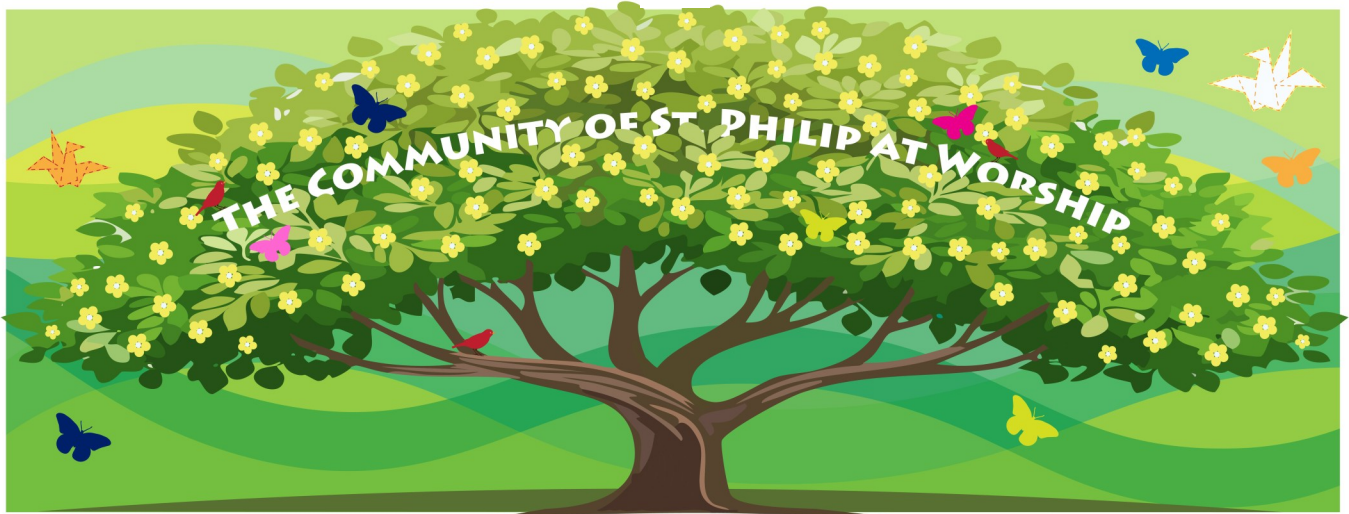




SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Preparation for Worship

*God our provider,
as you fed your people in the wilderness
with meat in the evening
and manna in the morning,
let your grace be our daily bread,
that we might be nourished in faith
and grow as your holy people.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.*

Voluntary

Concerto in A Major: *Ouverture – A tempo ordinario*

George Friederic Handel
(1685-1759)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

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

Introit

Awake, Awake to Love and Work (excerpt)

Kenneth Drake
(b. 1961)

Awake, awake to love and work!
The lark is in the sky;
The fields are wet with diamond dew;
The world's awake to cry
Their blessing on the Lord of life,
As God goes meekly by.
G. A. Studdert Kennedy (1883-1929)

✦ Opening Sentences

Remember the wonderful work of the Lord —
who brought us out of captivity;
who fed us with bread from heaven
and gave us water from a stone.
God will never forget the promise;
therefore let us rejoice and sing!

✦ Hymn 401 [\(see page 13\)](#)

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

✠ Prayer of Confession

O Lord our God,
 you call us to work for a world
 where all will be fed and have dignity,
 but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires.
 You call us to seek justice and peace,
 but we are satisfied with injustice and discord.
 You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed,
 but we do not insist on freedom for all.

Forgive us, O Lord.
 Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit,
 so that all may know your justice and peace;
 through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

silent prayer

✠ Response

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

TEXT: Traditional liturgical text; revised in *The Worshipbook*, © 1970 The Westminster Press
 MUSIC: Appalachian folk melody; arranged by Richard D. Wetzel, © 1972 The Westminster Press

WAYFARING STRANGER
 9.9.9

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

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

✦ Response

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

✦ 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 20:1-16

N. T. pgs. 21-22

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

Anthem*I give you a new commandment*Peter Nardone
(b. 1965)

I give to you a new commandment,
A new commandment I give to you,
That you love one another as I have loved you.

Adapt. John 13: 34-35

<i>Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est.</i>	Where charity and love are, God is there.
<i>Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.</i>	Christ's love has gathered us into one.
<i>Exsulemus et ipso iucudemur.</i>	Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
<i>Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.</i>	Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
<i>Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.</i>	And love each other with a sincere heart.

Liber Usualis

Sermon

Who's Counting?

Omar Rouchon

silence and stillness✠ **Hymn 435** ([see page 14](#))*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

from the Confession of Belhar

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world,
that the church is blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church
to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life
for society and the world. 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

Father of Heaven

G. F. Handel

Father of Heaven, from Thy eternal throne,
Look with an eye of blessing down,
While we prepare with holy rites
To solemnize the feast of lights.

Librettist Thomas Morell (1747)

✦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Great and generous God, source of all our treasure.
We thank you for the gifts of our lives and the gifts of the earth.

**Help us to love you,
and to be thankful for all your gifts,
delighting to do your will,
by serving you and your creation
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✦ Hymn 307 [\(page 15\)](#)

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

✦ Charge and Blessing

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

Voluntary

Concerto in A Major: *Allegro*

G. F. Handel

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Ava Arlinghaus

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | St. Philip Choir | Gregory McDaniel, guest conductor | Cecilia Duarte, mezzo-soprano
Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

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

- Exodus 16:2-15— *The people complain of hunger; God gives food in the wilderness.*
- Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45— *Give thanks to the Lord, who gave food and drink in the desert.*
- Jonah 3:10—4:11— *God's mercy angers Jonah; God teaches a lesson through a bush.*
- Psalm 145:1-8— *The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.*
- Philippians 1:21-30— *Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel.*
- Matthew 20:1-16— *The parable of laborers in the vineyard; the last will be first.*

SABBATICAL NOTES:

John Wurster is on a sabbatical through 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 **September 21:** Luke 24:13-32 Now on that same day two of them were *walking* to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

MUSIC NOTES

Handel composed his **Concerto in A Major** for organ and strings (Op. 7, No. 2) for the premiere of his oratorio *Samson* in 1743. Its compositional bookends take the form of a two-part French overture—with a slow, majestic introduction and a quicker fugue—plus a closing Allegro in the rhythm of the gavotte. Like many a Baroque concerto, the work adapts itself nicely to different circumstances, with or without an accompanying ensemble.

The vivid hymn text “**Awake, Awake to Love and Work,**” most commonly sung to the tune MORNING SONG, evokes pastoral imagery of early morning in the English countryside. Our service begins with the opening verse from a choral arrangement by New York City-based composer Kenneth Dake, who distributes the melody seamlessly across the different voices until the sopranos bring the verse softly to a close.

The origins of the hymn *Ubi Caritas* can be traced back to Paulinus of Aquileia around 796 AD, with the traditional melody dating back to the late 8th century. In today’s **anthem**, Scottish composer Peter Nardone cleverly integrates the first verse of the plainchant with a flowing original melodic setting of the familiar passage from John 13, creating a musical manifestation of God’s presence through love for one another.

Originally devised as a compliment to Prince William Augustus after victory in battle, the oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus*, HWV 63 by the German-English Baroque composer George Frideric Handel tells the story of Jewish deliverance from persecution by the Greek Empire. Our **offertory** is the opening aria from the third act, where an Israelite sings in celebration of the upcoming feast of lights, foreshadowing the victory and peace to come.

— Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session voted to hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, **Sept. 27**, 2026 at the conclusion of the 11:00 AM worship service for the purpose of electing Ruling Elders of the Class of 2029, one Trustee, members of the CMEF council, and members of the Congregational Nominating Committee.

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.

Ruling Elders Class of 2029 — *Linda Bevill, Cara Biddle, Jacquie Colton, Cathy Patterson, Mike Queen, Sharon Webb, and Arlo Weltge*

Trustee Class of 2029 — *Bill Brunger*

Central Mission Endowment Fund Class of 2029 — *Judith Hiott and Gay Van Osdall*

Congregational Nominating Committee Class of 2028 — *Roderick James and Anne Wilson*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

Prayer of Confession is from the *Book of Common Worship* (2018), Presbyterian Church (USA).

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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.

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, Judy Hartman—Join us from **9:30–10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Sept. 27**—Spiritual Pilgrimage for Racial Justice—presented by St. Philip Youth and Rev. Keatan King. You are invited to hear the story of from the St. Philip youth about their participation in an annual Spiritual Pilgrimage for Racial Justice, traveling through the American South en route to and from the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina. The youth will describe their visits to Civil Rights Historical Sites in Baton Rouge, Montgomery, Birmingham, Gee's Bend, and Biloxi to learn the history of racial oppression in the South; to study the brave individuals and congregations who furthered the Civil Rights Movement as an expression of their Christian faith and to pursue the work of reconciliation and repentance that God is still calling forth. 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, singing, 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 during the worship service

ST PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDY GROUP— Please join us for our next book discussion on Monday, **Oct. 5**, 7-8 PM zoom. A review of Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, by America* will be led by Keatan King. This book is available anywhere you buy your books. It is a very readable, concisely written treatise by a Pulitzer Prize winner, a contributing writer to The New York Times. Do mark your calendars; a zoom link will be sent out the day before to those who want to participate. Contact Sara Jean Jackson at: sjj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Oct. 8** at 7:00 PM they will be discussing *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Watch your email for details about location. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at: nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—**Returns Sept. 25**—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 discussing *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 the pastor of the week 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

IN OUR PRAYERS

St. Philippians and their families – Russell Bahruth; Jenilee Simmons; Sondra Sullivan; Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; John Bobbitt; 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; Mezgebe Gebray; 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; Beverly Baker; Joan Boelens; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Arlette Keene; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; Lorraine Scott; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians – Terri Romano – friend of Wayne & Sandra Truxillo; 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.



ST. PHILIP'S MUSIC MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 13

9 TO 9:40 AM, CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

FOR AGES 5 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

Singing, Movement, Percussion, & More!

Register your child through **SAINTPHILIP.NET**



[CHILDREN'S MUSIC]

Help Us Open Doors

Join St. Philip Day School for a Luncheon Benefiting
the Future of Houston's Families

When you support St. Philip Day School, you aren't just funding a classroom; you are investing in the crucial first years of a child's life and providing essential resources for their family. We invite you to be part of this impactful afternoon.

Event Details

Monday, November 2, 2026
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

The Junior League of Houston
1811 Briar Oaks Ln, Houston, TX 77027



To attend the fundraiser,
please register by **Oct. 15** at www.stphilipdayschool.org

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO

ST. PHILIP'S BBQ PICNIC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
12:15 PM | FOLLOWING WORSHIP
[ON THE FRONT LAWN]

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE PROVIDING BBQ MEAT
& ARE ASKING MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION TO BRING THE FOLLOWING:

QUESTIONS? CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
(713.622.4807) OR SEND AN EMAIL TO:
welcomes@saintphilip.net

A-I: DESSERTS J-R: SALADS S-Z: VEGGIES
(ACCORDING TO ONE'S LAST NAME)

**SPDS
CALL TO SERVICE
WORKDAY**

Saturday, September 26th
from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The day will consist of putting together two infant cubbies and hanging them, hanging shelves, and other Honey Do List items!

If you would like to help, contact Candice at
director@stphilipdayschool.org



SIGNUP
~ SEPT. 20 - OCT. 11 ~

in the Gathering Area
[ON SUNDAYS BEFORE & AFTER WORSHIP]

OR *online:*

THERE'S HARDLY A BETTER WAY TO
GET TO KNOW FELLOW SAINT PHILIPPIANS!

[MORE INFO AT SAINTPHILIP.NET]



[DINNER FOR 8 (2026)]

**CHECK YOUR VOTER
REGISTRATION STATUS
EARLY! AND OFTEN!**

Start making your plan to vote in the **Nov. 3, 2026** midterms TODAY! Check your voter registration status to make sure you are still on the rolls. Check on your status often between now and November 3rd. Voters are being suspended for various reasons. One common reason is change of address. There are several avenues to check your status:

<https://www.vote411.org/check-registration>
<https://texasimpact.org/action-center/#elections>

You can also search through the data base of the county you live in and are registered to vote in. Or if you have moved go to that county's website to find out how to register. This link to the Texas League of Women's Voters can direct you to your county:

https://lwvtexas.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=979482&module_id=469611#gsc.tab=0

***MAKE YOUR VOTING PLAN NOW.
BRING A FRIEND!!***

2026 General Election Key Dates

5 OCT	Last day to register to vote or update your registration
19 OCT	First day to vote early in person
23 OCT	Last day for Vote by Mail ballot application to be received
30 OCT	Last day to vote early in person
3 NOV	Election Day and last day for Vote by Mail ballot to be received

VOTE 411 **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF TEXAS

Sponsored by
★ TEXAS IMPACT
 PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hosted by
 **GOOD HOPE**
 MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

READY. SET. VOTE!

Advocacy Event for the 2026
 Midterms and the 90th Texas Legislative Session

This interactive event will help you:

- **Know Your Power:** Strengthen your voice in Austin and at the polls.
- **Choose Your Issue:** Identify the issue you care about most.
- **Up Your Advocacy Game:** Take meaningful advocacy action.

SUN, SEPT. 27

2 PM – 5 PM

Check-in opens at 1:30

**Good Hope
 Missionary
 Baptist Church**

Keynote Speaker:



**Commissioner
 Rodney Ellis**

Event is free.

Registration required.

txfaith.org/RSVHouston

SCAN



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 OF HOUSTON

CHRIST THE KING
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COVENANT CHURCH
 WAXAHATCH

ST. JAMES
 LUTHERAN CHURCH

ucm
 UNITED CHURCH OF METHODISTS



Houston Faith Votes
 Voting is a matter of faith. Conscience. Our responsibility.
 A project of Texas Impact

Resurrection
 CHURCH

Women Resource Center
 12000 West Loop South, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77042

First Congregational Church of Houston

ST. PHILIP
 12000 West Loop South, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77042

United Women in Faith

First Central Church



Join the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee Sunday, **Sept. 27** for the Texas Impact Advocacy Event. This interactive event will help us best leverage our voices with state representatives during the upcoming 27th Session; consider and discern what issues move us to action and why; and discuss advocacy options.

*Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church,
 3015 N MacGregor Way, Houston, TX 77004*

Carpools will leave at 1:00 PM from St. Philip. Contact Gail Faris (gailfaris@gmail.com) or Denise Wilborn (dwilborn55@gmail.com) to carpool or if you need help registering. You can also stop by the P&SJ table on Sunday mornings.





[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.

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures

of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal

which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more

sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

IN BABILONE
8.7.8.7.D

[Return to page 4](#)

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

[Return to page 5](#)