



ASCENSION SUNDAY

MAY 17, 2026

Preparation For Worship

*You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.
 You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide.
 You, the everlasting instant; you, who are our pilgrim guide.*

– Sylvia Dunstan, Hymn 274

Voluntary

*Serene Alleluias from a Soul Longing Towards Heaven
 (from L'Ascension)*

Olivier Messiaen
 (1908-1992)

Greeting

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

Introit

*Wir essen und leben wohl
 BWV 4/7*

Johann Sebastian Bach
 (1685-1750)

<i>Wir essen und leben wohl In rechten Osterfladen; Der alte Sauerteig nicht soll Sein bei dem Wort der Gnaden. Christus will die Koste sein Und speisen die Seel allein; Der Glaub will keins andern leben. Alleluja!</i>	<i>We eat and live well In proper Easter bread; The old sour bread shall not Be with the word of grace. Christ will be the nourishment And alone feed the soul; Faith will live by none other. Hallelujah!</i>
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Martin Luther

✠ Opening Sentences

✠ Hymn 267 [\(see page 9\)](#)

Come, Christians Join to Sing

MADRID

✠ Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
 you have raised Jesus from death to life,
 and crowned him Lord of all.
 We confess that we have not bowed before him,
 or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
 We have gone along with the ways of the world,
 and failed to give him glory.
 Forgive us,
 and raise us from sin,
 that we may be your faithful people,
 obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who rules the world
 and is head of the church, his body.

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' written below each staff.

MUSIC: Fintan O'Carroll, 1981 ©

✠ The Peace

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

Signs of peace and reconciliation may be exchanged.

Conversation with Children and Recognition of High School Seniors

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-14

N.T. pg. 118

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

Anthem

Alleluya Psallat

William Mathias
(1934-1992)

<i>Alleluya psallat haec familia,</i>	This family sings Alleluia,
<i>Alleluya concinat haec familia:</i>	This family sings in harmony Alleluia:
<i>Alleluya timpanizet,</i>	Play the tambourine, Alleluia,
<i>Alleluya citharizet,</i>	Play the cithara, Alleluia,
<i>Alleluya psallat</i>	This family sings Alleluia,
<i>Laetus coetus cum armonia.</i>	Let us all sing together in harmony,
<i>Alleluya psallat</i>	This family sings Alleluia,
<i>Deo laudum et praeconia,</i>	Let us praise his holy name,
<i>Alleluya.</i>	Alleluia.

Anonymous, 13th-century

Sermon

Dusty Faith

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✦ Hymn 258 ([see page 10](#))*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!*

DEO GRACIAS

✦ The Sacrament of Baptism

August Theodore Victorian

Presentation

Questions

The Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

Baptism

Welcome

Baptism Response (*sung twice*)

Howard Hughes, SM

You have put on Christ; in Christ you have been bap-tized.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Gifts may be given any time at saintphilip.net

Offertory

Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt
 BWV 4/2

J. S. Bach

<i>Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt</i>	Nobody could restrain death,
<i>Bei allen Menschenkindern;</i>	Among all the children of humankind;
<i>Das macht' alles unsre Sünd,</i>	Our sin made all that so;
<i>Kein Unschuld war zu finden.</i>	No innocence was to be found.
<i>Davon kam der Tod so bald</i>	As a result, death came immediately
<i>Und nahm über uns Gewalt,</i>	And seized power over us,
<i>Hielt uns in seinem Reich gefangen.</i>	Held us imprisoned in its realm.
<i>Alleluja!</i>	Hallelujah!

Martin Luther

Transl. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Great and mighty God,
 we praise you that Christ has ascended
 to rule at your right hand.
We thank you that Christ alone is Lord of our lives.
By your Spirit,
give us freedom to love with his love,
and to embrace the world with his compassion.
 Amen.

✦ Hymn 266 [\(see page 11\)](#)

Joy to the World

RICHMOND

✦ Charge and Blessing

Voluntary

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr
 BWV 715

J. S. Bach

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

Liturgist

Asher Brewer

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Tessa Larson, soloist | Tessa Larson & Cecilia Duarte, duet
Justin Langham, director of music

FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are given by Stephen Paine to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Larkin, Trudy Cleveland and Nan Schissler.

WORSHIP NOTES

We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism today with August Theodore Victorian, son of Quincy and Sarah Victorian. Congratulations to our graduating high school seniors Leah Bream and John Webster.

Today's Lectionary readings:

- Acts 1:6-14—*After Jesus' ascension, the disciples go to Jerusalem and pray.*
- Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35—*God rides upon the clouds, and gives power to the people.*
- 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11—*You are suffering now, but the God of grace will restore you.*
- John 17:1-11—*Jesus seeks the glory of God and prays for his disciples.*

MUSIC NOTES

This morning's **opening voluntary** comes from one of Olivier Messiaen's most magical works, a 1930s suite on the subject of the Ascension of Christ. "Serene Alleluias" lives up to its name: this is a gently ecstatic variation-style work, yet one that relies on its composer's spiritually infused and highly detailed way of organizing pitches and rhythms.

On this final Sunday of the Easter season, we complete our series highlighting J. S. Bach's Easter cantata *Christ lag in Todesbanden* ("Christ lay in death's bonds"), BWV 4, displaying the final movement, and Martin Luther's final hymn stanza, as today's **introit**. While the cantata's final chorale declares Christ's victory with more resolution, its second movement—today's **offertory**—harkens back to a time of helplessness, setting Martin Luther's corresponding second stanza with a contemplative duet overtop a bass ostinato (repeated melodic pattern). The material for both soloists and accompaniment leans heavily on a descending half-step motive, personifying a sigh or lament.

Although Welsh composer William Mathias dwelled in large genres like opera and orchestral works, many of his works fall into the Anglican organ and choral tradition. However, compared to his more traditional counterparts, Mathias' musical language is distinctly modern in harmony and style, which is depicted pointedly in *Alleluya Psallat*, a spirited, dance-like setting of an ancient text.

The **closing voluntary** is one of several Bach settings of the German chorale tune *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Her* (All Glory Be to God on High). With the lightly decorated melody riding above a sturdy four-part texture, Bach supplies imaginative links between phrases, as he seems to have done during congregational singing throughout his career.

Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

The Prayer of Confession is from the *Book of Common Worship*, Presbyterian Church (USA).

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IN OUR PRAYERS

Angelina Fonseca-Grewal upon the death of her grandmother Esther Mancillas.

St. Philippians and their families – Roderick James; Margaret King; Jane Malczewskyj; Nancy E. Johnson; Molly Boren; Charlotte Kibler; Laney Miller; Laurie Sims; Jan Meyer; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; David Winship; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Dick Nunn; Eleanor Grant; Judy Nunn; Don Padgett; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Tom Swan – father of Charles Swan; Bill Davis – brother of Meg Scott-Johnson; Lara Bain-niece of Jo Helland; Jonathan Castro – brother of David Castro; Susan Everhart – niece and Lisa Marcelletti – cousin of Nancy E. Johnson; 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; Lorraine Scott; Sondra Sullivan; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians – Christiane Richter – friend of Roderick James; Ann Swanson – friend of Deborah Unruh; Kitty Manson and family; Tanya Voinche, Sidney Roach, and Joyce Freudenberg – friends of Stephen Paine; Mary Ann Thomas; Carter Lindley, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte, friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash – friend of Jane Cooper; 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

**2026 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
BIRTHDAY OFFERING**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

–ROMANS 15:13

SUNDAY, MAY 17
CELEBRATING WITH CAKE IN THE
GATHERING AREA FOLLOWING WORSHIP!

**GIVE OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIRTHDAY OFFERING
BY VISITING: PRESBYTERIANWOMEN.ORG/BIRTHDAY**



Reflecting the Image of God Through Inclusion

"We Choose Welcome" is a core belief at St. Philip. To further this mission, the Inclusion Team and Education Committee are introducing new resources for our neurodivergent neighbors and anyone needing sensory support.

Starting **Sunday, April 26**, the following tools will be available in the narthex:

- **Noise-Dampening Headphones:** To soften sounds for those with sensory sensitivities.
- **Fidget Tools:** To provide tactile grounding and focus during worship.

The Body of Christ is only complete when it includes the *whole* body. See how we are working toward that in the narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT
9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**
**Sunday School Classes will conclude on May
24 and begin in the fall**

GODLY PLAY – Ages 3 – Kindergarten – ROOM 103

CHILDREN: Grades 1-4 – Room 206

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.
May 24 – Film and Media Study – Look closer: Let's start at the very beginning. An opening scene can tell us a lot about how to view and interpret what follows. It can even represent the whole story in miniature. In this class, we'll revisit the opening scenes of several works we already know – then end with one we haven't explored yet, just to keep things interesting. Led by Kate Burkart, leading St. Philip film and media studies since 2002. 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 every other Monday of the month evening at 7:00 PM via Zoom. (**May 18, June 1, June 15 & June 29**) It is a time of study, reflection, and prayer. If you would like more details, email Keatan at:

keatan@saintphilip.net.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB – This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **June 11** at 7:00 PM. *Good Soil* by Jeff Chu. 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, **May 22** will be the last gathering un-

til the fall. We are beginning to study "*Short Stories by Jesus*" by Amy-Jill Levine. 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. This class will conclude on **May 27** until the fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- You're invited to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Houston Masterworks Chorus **TODAY** at 4:00 PM in their season-finale concert "This is Why We Sing," commemorating a remarkable 40th season of making music for the Houston community. The concert is free for everyone in the St. Philip community. Simply inform those at the door that you are a church member or MASP supporter!
- Peacemaking and Social Justice (PSJ) Committee - 5th Sunday Speaker Series - **May 31** *International Children's Day* right after Worship Room 201. No need to RSVP, just show up! Denise Wilborn, moderator, dwilborn55@gmail.com
- Pride Festival and Parade, **June 6th**. Volunteers invited to staff a Presbytery of New Covenant booth during the day; and carpool or meet for the evening parade. Contact Denise Wilborn (dwilborn55@gmail.com).

MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP
hosts

A PIANO RECITAL



featuring

OSIP NIKIFOROV

**Sunday, May 24
3:00 PM**

FOLLOW US ONLINE
Music at St Philip








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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Hymn 267

Come, Christians Join to Sing

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!
 2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!
 3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - - men!

Like many other hymns of praise, this text was originally addressed to children but has been embraced by adults as well. Although the tune's repetitive elements suggest folk origins (possibly with alternating groups of singers), no specific source has been identified.


TEXT: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843
 MUSIC: Spanish folk melody; arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

MADRID
 6.6.6.6.D

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Hymn 258

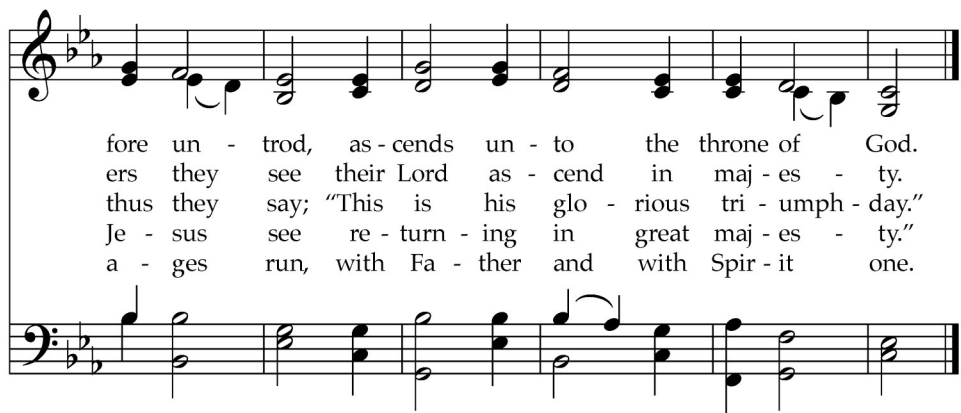
A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
 3 To all, the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



out the world shall ring; Christ, by a road be -
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, and with his fol - low -
 gaze up - on the sky? This is the Sav - ior!"
 por - tals of the sky. Here - af - ter you shall
 you let earth ac - cord. You are, while end - less



fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 ers they see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 thus they say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph - day."
 Je - sus see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

These stanzas have been crafted from various English translations of a much longer Latin hymn preserved in an 11th-century manuscript in the British Museum. This text celebrating Christ's majesty is well set to a 15th-century English tune commemorating a military victory.

TEXT: The Venerable Bede, 7th–8th cent.; trans. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.

DEO GRACIAS

MUSIC: "The Agincourt Song," c. 1415; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2012

LM

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

(alternate tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN with "Alleluia," 15)

Music Harm. © 2012 Alfred V. Fedak

(alternate harmonization, 189)

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Hymn 266

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and

earth re - ceive her king; let ev - ery heart pre -
 all their songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks,
 thorns in - fest the ground; he comes to make his
 makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries of his

pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 hills, and plains re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 bless - ings flow far as the curse is found.
 righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love.

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Thomas Haweis, c. 1792; adapt. Samuel Webbe Jr., 1808

RICHMOND
CM

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