



ST. PHILIP
Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1st, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship at Saint Philip Episcopal Church.

Here are a few notes to make you feel more comfortable.

- Relax and allow your focus to be on praising God. Leave the “outside” and spend the next hour in embracing God, His Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- Above all, ask questions either in-person or through Zoom’s chat feature, if you have one. Anyone in the congregation will be happy to try and answer them.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

We gather quietly for a period of meditation and reflection.

PRELUDE (*seated*) *Gymnopedia No. 1* *Erik Satie*
OPENING HYMN (*standing, as able*) **BEFORE THY THRONE, O GOD, WE KNEEL** H574

- 1 Before thy throne, O God, we kneel:
give us a conscience quick to feel,
a ready mind to understand
the meaning of thy chastening hand;
whate'er the pain and shame may be,
bring us, O Father, nearer thee.
- 2 Search out our hearts and make us true;
help us to give to all their due.
From love of pleasure, lust of gold,
from sins which make the heart grow cold,
wean us and train us with thy rod;
teach us to know our faults, O God.
- 3 For sins of heedless word and deed,
for pride ambitious to succeed,
for crafty trade and subtle snare
to catch the simple unaware,
for lives bereft of purpose high,
forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.
- 4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try,
our inmost spirits purify:
consume the ill; purge out the shame;
O God, be with us in the flame;
a new-born people may we rise,
more pure, more true, more nobly wise.

OPENING SENTENCES (*standing, as able*)

Celebrant **Blessed be God.**
People **For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*standing, as able*)

LEVAS 243

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.
Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us,
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (*standing, as able*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth:
Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

MICAH 6:1-8 *(seated)*

Reader

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

Hear what the Lord says: “Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.” “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15 *(seated)*

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31 (*seated*)

Reader A reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN (*standing, as able*)

1 **On a hill far away
stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross
where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

REFRAIN

**So I'll cherish the cross,
the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the cross,
the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

2 **O that old rugged cross,
so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God
left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. [REFRAIN]**

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

A244

3 **In the old rugged cross,
stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.
[REFRAIN]**

4 **To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.
Then He'll call me some day
to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.
[REFRAIN]**

MATTHEW 5:1-12 (*standing, as able*)

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON (*seated*)

The Rev. Christopher C. Richardson

THE NICENE CREED (*standing, as able*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM II *(standing, as able)*

Leader I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Kristin, our Bishop; for Ken, Nedi, and Wendell, our Assisting Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

Leader I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

Leader I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

Leader I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

Leader I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Theophilus Smith Borden. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Leader I ask your prayers for Suellen Austin- Blasingame, Saundra Harris, Amanda Hays, Connie Johnson, Ann Kindle, Deryck Richardson, Nadya Richardson, Mary Robinson, Suzanne Tolbert, and Diane Walker Hall.

Silence

Leader I ask your thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

Silence

Leader Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

CONFESSIO N OF SIN *(standing or kneeling, as able)*

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE *(standing, as able)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(seated)*



OFFERTORY *(seated)*

Your generosity sustains our ministries! Simply scan the QR code below or visit our website to find more information on how you can make an online donation. Thank you for supporting the life and mission of St. Philip. (www.StPhilipsColumbus.org/support-us)

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *(seated)* *I AM LIGHT, I AM LIFE, I AM LOVE* *MARY MCDONALD*
OFFERTORY HYMN *(seated)* **WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE** *H605*

- 1 What does the Lord require
for praise and offering?
What sacrifice desire,
or tribute bid you bring?
Do justly;
love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.
- 2 Rulers of earth, give ear!
Should you not justice show?
Will God your pleading hear,
while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly;
love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.
- 3 Still down the ages ring
the prophet's stern commands.
To merchant, worker, king
he brings God's high demands.
Do justly;
love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.
- 4 How shall my soul fulfill
God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will
with grace to fortify.
Then justly;
in mercy
we'll humbly walk with God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(standing, as able)*

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING (*standing or kneeling, as able*)

Celebrant May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (*standing, as able*)

1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

REFRAIN

Rejoice, rejoice,
rejoice, give thanks, and sing

2 With all the angel choirs,
with all the saints of earth,
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
true rapture, noblest mirth.
[REFRAIN]

3 Your clear hosannas raise,
and alleluias loud;
while answering echoes upward float,
like wreaths of incense cloud.
[REFRAIN]

4 Yes, on through life's long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe. [REFRAIN]

DISMISSAL (*standing, as able*)

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

REJOICE YE PURE IN HEART

H556

5 Still lift your standard high,
still march in firm array,
as warriors through the darkness toil,
till dawns the golden day.
[REFRAIN]

6 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their Father's house,
Jerusalem the blest.
[REFRAIN]

7 Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high
the cross of Christ your King.
[REFRAIN]

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

Celebrant: The Rev. Christopher C. Richardson

Altar Guild: Joyce Young, Sylyna France

Acolytes:

Lectors: Lanelle Williams, Beverly McNeal

Chalice Bearer: Lanelle Williams

Ushers/Greeters: Altavez Haynes

Music Director: Ed Wiles

Choir Members: Sylyna France, Jacqueline Gonzales, Carole Mendenhall, Matthew Portis, Charlotte Rhea, Jacqueline Roberts, Deborah Stokes-Wayne, Patsey Ulmer, Leslie Warren

Audio/Visual Ministers: Dionne Clifton

We give thanks for all who serve in today's liturgy. Interested in joining a worship ministry? Please speak to the Rev. Christopher Richardson after the service.

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Saint Philip Worships on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Staff:

The Rev. Christopher Richardson, *Rector*
Kevin Brown, *Sexton*
Janet Kling, *Bookkeeper*
Sam Meade, *Church Administrator*
Ed Wiles, *Music Director*

Vestry:

Deborah Stokes Wayne, *Senior Warden*
Beverly McNeal, *Junior Warden*
Jacqueline Gonzales
Damian Hall
Ericka Hall
Vicky Holmes
Barbara Otey
Brianna Smith
Lei San Liggins, *Clerk*
Cheryl Lyman, *Treasurer*
Robin Holland, *Chaplain*
Patsey Ulmer, *Parliamentarian*

Mission Statement:

Our mission at St. Philip is to live and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to serve the needs of our local and global communities, and to support the evangelical work of the Episcopal church in the United States of America.

Core Values:

- *Sustaining our foundation of faith*
- *Sustaining our roots in our African American heritage while embracing cultures and traditions of all*
- *Nurturing our young parishioners as well as the community*
- *Promoting Christian fellowship*
- *Faith-based community of inclusiveness*
- *Understanding and accepting change*

Who We Are:

We are a worshiping family of God's children who believe in nourishment; social justice; reconciliation; cultural and generational enlightenment in our Columbus communities; and continuing Jesus' command for us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We invite you to be a part of our family!