

First Sunday of Advent — November 29, 2026

Preparation for Worship

God of hope, we gather together in this space to encounter you,
to encounter the holy saving grace of the Messiah.
As we enter this time, we acknowledge all we bring with us:
fear, worry, exhaustion, expectation, longing, and we
listen for your call to be on guard, to be alert, to watch and wait.
May our focus, our presence, and our attention be on your shining face this day
as we sing, pray, and reflect in community.
And may the thrill of hope far surpass our worry or fear. Amen.

Voluntary — *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland:* Choral and Variations I–III — Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Introit — *Heavenly Light (excerpt)* — arr. Peter Wilhousky

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given
To great and small to shine,
O Light Divine!

English Lyrics by Alice Mattullath

Opening Sentences

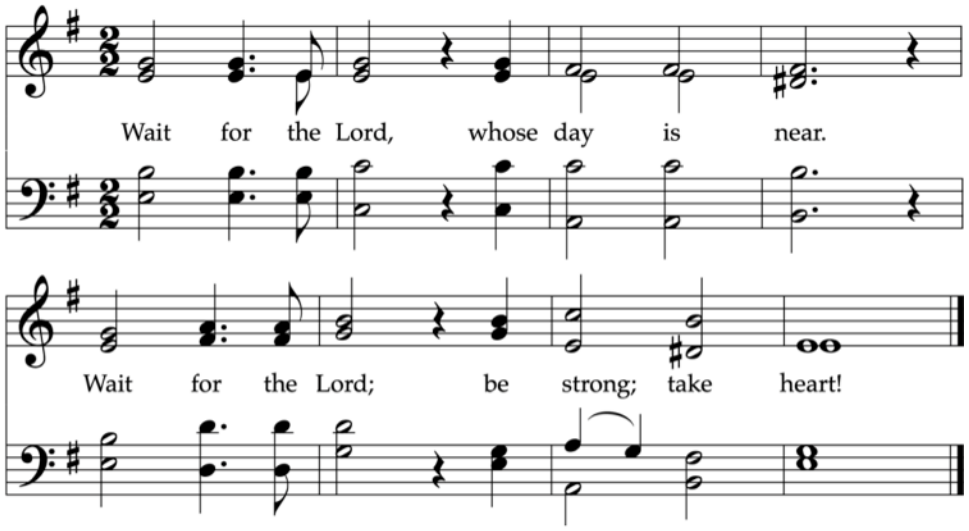
Hymn 94 (see page 13) — *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* — JEFFERSON

✟ Prayer of Confession

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.

silent prayer

✟ Response



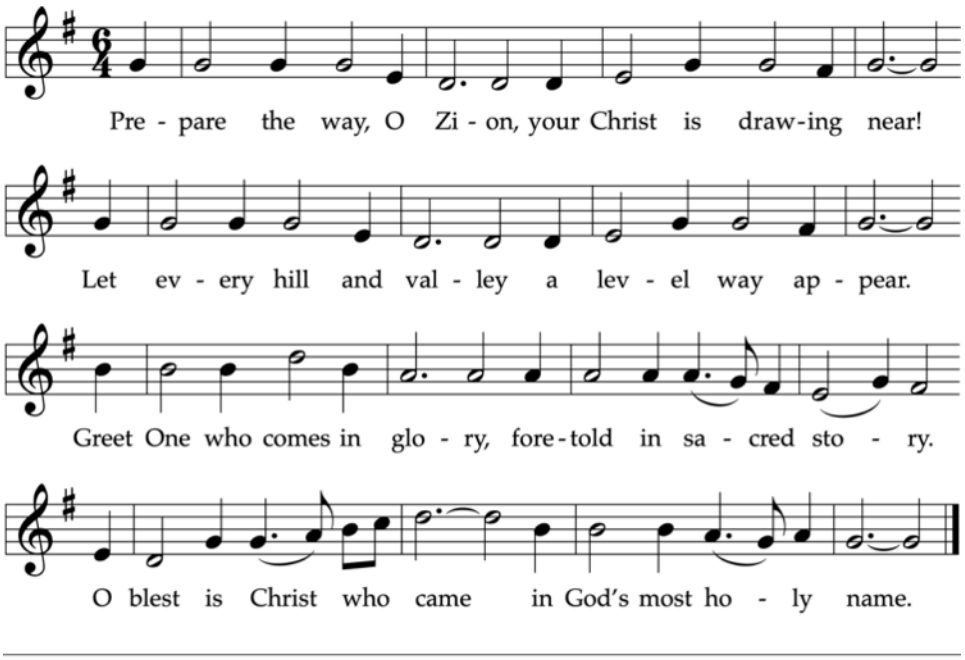
TEXT Ref. Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WAIT FOR THE LORD
8.8

✟ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Response



TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; translated by Augustus Nelson, 1958; adapted by Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. © *1982 Hope Publishing Company*
MUSIC: *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
7.6.7.6.7.7.6.6

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

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 O. T. pgs. 694-695

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion* G. F. Handel
(From *Messiah,* HWV 56) (1685-1759)

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
Get thee up into the high mountain;
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
Lift up thy voice with strength;
Lift it up, be not afraid;
Say unto the cities of Judah,
Behold your God!

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Charles Jennens (1700–1773)
Adapt. Isaiah 40:9 & Isaiah 60:1

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-37 N. T. pgs. 50-51

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Let's Begin John W. Wurster

silence and stillness

✞ **Hymn 352** *(see page 15)* *My Lord! What a Morning* MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

Offering

Gifts may also be given any time at saintphilip.net

Offertory *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland:* Variations IV–V Hugo Distler
arr. Hall Johnson

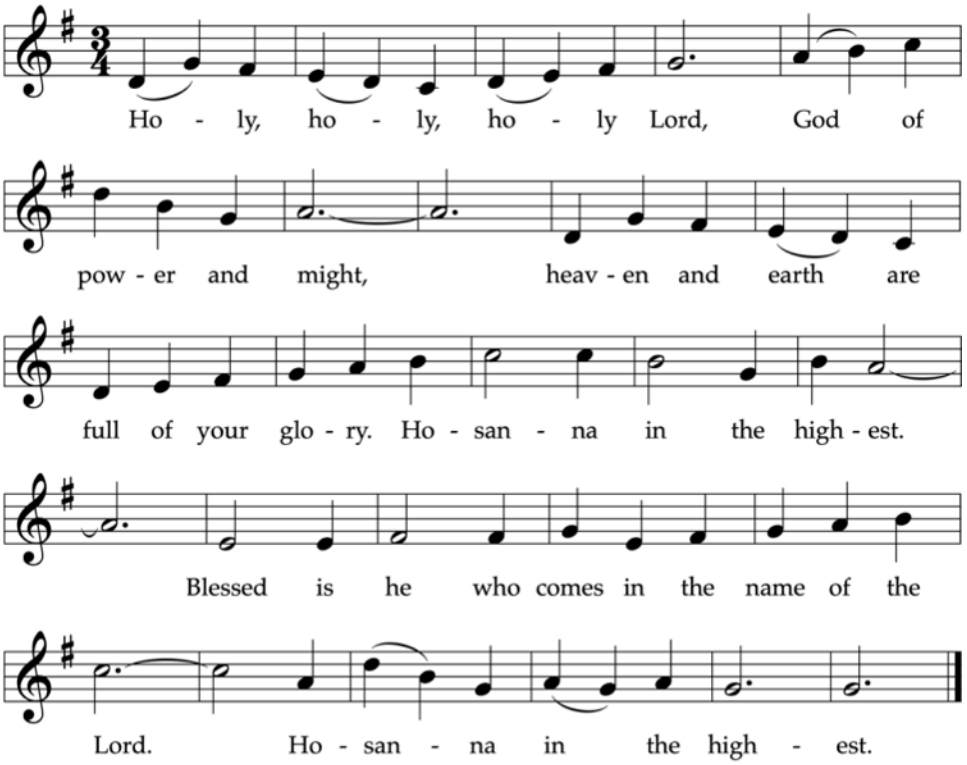
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.

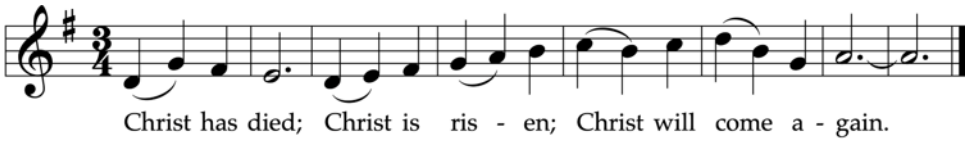
It is truly right . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name:



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

SANCTUS (Pavlechko)

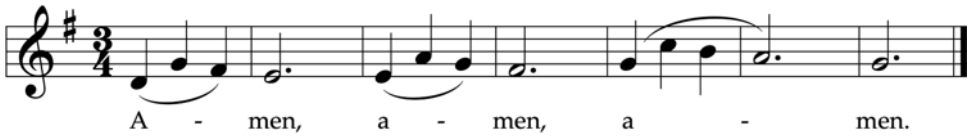
Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. . . . Great is the mystery of faith:



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Pavlechko)

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, . . . we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.



TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Thomas Pavlechko, 2006
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

AMEN (Pavlechko)

As the children of God, let us pray together:

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.

The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Communion Music *Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")* G. F. Handel
From *Messiah*, HWV 56

✞ Litany for Advent Elementary Sunday School Class

Among the poor, among the proud,
among the persecuted, among the privileged,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

In the private house, in the public place,
in the wedding feast, in the judgment hall,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word,
with a clear conscience, with burning love,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe,
that the proud might stumble, that the hidden might be seen,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, behind us, before us,
in this place, in every place, in this time, for all time,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Christ is coming to make all things new—even you, even me.
Christ is coming. Thanks be to God!

✞ Hymn 102 *(page 16)* *Savior of the Nations, Come* NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

✞ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland:* Toccata Hugo Distler

SERVING TODAY

Pastor
John Wurster

Liturgist
Mary McGuire

Musicians
Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Cecilia Duarte, soloist | Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

To receive communion today, please come forward via the center aisle and receive a piece of bread. Gluten-free bread is also available You may dip the bread in the chalice of grape juice and receive communion by intinction or you may take from the tray a small cup of grape juice. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Those who have difficulty coming forward may receive communion in their seats by signaling the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church through our communion offering. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. 50% supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical financial assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. 50% supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to provide education and leadership development. Gifts may be brought to the front basket during the final hymn. You may also make a secure contribution through St. Philip Life or www.saintphilip.net and choosing the communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line.

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

- Isaiah 64:1–9—*Tear open the heavens and come down; save us from our sin.*
- Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19—*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us.*
- 1 Corinthians 1:3–9—*God will strengthen you while you wait for Christ's coming.*
- Mark 13:24–37—*In those days the stars will fall from heaven; keep awake.*

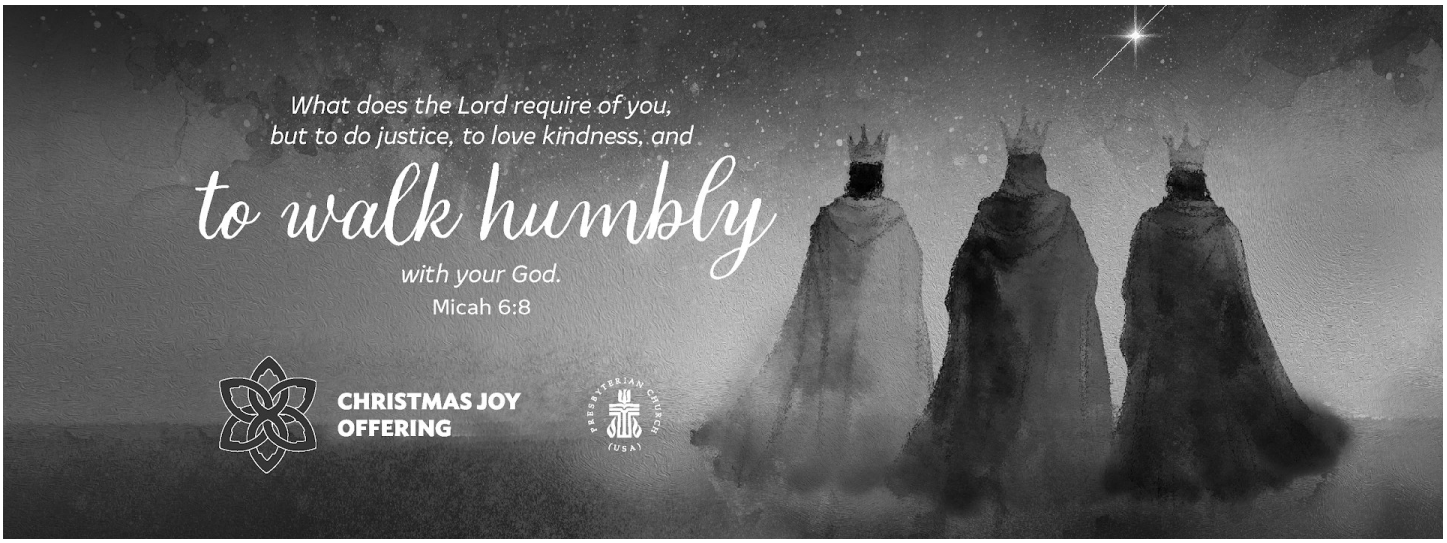
MUSIC NOTES

Hugo Distler was one of the pioneers of what is often called the "neo-Baroque" movement in the early 20th century, an appellation that acknowledges his contrapuntal yet modernist musical language. A lifelong church musician, Distler left a small number of works to posterity, among which are two sets of organ pieces on familiar Advent chorales: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* ("Sleepers, Wake, A Voice is Calling") and *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* ("Savior of the Nations, Come"). Both chorales date from the 16th century, when this musical idiom was the rage among Luther's many followers. Today's **organ voluntaries** are from the latter work, which includes an extended set of variations and a fiery toccata.

Peter Wilhousky was a notable American choral composer and conductor of Eastern European descent. He became a household name through his popular choral arrangements, such as the English version of the Ukrainian folk song "Carol of the Bells." Our **introit** comes from his arrangement of a choral motet by Russian composer Alexander Kopylov, with text that speaks of a divine light sent to shine on all things.

Composed in 1741, Handel's oratorio *Messiah,* HWV 56 has become one of the most familiar and frequently performed in Western music, especially during the Advent and Easter seasons. Part 1, the Christmas portion, begins with prophecies from Isaiah before moving to the annunciation to the shepherds. As a preview for next week's service, when St. Philip's music program will present selections with orchestra throughout worship, today's service highlights two particular movements: ***O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion***, a joyous setting of text from Isaiah where soloist and choir proclaim the light to come, and the ***Pifa***, or "Pastoral Symphony," which musically symbolizes a quiet scene at the arrival of the shepherds.

—Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.
Preparation for Worship from *A Thrill of Hope*, Illustrated Ministries.
Litany for Advent from Wild Goose Resources.
Music reprints and online streaming by permission under OneLicense.net account A-720890.

IN OUR PRAYERS

We rejoice with Elizabeth Hadaway and Alejandra Salinas who welcomed their daughter Sofia Elizabeth Salinas born on November 21.

St. Philippians and their families—Olga Lewis; Caryn Bahruth; Kelly Gartner; Julie Wangler; Joyce Fox; David Fox; Jenilee Simmons; Sondra Sullivan; Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; John Bobbitt; Molly Boren-Whitney; Laney Miller; Laurie Sims; Jan Meyer; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Eleanor Grant; Don Padgett; Mezgebe Gebray; Mary Currie; Lane Vogt—brother of Nancy Castro; the family of Wayne & Sandra Truxillo; Camilo Triana—uncle of Jesús Toribio; Ada & Bob Austin—parents of Nina Lambright; Barbara Torpy—sister of Gary Willis; Bill Davis—brother of Meg Scott-Johnson; Lara Bain—niece of Jo Helland; Jonathan Castro—brother of David Castro; Jo Hadley Smith—cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes—daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Suzanne Frazier & Ann Perkins Cloud—cousins of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Joan Boelens; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Arlette Keene; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolf; Lorraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians—Luis Iglesias—friend of Olga Lewis; Terri Romano—friend of Wayne & Sandra Truxillo; Austin Miller—friend of Charles Swan; Christiane Richter—friend of Roderick James; Ann Swanson—friend of Deborah Unruh; Jack Burrell; Tanya Voinche & Sidney Roach—friends of Stephen Paine; Keith Kirby, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, & Anna Domonte—friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash—friend of Jane Cooper; Kenneth & Donna Benton—friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan & Tom Barnett—friends of Robin & 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.









at

St. Philip Presbyterian Church

Featuring Bach's *Magnificat*, Handel's *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened*,
and Telemann's *Concerto for Three Trumpets*,
with the University of Houston's Moores School Concert Chorale.

Complimentary Tickets for St. Philip Members:
Visit https://www.arslyricahouston.org/shop/magnificat-tickets
and enter promo code **STPHILIP2627** to reserve your free tickets.

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30 AM—12:30 PM Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

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

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 103—led by Ruthie Waldrop, Omi Ford, Joyce Fox, and Jane Cooper

CHILDREN: Grades 1-4—Room 206—Jon Martin and Olga Piskor

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—Room 205—Keatan King

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—Al Waldrop—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—Ken Meyers, John Hartman, Ken Fountain, Denise Wilborn, Judye Hartman—Join us from **9:30—10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Dec. 6 -** Music for the Advent Season Handel's Messiah—presented by Dr. Justin Langham, St. Philip Music Director Justin Langham, composer, performer, educator, and St. Philip Music Director, will tell us all about the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah which will be presented during worship on that morning. 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.

YOUNG ADULT LAMBETH BIBLE STUDY—We study the text that will be preached in worship on the following Sunday, so this is a chance to grow your familiarity with the scripture passage before weekly worship. The name "Lambeth" indicates the method we use of reading the passage three times in different English translations and answering three different questions about what in the text grabs us, where the passage touches our daily life, and what nudge from God do we experience from the text to reshape our lives. We will gather on **Dec. 3** and **Dec. 17** from 12—1:00 PM. Interested in participating? This event is hybrid: for those who wish to attend in person, we meet in the Conference Room of the Staff Offices at St. Philip, and for those who can't step away from their desk or elsewhere, please email Keatan King for Zoom link.

keatan@saintphilip.net.

ST PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Dec. 10** at 7:00 PM, this will be a social event. 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. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at: ggardne148@aol.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday Bible study with the pastor 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:

welcome@saintphilip.net

Advent at St. Philip

Advent Meditations

Wednesdays | December 2-23 | 12 pm

A Weekly offering of music and spoken word



12/2:
Jeremy Garcia,
Guitar

12/9:
Jeong-Suk Bae,
Harpsichord





12/16:
Houston Harp
Quartet

12/23:
Marvin Gaspard,
Piano



Lunch available afterwards in Gathering Area

SaintPhilip.net

ST. PHILIP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship at St. Philip
Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphlip.net.

[GUEST BOOK]

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. Resources such as noise-dampening headphones and fidget tools for our neurodivergent neighbors and anyone needing sensory support can be found there too.

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.

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.

[MAKE A CONTRIBUTION]



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.

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 AM worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

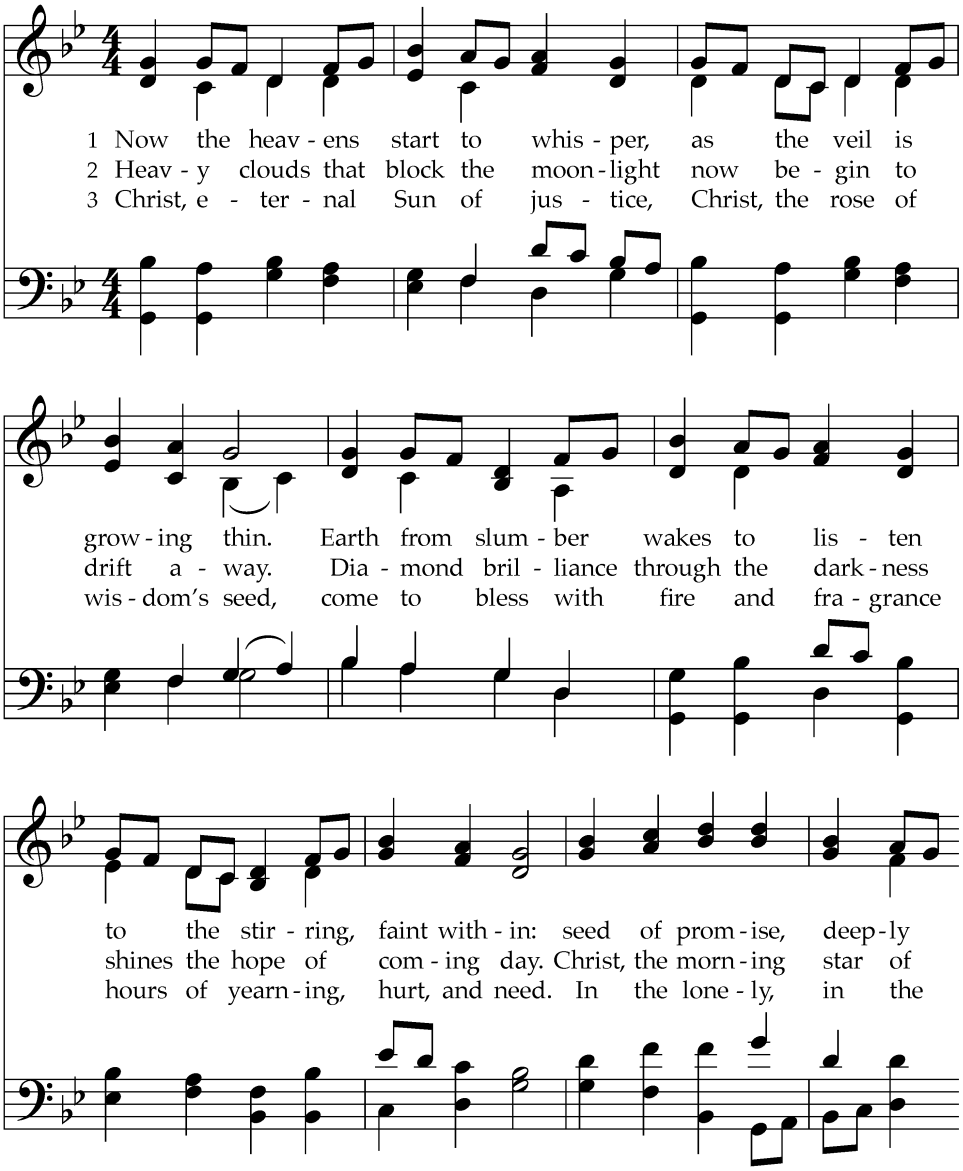
Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 AM Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

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.

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.

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 payable directly to St. Philip Day School** or visit their website for online donations**.** 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 email: Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

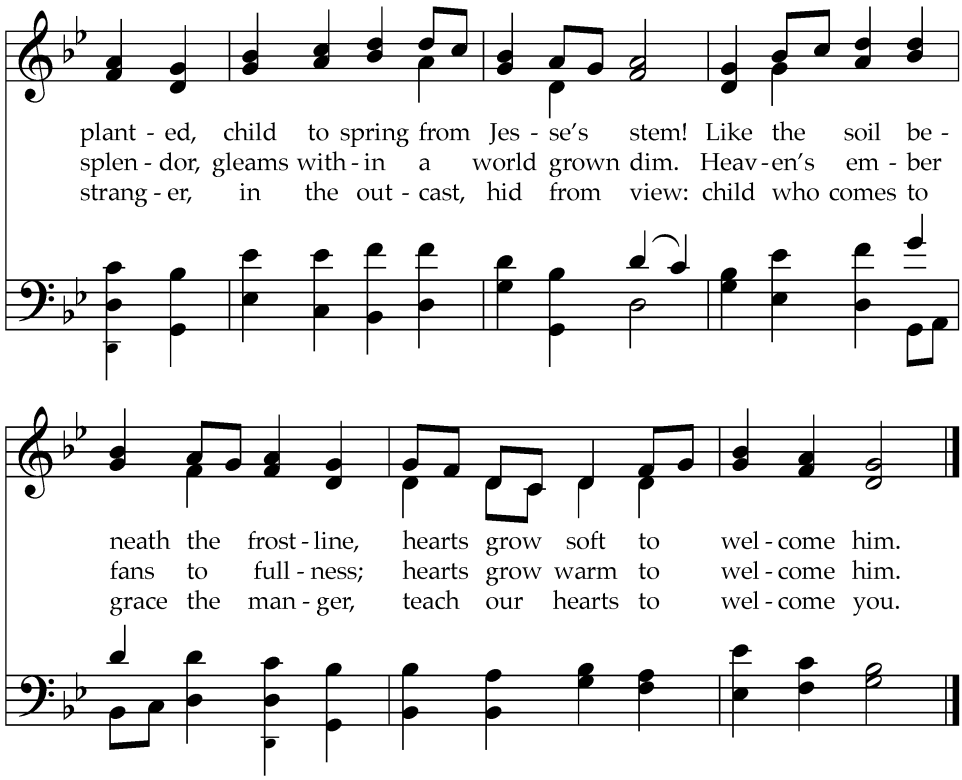
94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005
MUSIC: Alexander Johnson's *Tennessee Harmony,* 1818; harm. *Lutheran Book of Worship,* 1978
JEFFERSON
8.7.8.7.D

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music Harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship *(admin. Augsburg Fortress)*



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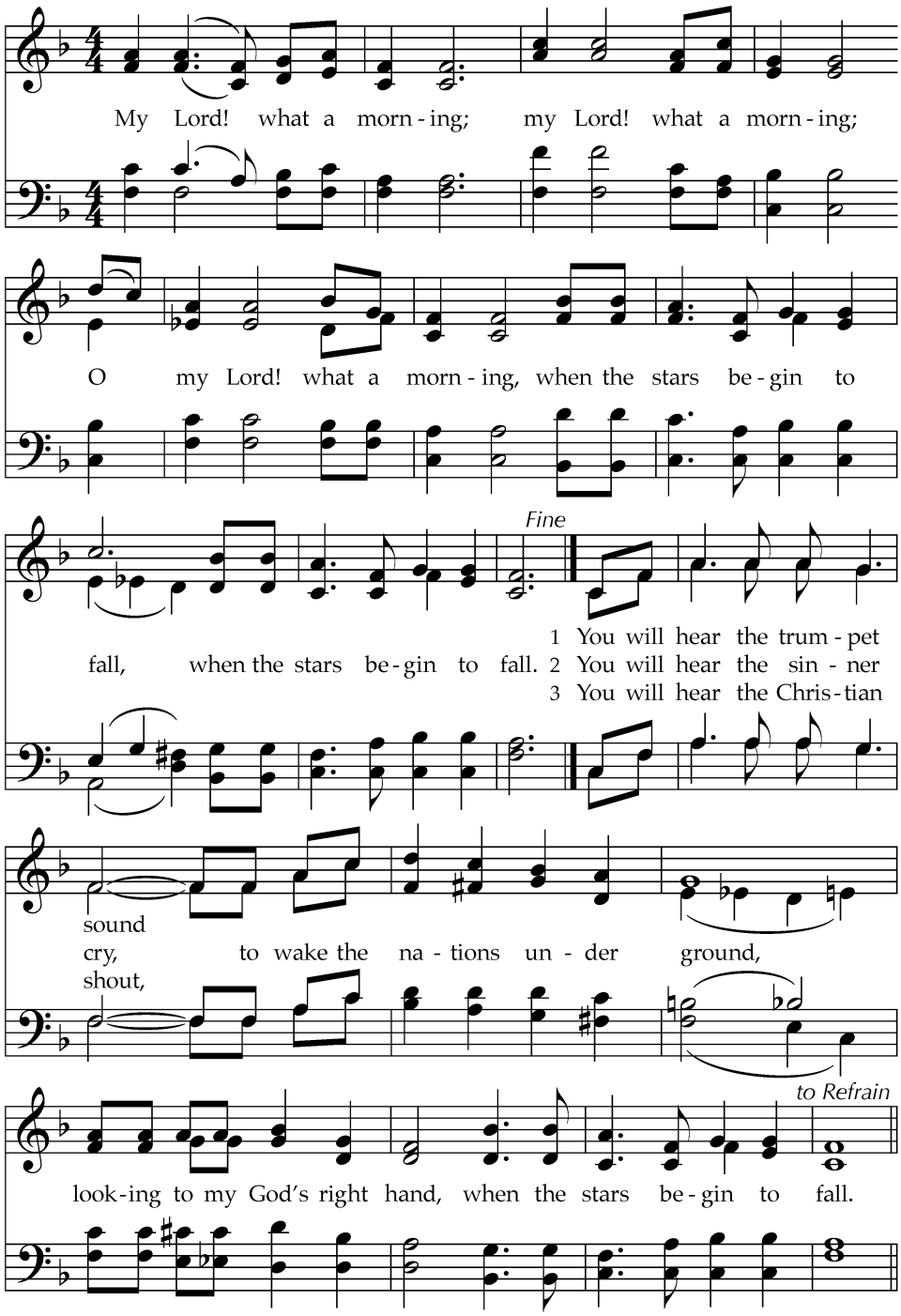
352 My Lord! What a Morning

Refrain



This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29–30/Mark 13:24–26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
Irregular

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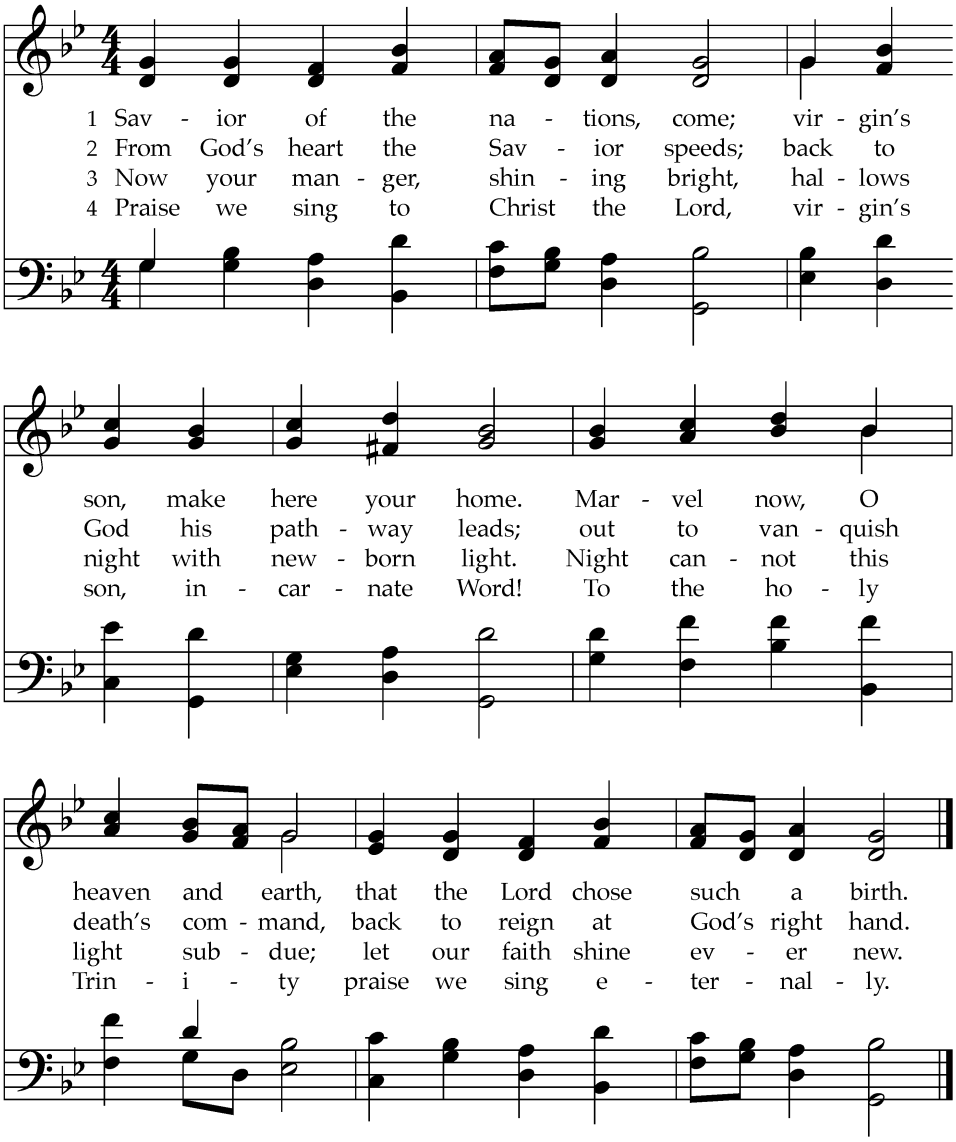
Savior of the Nations, Come 102



Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523; English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.; English trans. stanzas 2–4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006
MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594
English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
7.7.7.7

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