

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Preparation for Worship

*Lord, when I came into this life, you called me by my name;
today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim .
Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.
In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.*

—Fred Kaan, Hymn 691

Voluntary

“Pasticcio”
from the *Organ Book*

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Introit

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Charles Callahan
(1951-2023)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 624 [\(see page 11\)](#)

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

✦ Prayer of Confession

O God,
 source of all goodness,
 forgive us for pursuing a way that is not your way,
 for embracing truth that is not your truth,
 and for living a life that is not the life
 you have shown us in Jesus Christ.
 Forgive us for a lack of reverence for your creation,
 for a hurried pace that causes us to overlook things that matter,
 and for a lack of trust in your providence.
 Forgive us and cleanse us, redeem us and restore us,
 for the sake of Jesus and for the glory of your 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 *(choir first, congregation sings v. 1 and 2)*

Baião Simeí Monterio

A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia! ia!

✦ The Peace

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

Conversation with Children

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

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-37

N.T. pgs. 43-44

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

Anthem

Humble Servant

Justin Langham · BEACH SPRING

Lord, your humble servant calls you.

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,

Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:

We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,

Consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Called by worship, service, forth in your dear name we go

To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;

Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel aid, and peace we give,

That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

What abundant love you give...

Humble service, Lord, I give.

— adap. Albert Bayly, 1961

Sermon

Hop on the Bus

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✦ Hymn 28 ([see page 12](#))*You Are Before Me, Lord*

SUSUM CORDA

✦ Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.
 Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.
 In sovereign love God created the world good
 and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community.
 But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
 Ignoring God's commandments,
 we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
 accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
 and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
 We deserve God's condemnation.
 Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
 In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
 to bless all families of the earth.
 Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
 Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
 Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
 like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
 God is faithful still.
 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.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

from The Storybook Bible

Hello Daddy!
 We want to know you.
 And be close to you.
 Please show us how.
 Make everything in the world right again.
 And in our hearts too.
 Do what is best- just like you do in heaven,
 and please do it down here too.
 Please give us everything we need today.
 Forgive us for doing wrong, for hurting you.
 Forgive us just as we forgive other people when they hurt us.
 Rescue us! We need you.
 We don't want to keep running away and hiding from you.
 Keep us safe from our enemies.
 You're strong, God. You can do whatever you want.
 You are in charge.
 Now and forever and for always!
 We think you're great! Amen! Yes we do!

Offering

Offertory Anthem

Here Ye, Israel
From *Elijah, Op. 70*

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Hear ye, Israel!
Hear what the Lord speaketh:
"Oh, had'st thou heeded my commandments!"
Who hath believed?
To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

Hear ye, Israel!
Hear what the Lord speaketh!
Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
To him oppressed by Tyrants;
Thus saith the Lord:

"I am He that comforteth; Be not afraid,
for I am thy God, I will strengthen thee.
Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die;
And forgettest the Lord, thy Maker,
who hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the earth's foundations.

Say who art thou?
I am He that comforteth; Be not afraid,
for I, thy God, will strengthen thee."

— adap. from Deuteronomy & Isaiah (trans. William Bartholomew, 19th cent)

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Almighty and merciful God,
from whom comes all that is good,
**We praise you for your goodness that has created us,
your patience that has borne with us,
and your love that has redeemed us.**
**Help us to love you
and to be thankful for all of your gifts
by serving you and delighting to do your will,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 44 ([see page 13](#))

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

AUSTIN

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Dialogue sur les Mixtures
From *Suite Brève*

Jean Langlais

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, **September 22**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service of worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect seven persons to serve as elders in the Session class of 2027; to elect one person to serve as a trustee in the class of 2027; and to elect two persons to serve two-year terms on the congregational nominating committee. At the meeting, the nominating committee will present the slate of nominees listed below. Additional nominations may be made during the meeting with prior consent of those being nominated.

Elders: *Tina Bryan, Sherri Dees, Pam Keever, Sarah Victorian, Al Waldrop, Denise Wilborn, and Karen Winship*

Trustee: *Pam Taylor*

Nominating Committee members: *Omi Ford and Sara Jean Jackson*

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | John Wurster

Omar Rouchon is on a sabbatical leave until mid-November

Liturgist

Lincoln Vahora

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Chancel Choir | Julia Fox, soloist

Justin Langham, director of music

FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by Bob and Lee Ardell to the glory of God and in honor of all the women of St. Philip.

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's readings and prayers are borrowed from various sources such as:

- Proverbs 1:20-33—*Wisdom cries out in the street: Ignore my word at your peril.*
- Psalm 19—*The heavens declare God's glory; the law of the Lord is good.*
- Isaiah 50:4-9a—*God has given me the tongue of a teacher, to sustain the weary.*
- Psalm 116:1-9—*Lord, you deliver me from death, from weeping, from stumbling.*
- James 3:1-12—*Words have the power to bless and curse; use them wisely.*
- Mark 8:27-38—*Jesus says: You must take up the cross if you want to follow me.*



MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

2024
CELEBRATED ANNUAL SERIES
TONIGHT
Sunday September 15 | 5 pm

Deux Voix

Justin Langham, trumpet & Stephen Distad, organ

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

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Music at St Philip



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MUSIC NOTES

Jean Langlais, longtime organist titulaire at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde on Paris's Left Bank, left a large body of organ music that is highly varied in nature and quality. The "**Pasticcio**" from his 1956 *Organ Book* combines fanfare motives with more subdued material for a brief but festive musical "main dish." (In Italian a "pasticcio" is a baked meat pie.) His *Suite Brève* ("Short Suite") includes a perky "**Dialogue**" on the mixture stops, which refer to ranks of small pipes whose combination adds brilliance to the ensemble. Among other compositional devices, Langlais delighted in musical surprises, and this piece offers more than a few.

Charles Callahan, an accomplished organist, composer, and conductor, was a native of New England whose compositions reflect a lifelong devotion to liturgical music. Given his experience studying at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, and as organist in the Anglican and Catholic church, Callahan's style occupies an appropriate space between more modal Anglican style and modern American tonality. Today's **introit** displays Callahan's economical use of musical ideas, as well as his gentle lyricism.

Our anthem today is the premiere of a musical tribute of a long friendship between two members of the St. Philip choir. Jan Fox and Jeanie Flowers first met in the choir decades ago, and over the years have developed

an enduring relationship that radiates to everyone around them. **Humble Servant**, a reflection of Jeanie's faith and love of music, was the result of Jan's desire to honor her friend's milestone birthday and the bond they share. The piece itself includes several personal connections to Jeanie, such as a soprano solo sung by Jan's daughter Julia, Jeanie's granddaughter Caroline playing the same two handbells that Jeanie played as part of the St. Philip handbell ensemble, and a text that reflects Jeanie's deep dedication to her church.

Mendelssohn's massive work *Elijah*, which will celebrate its 180th anniversary in 2026, tells the story of the prophet Elijah and the evolution of the Jewish faith from worship of Babylonian idols to worshipping a monotheistic God. Sung by a solo soprano, "**Hear ye, Israel!**" opens the second half of the oratorio in a reassuring fashion before the story quickly escalates as Elijah confronts King Ahab about angering God by worshipping the god Baal. Although Elijah remains one of Mendelssohn's best-known works, its massive scale and rigorous demands to prepare the work for publication ultimately proved too much for him, contributing to a series of strokes and an early death at the early age of 38.

—Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

*Family and friends of Velma Guy Tolbert who died on August 23. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, **September 28** at 11:00 a.m. at St. Philip.*

St. Philippians and their families — David Winship; Bob Ardell; Richard Johnson; Philip McDaniel; Charlotte Kibler; Carolyn Vestal; Diane Clarke; CJ Miller; Russell Bahruth; Karen Morris; Susan Huffman; Emily Estill; Barbara Cavanaugh; Mary Herlitz; Jan Ostendorf; Dick Nunn; Mark Takayama; 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; 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; Paige Everhart — sister 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. Philippians — 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; Joyce Freudenberg and Annie & Sidney Roach— friends of Stephen Paine; Jacqueline Hazrum, Erin McDougal, and Eric Alberto Marquez — friends of Kate Burkart; Betsy Shear Lewis — friend of Laney Miller; and Shirley Stubblefield — friend of Barbara Runge.

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**

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-4—Room 105

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—Dining Room

NEW CLASSES

We are offering three cycles of 6-week classes from September-December to experiment with increased variety of topics, teachers, and formats in our Sunday School, as well as introducing new opportunities for youth to engage in mission and children to engage in music.

ELEMENTARY—Grades 1-4 —ROOM 105— Children learn the Lord's Prayer with mind and heart. Come October, all ages attend "the Gospel According to Bluey" to pair a Jesus teaching with 2 episodes of Bluey and explore the themes in breakout groups by ages.

YOUTH—Grades 6-12—DINING ROOM—Youth families turn the Sunday School hour into a time to revive the Kids Against Hunger program as leaders in our congregation.

INTRO TO PRESBYTERIANISM—ROOM 202—presented by John Wurster.



CHURCH & SOCIETY—ROOM 201—Join us from **9:30 a.m.—10:40 a.m.** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Sept. 22**—*St. Philip Day School - The Plan for Affordable Daycare at St. Philip* - Plans are underway for the opening of an affordable daycare facility at St. Philip in the spring of 2025. The St. Philip Day School will be based on the model of Project One Day - a Christ-centered child care cooperative for single parents of children ages 6 weeks through 3 years old, which works on a simple premise. Parents volunteer one day a week and receive 40 hours of FREE, faith-based child care to facilitate their work or education. For low-income families this can be a game changer. - Presented by Jennifer Johnson - Founder and President of the Board of Directors of Project One Day. Email Mickey Meyers if you would like to join any of the classes:

churchsociety_stphilip@comcast.net.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—We are resuming on September 8 our study of Job at Ch. 32 in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Wisdom Books: Job, Prophets and Ecclesiastes* (2010). Join us from 9:30 - 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 when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.

ST. PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

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 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 will continue our learning from *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.

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.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **October 10** at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss *The Measure* by Nikki Erlich. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nml@lambrightlaw.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—Agreeing that a focus on Disinformation is timely and important as the presidential election draws near, the current study book is Barbara McQuade's *Attack from Within; how disinformation is sabotaging America*. This group will meet by zoom on Monday, **October 7**, 7-8 p.m. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson at:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

HISD Takeover and Bond Vote Information Session

- ☞ **WHO:** Community Voices for Public Education (CVPE) Houston
(https://www.houstoncvpe.org/state_takeover)
 - ☞ **WHEN:** Sunday, **September 29, 2024**
Immediately Following Worship
 - ☞ **WHERE:** Room 202, Upstairs in Education Wing
 - ☞ **WHY:** CVPE members will share current information and answer your questions regarding the TEA Takeover of HISD and HISD Bond Issues on the November ballot.
- Light Bites and Refreshments will be served
 - Hosted by the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee
 - For information or to sign up contact Denise Wilborn at dwilborn55@gmail.com



MISSION ACTIVITIES

KIDS' MEALS VOLUNTEER DAY RESCHEDULED –

Our volunteer day has been rescheduled for **Monday, September 30** from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. at 330 Garden Oaks Blvd., 77018. Please sign up in the Gathering Area on Sundays or email if you have questions:

mission@saintphilip.net.

Every individual, including children, attending must register via the link provided below for the event date of **September 30**. Registration link:

<https://vhub.at/StPhilipPresbyterian>.

Kids' Meals goal is to make things as smooth as possible for you. It is recommended volunteers wear comfortable clothing, closed toed-shoes, and a hat. In case someone prefers not to wear a hat, hairnets will be distributed as an option. Limited parking, carpool if possible. Please arrive at the Kids' Meals office by 12:30 p.m. Upon arrival, you will enter the Welcome Center, sign-in at the computers, and attend a brief orientation. Once everyone is ready to get to work, you will be supplied with the needed items for your task.

LORD OF THE STREETS VOLUNTEER SUNDAY MORNING –

Congregation members are invited to volunteer serving breakfast or help with the worship before breakfast is served on Sunday morning, **October 13**. We will be serving with another volunteer group from a different organization or church. St. Philip members can carpool from the St. Philip parking lot or arrive directly to Lord of the Streets Episcopal Church at 3401 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77004. Start time and additional details will be provided soon. Save the date and sign up in the Gathering Area or email mission@saintphilip.net if you can join us in serving our homeless neighbors in downtown Houston.

SEARCH SCATTERED SITE LUNCH AND ACTIVITY –

Join the mission committee on Friday, **November 15** to host a meal and activity for the homeless clients of SEARCH. Five volunteers will be needed from 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. to serve food and lead a bingo game or sing-along activity. The lunch will be held at SEARCH Homeless Services office, 2015 Congress St., Houston, TX 77002. Sign up to help will begin in October. Save the date and if you are interested email:

mission@saintphilip.net.

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: welcome@saintphilip.net.

Thursday Evening Circle – meets 1st Thursday of each month (October 3) – at 7 p.m. in the Dining Room –
Leader – Sarah Victorian sarah.m.0617@gmail.com

Monday Morning Saints – meets 2nd Monday of each month (October 14) – at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room
Leader – Tricia Tolbert – phtolbert@gmail.com

The Hallmark Circle – meets 2nd Wednesday of each month (October 9) – at 1:30 p.m. location to be announced
Leader – Sue Shirley-Howard – sue@fluencyhouston.com

Sunday Circle – meets 3rd Sunday of each month (October 20) – after worship in the Dining Room
Leader – Jan Meyer – jsmeyer9990@gmail.com

One More Chance Study for Everyone – meets 4th Sunday of each month (October 27) at 10 a.m. in the Library
Leader – Lee Ardell – leearde1@gmail.com

MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

presents

David LaMotte
Sunday September 29 | 5 pm
[Fellowship Hall]

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

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 Music at St Philip



— ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY —

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 6 TO DECEMBER 8

9 TO 9:40 AM, SANCTUARY

FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!

Register your child through **SAINTPHILIP.NET**



[CHILDREN'S MUSIC]





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 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 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 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. 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.



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.

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth - er save in thee;

my on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,
 reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place:
 and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
 no harsh - ness hast thou and no bit - ter - ness.
 our faith is built up - on thy prom - ise free;

who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
 sus - tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
 that in thy strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

The original French text, sometimes attributed to John Calvin, seems to be a Protestant reworking of a Roman Catholic hymn, not a typical practice for him. Yet this text and tune (adapted from GENEVAN 124) clearly date from the early years of the Reformed tradition.

Hymn 28

You Are Before Me, Lord

SURSUM CORDA



1 You are be - fore me, Lord, you are be - hind,
 2 Then from your Spir - it where, Lord, shall I go;
 3 If I should take my flight in - to the dawn,
 4 If I should say, "Let dark - ness cov - er me,
 5 Search me, O God; search me and know my heart;



and o - ver me you have spread out your hand;
 and from your pres - ence where, Lord, shall I fly?
 if I should dwell on o - cean's far - thest shore,
 and I shall hide with - in the veil of night,"
 try me, O God; my mind and spir - it try;



such knowl - edge is too won - der - ful for me,
 If I as - cend to heav - en you are there,
 your might - y hand will rest up - on me still,
 sure - ly the dark - ness is not dark to you:
 keep me from an - y path that gives you pain,



too high to grasp, too great to un - der - stand.
 and still are with me if in hell I lie.
 and your right hand will guard me ev - er - more.
 the night is as the day, the dark - ness light.
 and lead me in the ev - er - last - ing way.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The effectiveness of this paraphrase of Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 partly derives from its imitation of the characteristic repetitions that give emotional intensity to Hebrew poetry. Such patterns of repetitiveness can also be seen in the last three notes of each phrase of the tune.

TEXT: Ian Pitt-Watson, 1973, 1989
 MUSIC: Alfred Morton Smith, 1941
 Text © 1973 Ian Pitt-Watson
 Music used by permission of Estate of Doris Wright Smith

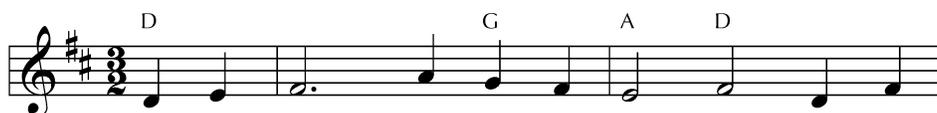
SURSUM CORDA (Smith)
 10.10.10.10

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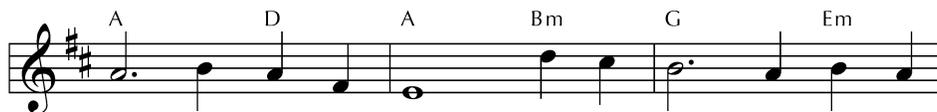
Hymn 44

Like Mother Who Has Borne Us

AUSTIN



1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our



close in her de - light, fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, tread the path of peace and



bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

This text was inspired by how the prophet Hosea describes the parental nature of God's relationship with Israel (Hosea 11:1-19). The last stanza echoes Christ's teachings about love of neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40/Mark 12:29-31) and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:31-46).

TEXT: Daniel Bechtel, 1986
 MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992
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