



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 25, 2026

Preparation for Worship

*Holy God, you sent Jesus to be the light of the world,
so that all may know the brightness of your love.
Fill us with your grace this day that we too may bear witness
to his light and serve your coming reign. Amen.*
(1685-1750)

Greeting

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

O.T. pg. 638

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

N.T. pgs. 3-4

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Near and Far

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

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.**

♦ Charge and Blessing

SERVING TODAY

Pastor

John Wurster

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Isaiah 9:1-4 – *Light shines on those who walk in darkness; the people rejoice.*
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9 – *The Lord is my light and salvation; therefore I am not afraid.*
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 – *Paul calls for unity and proclaims the message of the cross.*
- Matthew 4:12-23 – *Jesus calls four disciples: Follow me, and you will fish for people.*

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Joyce Fugit; Jan Meyer; Joyce Fox; Kay Cash; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Nancy E. Johnson; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Don Padgett; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Jonathan Castro – brother of David Castro; Susan Everhart – niece and Lisa Marcelletti – cousin of Nancy E. Johnson; Sam Merklein – nephew of Elizabeth Duerr; Kathy Bailey and family – sister of Peg Palisin; Jo Hadley Smith – cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes – daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; and Ann Perkins Cloud – cousin of Stephen Paine.

Homebound – Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Carolyn Keeble; John Bobbitt; Joan Boelens; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; George and Lorraine Scott; Sondra Sullivan; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians – Christiane Richter – friend of Roderick James; Greg Anderson – friend of Lorrie Castle; Ann Swanson – friend of Deborah Unruh; Kitty Manson and family; Sidney Roach, Fatima Robinson, and Joyce Freudenberg – friends of Stephen Paine; Chris Deflandre – friend of Cara Biddle; Mary Ann Thomas; Erin McDougal and Marianne Keeswood – friends of Kate Burkart; Elaine Ende – friend of Beth Atkinson; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, 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; Kenneth and Donna Benton – friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan and Tom Barnett – friends of Robin and Gary Willis; 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.

Duerr
Lecture
Series
2026

Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield

Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Greensboro, North Carolina

Presenting Lectures
February 22, 23, and 24 2026



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

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

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—ROOM 103

CHILDREN: Grades 1-4—Room 105

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—DINING ROOM—Watch email and website for new schedule.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—We are studying Isaiah in Volume 2, *Prophets*, in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary* (2019). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to all God's people. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—ROOM 201—Join us from 9:30 – 10:40 AM with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Feb. 1**—*The Secularization of Medicine*, in broad and accessible ways, touching on topics such as existentialism, the meaning of death, medical-aid-in-dying, and more. Presented by Nathan Carlin is the Director of the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics at McGovern Medical School, where he serves as a professor and teaches medical students, residents, and other learners. If you would like the Zoom link for the classes, email: jshartman01@gmail.com.

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

LAMBETH STUDY—Keatan King leads young adults in study on the first Monday of the month evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan at:

keatan@saintphilip.net

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP—This group meets for an hour once a month on Zoom to read and discuss social justice issues of concern in today's world. Our current topic is Christian Nationalism, one definition of which is "that America is God's chosen nation and should be defended and governed as such." Attitudes already influencing our legislators include opposition to gay rights, opposition to gun safety efforts, promotion of Christian religion in schools and libraries, book bans, etc. Our current study book is Brian Kaylor's *Baptizing America; how mainline Protestants helped build Christian*

Nationalism. Interested persons can contact Sara Jean Jackson sjj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Feb. 12** at 7:00 PM. *The Instrumentalist* by Harriett Constable.. 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 AM, and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: john@saintphilip.net.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thursday Evening Circle – Feb. 5

meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the Dining Room. Sarah Victorian sarah.m.0617@gmail.com

Monday Morning Saints – Feb. 8

meets 2nd Monday of each month at 10 AM in the Dining Room - Tricia Tolbert phtolbert@gmail.com

The Hallmark Circle – Feb. 11

meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM - contact Sue Shirley-Howard sue@fluencyhouston.com for location

Sunday Circle – Feb. 15

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

One More Chance Study for Everyone – Feb. 22

Meets 4th Sunday of each month at 10 AM in the Library. Lee Ardell leeardell@gmail.com



**DEADLINE TO REGISTER—
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**



[GUEST BOOK]

Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Live Stream 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 AM – 12:30 PM. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off 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 Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 AM 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, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at denise@saintphilip.net.



[MAKE A CONTRIBUTION]

St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. (www.stphilipdayschool.org) To support the school, **please make all contributions directly to St. Philip Day School**, rather than to St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Please make checks payable to "St. Philip DAY SCHOOL" You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please contact Candice Harris, Program Director, at:

Director@stphilipdayschool.org

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.



Nametags – Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.