



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024

### Preparation for Worship

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.*

– Brian Wren, Hymn 515

### Opening Voluntary

*Sonata in E-flat major: [Tempo ordinario]  
BWV 525/1*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

### Greeting

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

### Introit

*If ye love me*

Thomas Tallis  
(1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
And I will pray the Father,  
and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may 'bide with you forever;  
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

– John 14:15-17

### ✠ Opening Sentences

### ✠ Hymn 301 [\(see page 9\)](#)

*Let Us Build a House*

TWO OAKS

## ✦ Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,  
 we are a people formed by your Word in Christ;  
 but we have wandered away from your truth,  
 we have broken your commandments,  
 we have distorted your teachings to serve our own ends,  
 we have failed to trust your promises,  
 we have refused your mercy.

Ground us again, O Holy One,  
 in the written wisdom of Scripture  
 and in the living Word which is Christ Jesus.  
 Nourish us on the bread of his teachings  
 until we can taste your goodness.  
 Renew us at the fountain of his wisdom,  
 so we may find joy in obedience  
 and freedom in giving ourselves to you.

*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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

## ✦ The Peace

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

## Conversation with Children & Recognition of High School Graduates

*Congratulations Thomas Kimbro, Rowan Murphy, Caroline Vestal, and Lucy Vestal.*

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

## Prayer of Illumination

## Gospel Reading

John 15:12-17

N.T. pgs. 109-110

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

**Anthem***I Give to you a new commandment*Peter Nardone  
(b. 1965)

I give to you a new commandment,  
That you love one another as I have loved you.

– adap. John 13:34

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Love of Christ has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one.

–Gregorian chant (ca. 300-1100 CE)

**Sermon**

What a Friend

John W. Wurster

*silence and stillness*♠ **Hymn 529** ([see page 10](#))*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

**Offertory**Gifts may be given any time at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net)**Offertory***Dance*

Craig Philips

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper****Invitation to the Lord's Table****Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

In every time. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

REFRAIN *Choir first, then all:* Howard Hughes, SM  
(b. 1930)



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Choir:* Holy, holy, Holy Lord God of power and might.*Refrain – all*

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

*Refrain – all*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Refrain – all*

Blessed are you. . . we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Choir first, then all:*



Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a - gain.



## FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Jane Malczewskj to the glory of God, in honor of St. Philip musicians, and in memory of my parents, John and Evie Sidun.

## WORSHIP NOTES

To receive communion today, please come forward via the center aisle, for a piece of bread. The bread may be dipped in the chalice of grape juice and consumed or you may take a small cup of grape juice from the tray. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available, just ask the servers as you come forward. Those with mobility challenges may receive communion in their seats, just signal the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated. This month's Communion Offering supports St. Philip's Mission Partner **Liberty High School**. Liberty High School is the only high school in our state that offers newly arrived immigrant students who balance full-time work and family responsibilities with earning a high school diploma. The school was established as a response to a need in our community for greater options for young adults to earn a high school diploma. Southwest Houston is considered one of the most diverse communities in the metropolitan area. More than sixty languages are spoken in the surrounding community and a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds are represented. St. Philip was partnered with Liberty High School around 2018 by Loving Houston. The communion offering supports the 73 seniors graduating this May and August 2024 as they prepare to begin college. The graduating seniors are in need of school supplies to begin their higher education journey.

Gifts may be brought to the front basket during the final hymn. You may also make a secure contribution through [MyStPhilip](#) and choosing the communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line.

### Today's Lectionary readings:

- Acts 10:44-48 – *Gentiles receive the gift of the Spirit; they should be baptized too.*
- Psalm 98 – *Make a joyful noise to the Lord; give thanks for God's victory.*
- 1 John 5:1-6 – *Trust in Jesus, who came by water and blood, and be born of God.*
- John 15:9-17 – *Jesus says: This is my commandment, that you love one another.*

## MUSIC NOTES

Today's **organ voluntaries** come from the first of Johann Sebastian Bach's six sonatas for the organ. Bach and his German colleagues adapted the trio texture of Baroque chamber music to the organ by assigning one melody line to each hand and the bass line entirely to the feet. Organ trios thereby became one of the many ways German organists of Bach's generation distinguished themselves from their Italian and French contemporaries, who used the organ pedals far less often. This sonata in three movements comprises an untitled opening movement, for which one assumes a *tempo ordinario*, a central Adagio, and a concluding Allegro. This morning we hear all three movements at various places in the service.

Along with today's gospel reading, both the **introit** and the **anthem** also draw their text from the book of John. First, a setting of text from John chapter 14 by pillar of the High Renaissance, Thomas Tallis, that is emblematic of 16th-century Anglican choral style. Tallis, one of the first musicians to compose sacred music in English rather than

the standard Latin, sets Jesus' words spoken to his disciples foretelling his own death using an English translation of the Bible common during the Reformation. 20th century composer Peter Nardone, a frequent member of the early music vocal ensemble The Tallis Scholars, among others, composed a setting of John 13:34 that combines biblical text with the ancient Gregorian chant *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est* ("Where charity and love are, God is there").

Our **offertory** is the second of a two-movement composition by California organist and composer, Craig Phillips. Originally written for bassoon and organ, it has been transcribed for horn by our guest hornist today, Connor Landers, and unlike the first movement "Pastorale," which Connor skillfully performed on Palm Sunday, the "Dance" movement features lively rhythms and scalar passages throughout the piece in both organ and horn.

—Justin Langham and Matthew Dirst

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

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## 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

**FAITH & LIFE** – Room 200 – An adult class exploring how what we believe informs how we live. There are no materials required and no preparation is needed.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** – Room 204 – We are beginning our study of Job in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Prophets and Ecclesiastes* (2010). 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.

**CHURCH & SOCIETY** – Room 201 – Join us from **9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **May 12** - Few people today know that centuries ago, several churches in Europe installed into their stone floors lines to mark the passage of the sun through the course of a year. Why was that done? And why did that practice decline? This presentation will answer those questions, revealing how Christianity and science have at times been deeply intertwined and mutually supportive. It will also explain the theological assumptions underlying those lines in sanctuary floors, as well as the enduring Christian meanings discerned in the regular course of the sun. Presented by Bruce Yaeger-teacher for over thirty-five years and author of *Wrestling Brothers: Rethinking Religion-Science Relationships*, and *Spirited Bodies Beneath the Stars: Science & Spirituality Together*. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

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

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL** – 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 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).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP** – This group meets on first Monday nights, by zoom, 7-8 p.m., to discuss social justice issues of the day. Of current interest is the growing awareness of the effect of Christian Nationalism on our country's social policies. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson ([sjj10223@gmail.com](mailto:sjj10223@gmail.com)) to be added to our mailing list.

**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. To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to [john@saintphilip.net](mailto:john@saintphilip.net). Bible novices, Bible experts, and all in between is welcome!

**WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB** – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **May 9** at 7:00 p.m. This will be a social gathering at The 401 (6700 Ferris ST). 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).

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** – All women of the church are invited to join any of the meetings of Presbyterian Women. If you are not a member of a circle, you are welcome to participate; to be directed to a group leader please email: [welcomes@saintphilip.net](mailto:welcomes@saintphilip.net).

*Monday Morning Saints* – 2nd Mon. of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

*Sunday Circle* – 3rd Sun. of each month @ 12:30 p.m.

*Thursday Circle* – 1st Thurs. of each month @ 7:00 p.m.

The Stewardship Committee thanks all St. Philippians and friends who have made and continue to make financial contributions to support the life and ministries of the church. As a reminder, only St. Philip's bookkeeper has knowledge of the specifics of financial donations.

MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

hosts

## A PIANO RECITAL



featuring

### OSIP NIKIFOROV

Works By Ludwig Van Beethoven

**Sunday, May 5**  
**3:00 PM**

FOLLOW US ONLINE  
Music at St Philip



### LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION GIFT DONATION DRIVE

To supplement the communion offering and support graduating seniors, St. Philip Mission committee will hold a donation drive today through **June 2**. The graduation gifts of school supplies will be delivered Monday, June 3 in time for graduation. Gently used supplies or new supplies can be dropped off in the Gathering Area on Sundays or dropped off at the Church Office. Liberty HS students will be blessed to receive tangible support in this way, helping future college students feel prepared to start the next educational chapter of their lives. Shopping lists are available for pick up at the Mission table in the Gathering Area. More details will be in the Philip-eye on **May 7**.

### JUNE 1 OPERATION IMPACT UPDATE, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Philip congregation is invited to volunteer with Interfaith Ministries (IMGH) on **June 1** or **June 8**. We will only be delivering meal boxes. Supplies and delivery addresses will be distributed at 9:00 a.m. each day. We will be finished by 10:30/10:45 a.m. All distribution for **June 1** will be from our Midtown location at 3202 San Jacinto. If **June 8** is a better date, we still very much need folks to help us in Mainland Galveston County. Pick-up will be at IMGH's La Marque location (216 Byrd St.) and deliveries will be to towns like Bacliff, Santa Fe, Texas City, La Marque, etc. Sign up in the Gathering Area to volunteer for either Saturday.. You can also register directly on the website at [Operation Impact - Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston \(imggh.org\)](http://Operation Impact - Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (imggh.org)).

MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

## SPRING SPIRITUAL CELEBRATION

**Sunday, May 12 | 5:00 pm**

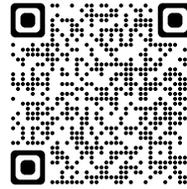
*Featuring orchestra, soloists, and the combined choirs and handbells of St. Philip Presbyterian and First United Methodist Church Missouri City.*

*Traditional Spirituals  
with music by:  
H.T. Burleigh  
Stephen Foster  
Antonin Dvořák  
and John Rutter*

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

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Music at St Philip





### 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 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.

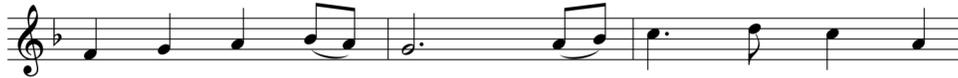
**Contributions**, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.

**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.





1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And  
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And  
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In  
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -  
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and  
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren  
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on  
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,  
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -  
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -  
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice  
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've  
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, Rock of  
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness And as  
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, Is re -  
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger Bear the  
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, Prayers of



faith and vault of grace; Here the  
 sym - bol of God's grace; Here as  
 vealed in time and space; As we  
 im - age of God's face; Let us  
 faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come



in this place.

## Hymn 529

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er  
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.  
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

TEXT: Percy Dearmer, 1931, alt.  
 MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957  
 Text © 1931 Oxford University Press  
 Music © 1957, ren. H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

UNION SEMINARY  
 8.7.8.7.4.4.7

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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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