced various examples of tone painting and huge performance forces. Our **introit** today is normally heard as the grand opening to an energetic choral fugue –a very Handel-esque technique– in Haydn's final chorus of "The Creation," opening our service today in a similar fashion and leading into the opening hymn.

Today's **anthem** was written by Mark Miller as a response to the 2015 massacre when a racist gunman shot and killed nine people during a bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. Through his poignant and deeply personal emotional response to this tragedy, Miller beautifully conveys the heartache and resilience shown by that community in overcoming racism and

meeting hate with love and forgiveness. May we all be filled with such strength today, that in the face of pain, war, and brokenness, we still choose love.

In his writings on the gifts African Americans have given to what he calls "the other occupiers" of the United States, W.E.B. DuBois describes "the gift of Spirit," referring to the indomitable spirit of enslaved people through persistent joy and endurance despite vast injustices. This Spirit, a palpable connection with God and neighbor, is given still today through the singing of timeless spiritual songs that speak of prayer and are prayers themselves. **Ev'ry time I feel de Spirit** explores the presence and power of Spirit through the refrain and several biblical allusions, such as the outpouring of spirits at Pentecost and Jesus' baptism in the Jordan river.

Our **closing voluntary** comes from Louis-Nicolas Clérambault, who served as organist for two prominent Paris churches and was also a chamber musician in the household of Madame de Maintenon, longtime paramour of Louis XIV. His organ works follow the flow of the Catholic mass, with individual movements bearing titles that refer to their particular stop combinations. The "caprice" heard at the close of worship brings his second suite to a spirited close on the "Grands Jeux," the full reed choruses of the organ.

—Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Jo Helland; Peg Palisin; Vada Woodall; Russel Bahruth; Jeremy Mattern; Scott Easterly; Bill Holden; Roderick James; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Ben Dees; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Nancy E. Johnson; Beverly Baker; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Molly Boren-Whitney; Don Padgett; Steve Adger; Judith Crane; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Jacqui – cousin of Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; John & Raquel Calhoun – brother and sister-in-law of Pam Keever; 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 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. Philippians – Erin McDougal, Jacqueline Hazrum, Matias Hazrum – friends of Kate Burkart; Brenda Paulk – friend of Bonnie Moore; Ann Eustler & Janet Rowlands – friends of Mary McGuire; Audrey Eubank Harris, Pete & Gloria Benevides, 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; Tom Barnett - friend of Robin and Gary Willis; Jackie Janacek, 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.

ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 9 TO APRIL 13

9 TO 9:40 AM, SANCTUARY

FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!

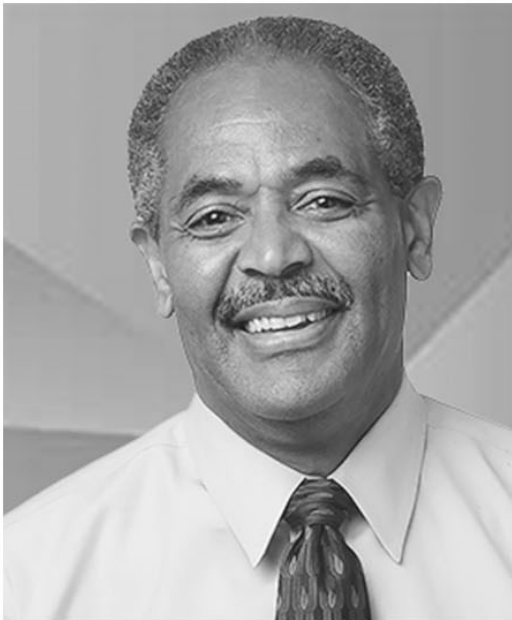


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss

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Querry Lecture Series 2025



Dr. Brian K. Blount

*President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary
Richmond, Virginia Scholar, Author, Pastor*

Presenting lectures

“The Kingdom of God”

Preaching Sunday February 23, 2025.
11:00 a.m. worship.

“One Thing”

Mark 10:17-31

Sunday evening 7 p.m.

“The Kingdom of God”: *God’s Future for our Present*

Fellowship Hall & Live-streamed

Monday February 24, 2025 7 p.m.

“Prophetic Roots of the Kingdom of God”

Fellowship Hall & Live-streamed

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 7 p.m.

“The Future Invades the Present”:

Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Fellowship Hall & Live-streamed

All lectures are free and open to everyone.

Childcare is provided for all lectures by reservation.

Please call the Church office at 713 622 4807.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church

4807 San Felipe at Loop 610. Houston Tx 77056 713-622-4807

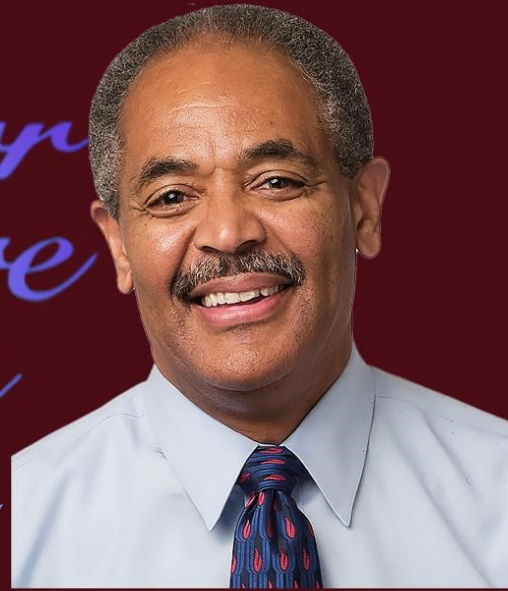
www.saintphilip.net



*Want to learn more
about our Speaker?*

Dr. Brian K. Blount

*Duerr
Lecture
Series*
2025



*Come to our
Brown Bag Lunch*

**Monday February 24
12 Noon in the Dining Room**

Bring your own lunch, drinks provided

MORE INFO AT SAINTPHILIP.NET

OPUS 1 PRESENTATION ON MARCH 2

On Sunday March 2nd, we will welcome students from Opus 1 Chamber Music School, a community organization whose mission is to educate and guide pre-college strings players in chamber music experiences across the Houston area. St. Philip is excited to host one of their student-led ensembles, who will give a short presentation for all ages in the sanctuary at 9:45 am, and offer music during the 11 am service.

2025 LENT AT ST. PHILIP

The season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on **March 5**. We will have worship that day at 12 noon and 6:30 pm. Lunch will be available in the Gathering Area after the noon service. For the next five Wednesdays, **March 12-April 9**, we will continue our practice of midweek noon worship with guest preachers leading us. The services will be followed by lunch for those who can stay.

Our worship service for **the first Sunday in Lent, March 9**, will include music by Mozart and feature a chamber ensemble.

Again this Lent, John Wurster will offer **daily e-votions**. These brief biblical reflections are sent by e-mail each morning. To join the e-votions list, send a note to john@sainthphilip.net. Those subscribed for last year continue on the list for 2025.

Lenten Lectio Divina Prayer Group—The ancient desert mystics believed that scripture was like a love letter written to us by God, and the meditative 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 is guiding a group through the four cycles of Lectio (read, reflect, respond, rest) every Monday morning at 9:00-9:20 a.m. for the season of Lent. To receive the Zoom link sent early Monday mornings, email Keatan at: keatan@saintphilip.net.

MISSION T-SHIRTS

If you ordered a mission t-shirt they can be picked up in the Gathering Area.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

St. Philip Garden Work Day: Come join in the fun of planting the spring/summer garden on **Saturday, March 1, 9:30-11:00 a.m.** We will be planting seeds and sets for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and other delicious veggies. All the produce is donated to the CCSC Emergency Services food pantry. No green thumb required! Enjoy fellowship and the simple pleasure of connecting with God's creation. Anyone is welcome; just show up at the garden, on the back side of Fellowship Hall.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS FOR 2025

Celebrate your wedding anniversary, family birthdays, or memorialize your mother and father by sponsoring the chancel flowers on Sunday morning. Please sign up to sponsor the flowers on the date you prefer by contacting Lorrie Castle at 713-622-4807 or lorrie@saintphilip.net or you may go to saintphilip.net the calendar page and click on the chancel flower picture. Sandra Truxillo, Flower Coordinator, will call you the week you chose to sponsor flowers to discuss the type of flowers and the message you would like in the bulletin. The standard arrangement for chancel flowers is \$130; special requests or exotic flowers may cost more.

HOSTS NEEDED! - SOMERVILLE COLLEGE CHOIR (OXFORD)

Music at St. Philip is excited to host the Somerville College Choir from Oxford, England as our choir-in-residence the weekend of **March 22-24**, when they will be performing a concert on Sunday, **March 23** at 3 PM, and will act as our guest choir for the 11 AM worship service that morning. We are thrilled to host this wonderful ensemble, directed by William Dawes, on the first stop of their U.S. tour where they will also sing in Tyler, TX followed by several venues in New York City.

To offset the choir's cost, we are in need of hosts for about 15-20 of these student musicians while they are in town. Responsibilities would include hosting them for two nights (Saturday, **March 22** and Sunday, **March 23**) and transportation to and from St. Philip each day. They will also need a ride to St. Philip once more on Monday, **March 24** morning to catch their bus, which departs at 9 AM.

If you are willing to help out, know someone who is, or have any questions whatsoever, please reach out to Justin (justin@saintphilip.net) at your earliest convenience!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 104

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-4—Room 205—The elementary-aged children are invited to participate in Mini-Revolutions, a lectionary-based curriculum employing multiple modes of learning engagement, and centered on activities and practices to help build spiritual habits. Room 205.

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—Dining Room—Kids Against Hunger

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Room 204—We are studying 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—10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Mar. 2** - St. Philip Mission Partners - Bethesda Clinic, Moises Saenz Educational Center and Yucatan University. In this presentation we will learn about the long history of the relationship between the Estrella family and Central/St. Philip Presbyterian Churches. The work with these organizations serves the people of the Yucatan through the Presbyterian Church, with health care at the Bethesda Clinic, and educational opportunities at Moises Saenz Educational Center and Yucatan University. Presented by Rev. Pablo Estrella - Pastor at Fuente de Gracia—Merida. If you would like to join any of the classes: email: churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—TODAY—We will have Children's Chapel the second and fourth Sundays after *Conversation with Children*. In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship, while praying, singing, 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.

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

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.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Mar. 13** at 7:00 PM. We will discuss *This Familiar Heart: An Improbable Love Story* by Babette Fraser Hale. Watch your email for details. 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.

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! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women.

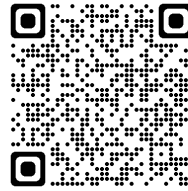
Thursday Evening Circle—Mar. 6—meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Dining Room. Sarah Victorian - sarah.m.0617@gmail.com

Monday Morning Saints—Mar. 10—meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room - Tricia Tolbert - phtolbert@gmail.com

The Hallmark Circle—meets each month - contact Sue Shirley-Howard - sue@fluencyhouston.com for date and location.

Sunday Circle—Mar. 16—meets 3rd Sunday of each month after worship in the Dining Room. Jan Meyer - jsmeyer9990@gmail.com

One More Chance Study for Everyone—Mar. 23—Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Library. We'll be discussing Lesson 7 from "Let Justice Roll Down"). Everyone is welcome. Lee Ardell - leardell@gmail.com



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 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 and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

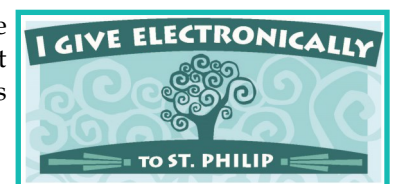
If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 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, 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.

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.



Hymn 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
 3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be

en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
 there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
 while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
 en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
 foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

In the first stanza "Zion" is not a general synonym for Jerusalem but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The pre-existing tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymnwriter.

TEXT: Benjamin Schmolck, 1732; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.

UNSER HERRSCHER
 8.7.8.7.7

[Return to page 1](#)

Hymn 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - jice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001
 MUSIC: Carl Gottlieb Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
 CM

[Return to page 3](#)

Hymn 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al - might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

TEXT: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.

MIT FREUDEN ZART
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[Return to page 4](#)