



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 9, 2026

Preparation for Worship

*God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you,
and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory
and worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.*

Voluntary

Meditation on "Finlandia"

Brenda Portman
(b. 1980)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Introit

Rejoice! Be Glad!

Richard Proulx
(1937-2010)

Rejoice! Be Glad!

How great will be your reward in heaven.

Adapt. Matthew 5:12

✦ Opening Sentences

✦ Hymn 35 [\(page 9\)](#)

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

✦ Prayer of Confession

God of perfect love,
you continually bring forth life,
transforming sadness to joy,
and despair to hope.
We are weak, but you are strong.
Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true.
We are seldom right, but you are never wrong.
Forgive us, redeem us, transform us.
Take away the sin that burdens us,
and restore us to the people you would have us be,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

silent prayer

✦ Response *(sung twice)*

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995

Text and music © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG), Iona Community (administered by GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✦ Response

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise
God, all crea - tures high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Praise God in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre -
a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - 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

Matthew 14:22-31

N. T. pg. 16

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

Anthem*God, You Made All Things for Singing*John Ferguson
(1941-2025)

God, you made all things for singing,
 Even canyons carved from stone.
 Thunder sets the hard rock ringing
 With the hymn the skies intone.
 Alleluia! Yours the praise and yours alone.

As the clap and roll of thunder
 Give the rocks their note to start,
 Spirit, free songs of wonder waiting,
 Waiting in the thankful heart.
 Alleluia! Help each voice to sing its part.

Join us in all our singing.
 Make our music, Lord, your own.
 Be the bass note deeply ringing.
 Be the highest overtone.
 Alleluia! Yours the praise and yours alone.

Thomas H. Troeger

Sermon**Step By Step**

John W. Wurster

silence and stillness✦ **Hymn 775** ([see page 10](#))*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

WALK WITH ME

✦ **Affirmation of Faith***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.**

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

Offertory

How beautiful are the feet of them

G. F. Handel
(1685-1759)

How beautiful are the feet of them
That preach the gospel of peace,
And bring glad tidings of good things.

Charles Jennens
Adapt. Isaiah 52:7 & Romans 10:18

Litany for the Beginning of a Sabbatical

I thank God for the ministry we share and for the gift of this time away.

May God's peace be with all of us as I leave for a season
to renew my spirit, my ministry, my life.

**As you and Deb journey together through this time,
we ask God to guide you in all you do.**

May you experience the gift of spiritual growth on your sabbatical.

I pray this gift for all of you,
that you, too, may flourish and grow in the time
that we are apart from one another
and come to know more fully the gifts God has given you
and this community for serving Jesus Christ.

**We pray for you and for one another
that we will all be strengthened and renewed.**

During my sabbatical, I will pray for all of you.
I will use this time faithfully to refresh my life as a child of God
and renew my calling to serve as a pastor in Christ's church.

**We send you off with our blessing.
We will greet your return with joy.**

Let us pray:

Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts.

Renew John for ministry in this time set aside for reflection and refreshment.

**Grace John and Deb with your presence, keep them safe in your love
and steadfast in the faith we share,**

while we are away from one another for this season. Amen.

✦ Hymn 542 ([page 11](#))

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GOD BE WITH YOU

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(1877-1933)

Everyone is invited to join the personnel committee in the Gathering Area for reception with Pastor John upon his sabbatical departure.

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

John Wurster & Keatan King

Liturgists

John Lemen & Deb Burks

Musicians

Andrew Bowen, guest organist | Tessa Larson, Cecilia Duarte, Sarah Neal, Thomas O'Neill, Daniel Boyd, & David Le - small ensemble | St. Philip Choir | Tessa Larson, soprano | Jesús Pacheco, timpani
Justin Langham, director of music

FLOWERS

The flowers on the chancel are given today by Charlotte W. Kibler in memory of her parents, Ray and Bertha Wiegand and her late husband Dewey's parents Dewey & Lela Kibler.

WORSHIP NOTES

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

- Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 – *Out of jealousy, Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt.*
- Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b – *God sent Joseph to Egypt to save the people in a time of famine.*
- 1 Kings 19:9-18 – *Elijah hears the word of the Lord – not in the storm, but in silence.*
- Psalm 85:8-13 – *Let me hear what the Lord will speak; God will speak peace.*
- Romans 10:5-15 – *Proclaim the word of faith: confess Jesus as Lord, and be saved.*
- Matthew 14:22-33 – *Jesus walks on the water to meet his disciples, and calms a storm.*

SABBATICAL NOTES:

John Wurster is on a sabbatical leave from August 10 to November 9. Guided by the phrase attributed to Augustine, "It is solved by walking," John is reflecting on a series of scripture passages as part of his daily walking regimen over these three months. You are invited to join him in engaging the biblical texts through the weeks. The passage for the week of August 10 is Deuteronomy 10:12: *What does the LORD your God require of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

MUSIC NOTES

Today's service opens with Brenda Portman's *Meditation on "Finlandia,"* which offers a contemplative reimagining of Jean Sibelius's familiar hymn tune rather than its typical grandeur. Emphasizing the melody's introspective qualities, the setting transforms a well-known tune into a moment of reflection.

Richard Proulx was a prolific composer of church music, especially in regards to liturgically-driven pieces like anthems, hymns, organ music, and short introits and responses. *Rejoice! Be Glad!* comes from a set of eight choral introits for the church year, and sets a short phrase from Matthew's gospel into a declamatory call to worship.

Based on the UNION SEMINARY hymn tune, our **anthem** sets 20th-century words by Thomas H. Thoege, who was inspired into ministry after studying to become a flutist. This arrangement effortlessly blends choir and organ textures into a unified expression of faith, a feature found in many other works by organist and hymnist John Ferguson.

Through their drama, expressive power, and conciseness, movements from Handel's *Messiah* are frequently performed apart from the larger work. Today's **offertory**, drawn from the middle of the oratorio, marks a distinct shift in mood, offering a serene celebration of the messengers who bring good news in contrast to the grand choral proclamations that surround it.

Labeled a "triumphal march" by the composer, our **closing voluntary** transforms the familiar Lutheran chorale ("Now Thank We All Our God") into a richly textured work, marked by chromaticism and late-Romantic harmonies. The setting combines devotional character with virtuosic writing, showcasing the organ and the composer's musical style.

The St. Philip Choir & Handbells would also like to recognize two longtime members as they begin a new chapter of worship at St. Philip beyond the music ministry. We are deeply grateful to Jeanie Flowers and Jeanette Wennenwaser for their decades of faithful service, dedication, and countless contributions to our music ministry.

—Notes by Justin Langham



MUSIC AT  ST. PHILIP

SUMMER ORGAN SERIES

Sunday, August 16
2:30 pm | Pre-Concert Lecture
3:00 pm | Concert

Bryan Anderson, Organist
 Dr. Louis Markos, Narrator

Petr Eben's "Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart"

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

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Music at St Philip

ANDREW BLANCH

SPANISH ROMANCE

★★★★★



A TOUR OF THE SPANISH GUITAR
 FEATURING **MARIA EUGENIA NIEVA**



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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

2026-2027 Bible Study Book
AVAILABLE TO ORDER

ORDER ONLINE BY:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30



[PW STUDY BOOK '26]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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IN OUR PRAYERS

The family and friends of Carolyn Keeble who passed away on August 1.

St. Philippians and their families – Alex Brewer; Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; John Bobbitt; Linda Miller; Gary Whitney; Jane Malczewskyj; Molly Boren; Charlotte Kibler; Laney Miller; Laurie Sims; Jan Meyer; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Eleanor Grant; Don Padgett; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Ada & Bob Austin – parents of Nina Lambright; Mary Morgan – niece of Celia Morgan; Rick Haley – cousin of Lorrie Castle; 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; Ann Perenyi – mother of Lad Perenyi; Suzanne Frazier & Ann Perkins Cloud – cousins of Stephen Paine.

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

Friends of St. Philippians – Camilo Triana – uncle of Jesús Toribio; Austin Miller – friend of Charles Swan; Christiane Richter – friend of Roderick James; Ann Swanson – friend of Deborah Unruh; Tanya Voinche & Sidney Roach – friends of Stephen Paine; Keith Kirby, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE ON SUMMER RECESS AND RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

Visit our website (www.saintphilip.net) to learn about all of the Christian Education programs we offer for children, youth, young adults, senior adults and families. Classes are offered on Sundays, as well as weekdays. If you would like to be a leader in classes next fall please contact Omar Rouchon via email at :

omar@saintphilip.net.

Social Justice Study Group. This group meets irregularly by zoom to discuss books and issues of public policy that affect our community and beyond. On Monday, Oct. 5 Keatan King will lead a discussion of Matthew Desmond's book, *Poverty by America*. To be added to our zoom list, please contact Sara Jean Jackson at :

sjj10223@gmail.com.

NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE

THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find 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.

PEACEMAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO **5TH SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES**

READY, SET, VOTE!
REBECCA MCILWAIN, HOUSTON FAITH VOTES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
FOLLOWING WORSHIP | ROOM 201
LIGHT BITES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: DWILBORN55@GMAIL.COM

ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4807 SAN FELIPE, 77056 | SAINTPHILIP.NET

WE CHOOSE WELCOME





[GUEST BOOK]

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

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.



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.



[MAKE A CONTRIBUTION]

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.

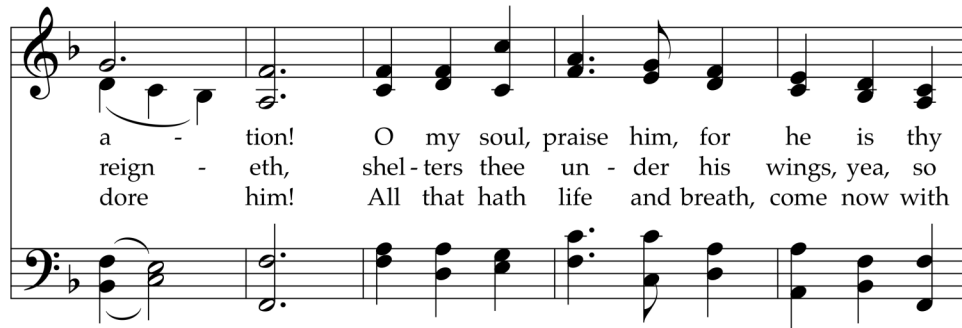
Nametags—Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible 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 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

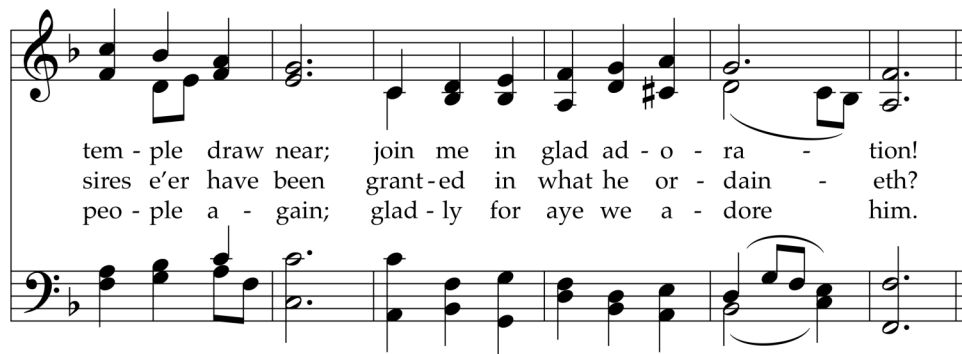

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14.14.4.7.8

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Hymn 775

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

The two equal phrases in each line suggest that this African American spiritual shares some characteristics of work or field songs that were used to coordinate the efforts of slaves involved in tasks (road clearing, ditch digging, etc.) that needed combined rhythmic strokes.

TEXT: African American spiritual
 MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Nolan Williams Jr., 2000
 Music Arr. © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

WALK WITH ME
 8.8.8.9

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Hymn 542

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:
 vide you:
 round you:
 fore you:
 God be with you till we meet a - gain.

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.

TEXT: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.
 MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

GOD BE WITH YOU
 9.8.8.9
 (alternate tune: RANDOLPH, 541)

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