

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Easthampton, Massachusetts

Be careful: If you come here, you will grow.



“The Journey of the Magi” (1894), by James Tissot (1836-1902)

Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two The Second Sunday of Christmas

4 January 2026
at 10:00 a.m.

NOTES ON THE LITURGY: “The Daily Office” is a phrase that indicates a basic quality of a Christian’s life: namely, that prayer is a “daily” activity and that keeping these prayers is a fundamental “duty” (which is what the word “office” means) of the baptized. Taken from the ancient monastic practice of praying seven times a day, the Prayer Book tradition has combined the three main elements of this monastic worship [the saying of the 1) psalms; 2) reading the scriptures; 3) offering the prayers] to punctuate each threshold experience of the day with a particular “God-awareness” in terms of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline.

Stemming from our baptismal promise “to keep the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers,” [BCP, page 304], the Daily Offices are most appropriately led by the laity. In this occasion when our priest is away, the St. Philip’s community has the opportunity not only to exercise this prayer ministry but also for some to be introduced to the Daily Office tradition and experience.

Prelude Two Settings of “See in Yonder Manger Low” Walter L. Pelz, Joseph Herl

Community Notices

The Entrance Rite

Opening Hymn #78, verses 1-3 and 5

“O little town of Bethlehem”

*Forest Green
The Hymnal, 1982*

Unison or harmony

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The People remain STANDING.

Opening Sentences

Officiant: Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the People

In silence, let us acknowledge those things that separate us from God and from one another. Then publicly and aloud (kneeling as you are able), let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept for a time. Then, the Officiant leads the People.

GOD OF ALL MERCY,

we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord
Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY

ALL STAND

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.
People: **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**
Create in us clean hearts, O God.
And renew a right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence.
Nor take your Holy Spirit from us.
Give us the joy of your saving help again.
And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

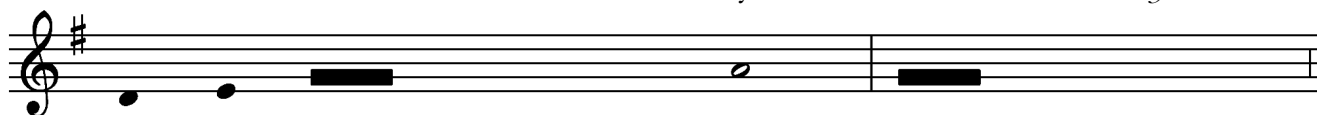
Officiant and People:

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

Jubilate #S295

The Invitatory

The Hymnal, 1982



1. Be joy - ful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his pres - ence with a song. 2. Know this:

The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pas - ture. 3. Enter his gates

with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and

call up - on his Name. 4. For the Lord is good; his mercy is ever -

last - ing; and his faithfulness en - dures from age to age.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong, Tone 8; adapt. The Standing Commission on Church Music, 1979, alt.
 © 1979, The Church Pension Fund.

The People SIT for the Psalm.

The Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;

**by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

**4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

**6 They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**8 Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;**

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

**12 O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

THE LESSONS

Old Testament:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Elizabeth McAnulty, Lector

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and
raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O
LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the
land of the north, and gather them from
the farthest parts of the earth, among them
the blind and the lame, those with child and

those in labor, together; a great company,
they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come, and with
consolations I will lead them back, I will let
them walk by brooks of water, in a straight
path in which they shall not stumble; for I
have become a father to Israel, and
Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and
declare it in the coastlands far away; say,

“He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People: Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept for a time. Then in response to the lesson, STANDING, ALL SING the Canticle.

Canticle 17 #S253

“The Song of Simeon”

The Hymnal, 1982

1. Lord, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in peace as

you have prom - ised; 2. For these eyes of mine have seen the Sa - vior,

whom you have prepared for all the world to see: 3. A Light to en -

lighten the na - tions, and the glory of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

(Gloria Patri may be omitted)

4. Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:



5. As it was in the begin-ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Music: Plainsong, Irregular Tone; adapt. The Standing Commission on Church Music, 1979; acc. Alec Wyton (b. 1921) and SCCM, 1979. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

In the Offices, the Gospel is announced, the People are SEATED to listen.

The Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 2:1-12

Susan May, Lector

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time

when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

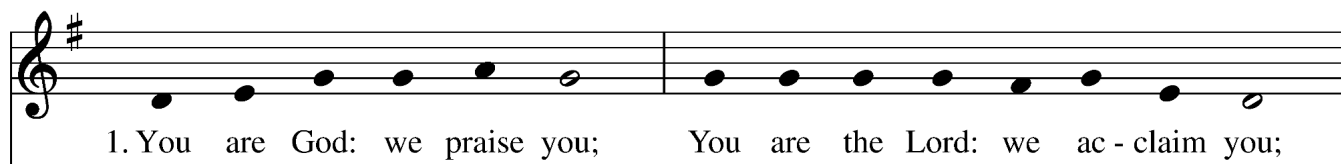
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept for time. Then, in response to the Gospel lesson, STANDING, ALL SING the following Cantic.

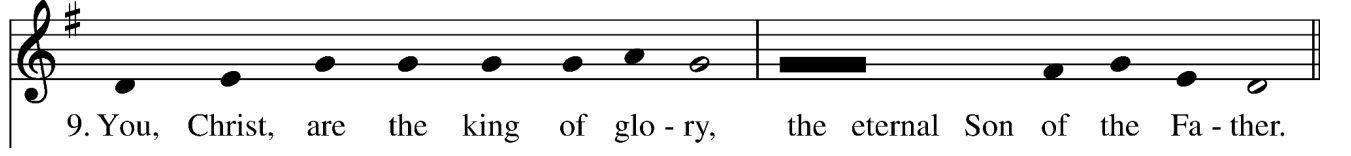
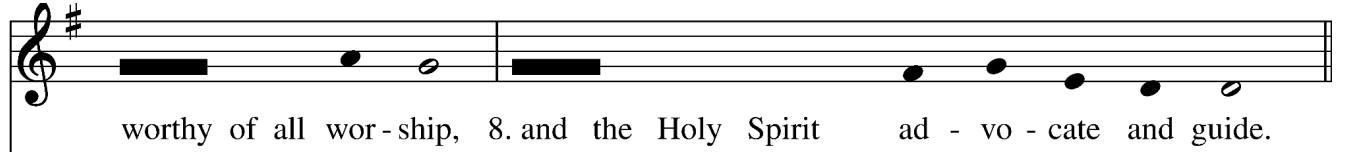
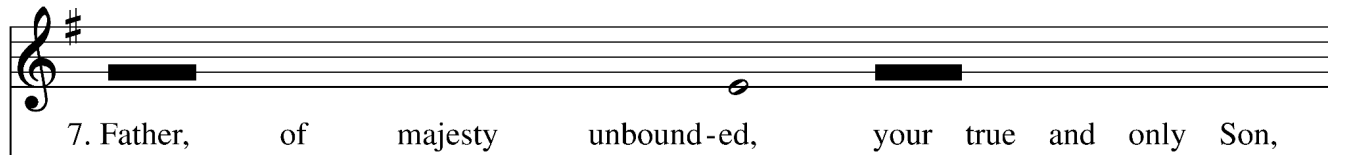
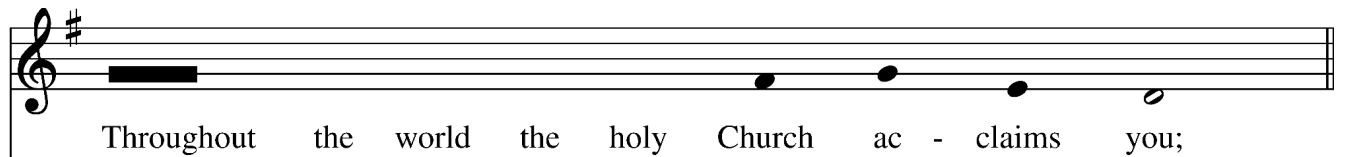
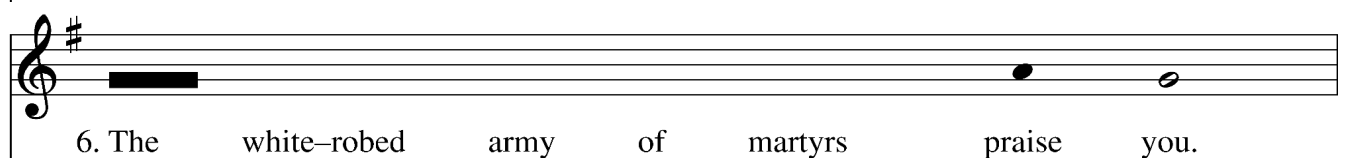
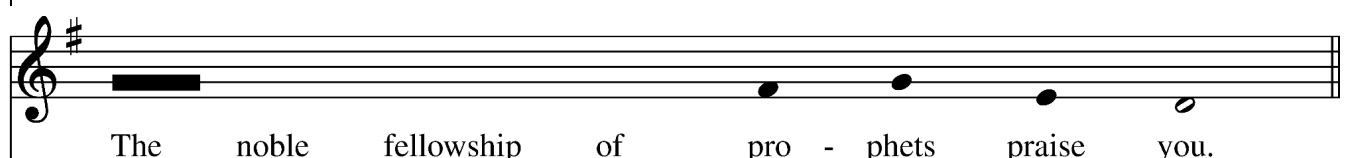
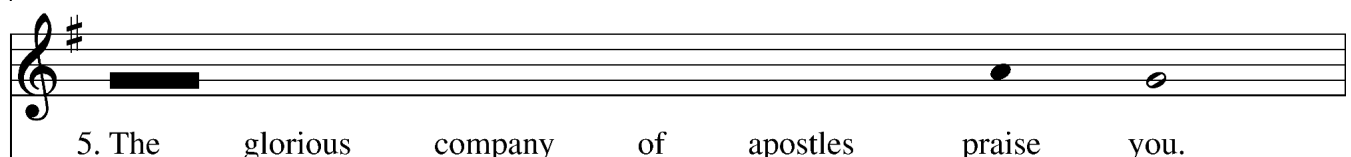
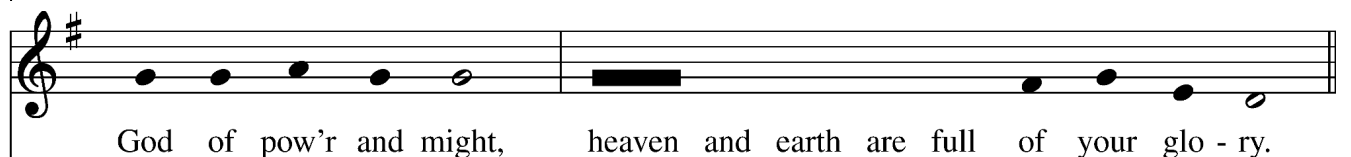
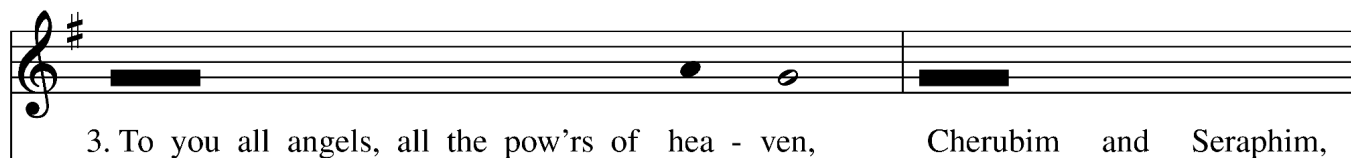
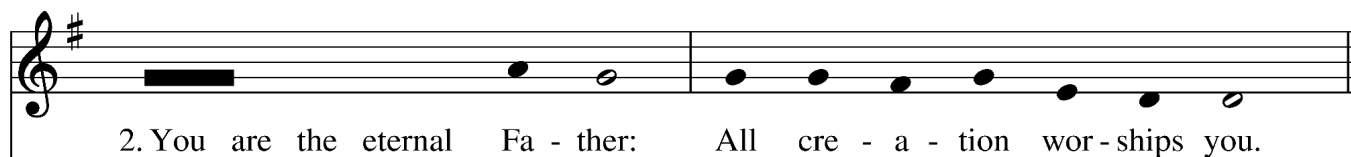
Cantic 21 #902

"You are God"

Wonder, Love and Praise



1. You are God: we praise you; You are the Lord: we ac - claim you;



10. When you became man to set us free you did not shun the Vir-gin's womb.

11. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of

heaven to all be-liev-ers. 12. You are seated at God's right hand in glo-ry.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

13. Come then, Lord, and help your peo-ple, bought with the price of your own blood,

14. and bring us with your saints to glory ev-er-last-ing.

Music: Plainsong, Tone 8; adapt. John L. Hooker (b. 1944). Copyright © 1997 John L. Hooker.

The Sermon

Robert Shaw

Sermon Musical Reflection

“Watchman, Tell us of the Night”
Choir Singers

Don McAfee

Silence is kept for a time. Then, at the Officiant's invitation, all STAND and say the Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant: Let us stand and confess what we believe in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Officiant: I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
People: creator of heaven and earth.

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 again to judge the living and the dead.
 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.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

[KNEELING or STANDING]

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins

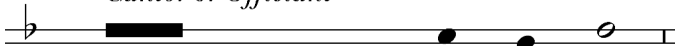
as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen

Then all join in the singing of the Suffrages

The Suffrages A #S52

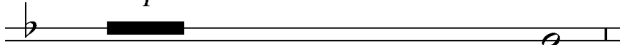
The Hymnal, 1982

Cantor or Officiant

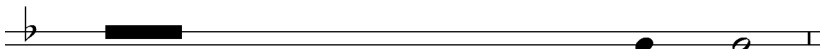


V. Show us your mer - cy, O Lord;

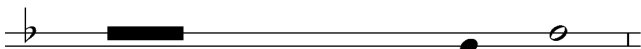
People



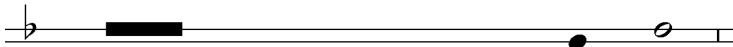
R. And grant us your salva - tion.




V. Clothe your ministers with right - eous - ness;



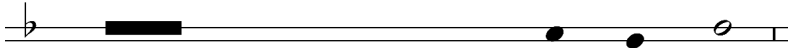
R. Let your people sing with joy.



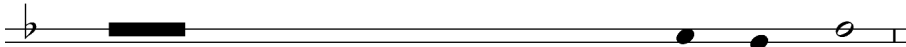
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;



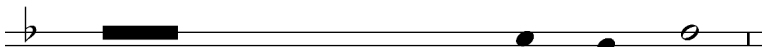
R. For only in you can we live in safe - ty.



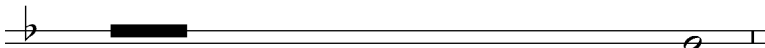
V. Lord, keep this nation un - der your care;



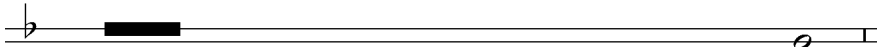
R. And guide us in the way of jus - tice and truth.



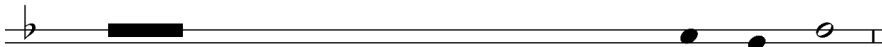
V. Let your way be known up - on earth;



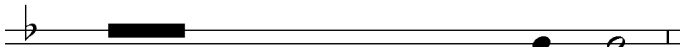
R. Your saving health among all na - tions.



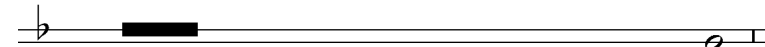
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgot - ten;



R. Nor the hope of the poor be ta - ken a - way.



V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;



R. And sustain us with your Holy Spi - rit.

Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collects:

Susan May, Intercessor

The Collect for the Day:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Travelers:

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular Father Michael and his daughter Lucy, and all whom we name now]. Surround them with your loving care. Protect them from every danger, and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Whole Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Education

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities and especially the schools in Hampshire County, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sound Government

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth, especially Gaza, Sudan, Haiti and Ukraine.

Lord, keep this nation under your care and guide us in the ways of justice and truth.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served. Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

At the Intercessor's bidding, the People may offer their prayers silently or aloud.

The General Thanksgiving

Book of Common Prayer, page 101

Officiant: ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ALL MERCIES,

People: we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not
only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant concludes the liturgy with the following.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

STANDING, we sing the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn #99

“Go tell it on the mountain”

African-American Spiritual
The Hymnal, 1982

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

Postlude

“Variations on an Ancient Noel”

Leon Rogues

Be Careful: IF YOU COME HERE YOU WILL GROW

Prayer List

Nancy D., Mary R., Deborah H., Kevin C., Bob
Noah B., Graciela B. and Baby Pru, Josh C., Betty S.
Andy G., Bob C., Christopher S.
the Rod Gilbert's family and friends

Please keep in your prayers the groups that use our facility during the week:
including the Easthampton Family Center (Tues-Fri) and AA Meetings (Sat-Wed).

Birthdays

Lynn M ~ Jan 5
Gail M ~ Jan 9

Announcements

January 4, 2026

TODAY'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Steve Bailey, Celebrant
Robert Shaw, Preacher
Weyehn Reeves, Verger/Crucifer
Elizabeth McAnulty, Susan May, Lectors
Susan May, Intercessor
Karen Banta, Organist & Choir Director
St. Philip's Choir Singers
Janine Murphy, Tech Minister
David & Joan Haines, Ushers
Elizabeth McAnulty, David Brown, Altar
Guild
Janet Couch, Susan May Counters

COFFEE HOUR TODAY is hosted by
Susan Sachs. Thank you!

In SUNDAY SCHOOL our young people
will remember how the words of the
prophets, and the journeys of Mary &
Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi all draw
us into the Mystery of Christmas. Today we
light the Christ candle and celebrate!

**ST. PHILIP'S OFFERS COMPLINE
ON FACEBOOK** Sunday through Friday at
8 pm. Please join us!

What Is THE BIBLE Anyway? Join us
on **Thursdays at 4:00** to experience a
certain kind of answer to this question. An
answer that is joyful and engaging.
To get the **Zoom** link email Linda Moore at
bythegraceofgod@outlook.com

THANKS to all of you for your generosity with our Christmas **GIVING TREE** and Thanksgiving **FOOD DRIVE**. Our Sunday School sponsored 2025 Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Giving Tree were both successful. St. Philip's donated over 420 lbs of food to the Easthampton Community Center for Thanksgiving. That is over 600 meals! We donated 55 sets of pajamas and 225 pairs of socks! Thank you so much for your continued generosity and devotion to this ministry.

BROWN BAG LUNCH, a weekly drop-in event, resumes on Tuesday, January 6. Please come as you can, to share a meal and conversation with other parishioners. Bring your lunch! Tea and other beverages are provided.

WE ARE ALL PILGRIMS. Join us on Zoom Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. for a Pilgrims gathering. Currently we are reading the Epistle to the Ephesians, with some occasional help from NT Wright. Please contact Linda Moore with any questions. bythegraceofgod@outlook.com

JOIN THE ST. PHILIP'S CONNECT GROUP! We share blessings, ask for prayers and help or favors. You'll receive emails from all the parishioners who belong, only 2 or 3 times a month. Ask a vestry member for more information.

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What is the N.O.W.? Find our weekly newsletter, (News **O**f the **W**eed) at <https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/week>

[ly-newsletter](#). Subscribe and you'll receive the sermon every Monday and the N.O.W. every Thursday.

SEE CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS on our website at <https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/upcoming-events>

SUNDAY LECTIONARY STUDY GROUP meets on Zoom every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. The gathering of the curious and the prepared reads, reviews, and discusses the scripture lessons that will be offered in the day's liturgy. The link will be printed in the bulletin announcement in the NOW. Please join us in what has always been a lively and helpful discussion.

TO JOIN SUNDAY SERVICE &/or LECTIONARY STUDY:

The Sunday Service is on live-streamed on our website:

<https://www.stphilipseasthampton.org/live-stream-channel>

Lectionary Study is on Zoom:

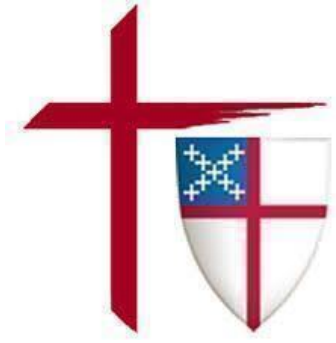
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83207829066?pwd=N0k0emc5NGkxdGFxQVpKMUNlaWJlTdz09> Meeting ID: 832 0782 9066;

Passcode: 270862

TO JOIN BY TELEPHONE:

Audio conferencing participant (joining by telephone) will need to call:

+1 929 436 2866 and follow the verbal instructions. Enter the meeting ID you wish to join followed by the # key. If you are asked for a password, enter the password followed by the # key. You will be asked to enter your participant ID. If you do not know your participant ID, simply press the # key.



ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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www.stphilipseasthampton.org [www.Facebook/st philips easthampton](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipseasthampton)
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A parish of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Right Rev. Dr. Douglas John Fisher
IX Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Bishop-Elect
www.diocesewma.org

THE VESTRY OF ST. PHILIP'S

Becky Taylor, Senior Warden; Deborah Murray Hrubesh, Junior Warden;
Joy Hermansen; Janet Couch; Walter Schiff; Fran Kidder
Joe Bianca, Treasurer; Robert Shaw, Clerk

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

The Rev. Michael Bullock, *Priest-in-Charge*
stphilips Priest@gmail.com
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Chip Secco, *Sexton*

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday mornings
stphilipseasthampton@gmail.com
Available for appointments anytime