



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Sunday September 17, 2017

Galatians: the Gift of Christ
“The Gospel of Heaven”

PREPARATION

Ground us, we pray, and settle us in your truth
by sending your Holy Spirit into our hearts.

All Amen.

A period of silence is kept.

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

All And also with you.

O praise the Lord with me,

All let us exalt God's name together.

OPENING SONG

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven - Henry Francis Lyte

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven,
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting king.

Praise him for his grace and favor
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless;
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes;
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
blows the wind, and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on;
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise the high eternal one.

Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
praise him, praise him,
praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

OPENING RESPONSORIAL

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
All and before you were born I consecrated you.
I appointed you a prophet to the nations
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you,
for I have put my words in your mouth.

Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you.
I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.

from Jeremiah 1

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

DOXOLOGY

All ye who are of tender heart,
forgiving others take your part.
Sing his praises, Alleluia!
Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care!
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit three in one,
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SIN

All Lord our God,
in our sin we avoid your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early,
as we seek human approval,
rather than yours.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgment;
bind up our wounds and revive us.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace,
now and forever.

All Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Come, O Spirit - Isaac Wardell

Come, O Spirit, comfort true; help us by your pleading.
Come and every heart renew; breath of God proceeding.
You alone to God can win us: Spirit, now work good within us.

All our knowledge, all our sight lies in darkness shrouded.
All our labors wrought in strife hath our judgment clouded.
O consume our wrong desires: Holy Ghost, our souls inspire.

Come, our conscience to relieve from each sin remembered.
Come, our Savior's blood to plead; naked we surrender.
Sin hath left a wound revealing: Spirit, help us with your healing.

All our riches, all our crowns cast we now before thee.
Scales removeth, chains unbound, boldly we implore thee:
as you knit us once together, fasten us to you forever.



1. As the heavens are high-er than the earth, so his
 2. Come and drink the ri- ver of his word if you
 3. Come and lis - ten to his gen- tle voice, for the



ways are high-er than the ways of the world, and his
 thirst for wa - ter that can sa - tis - fy; come and
 words he speaks to us are Spi - rit and life; come and



thoughts run deep-er than the mind of_ man; Fa - ther,
 join the ban-quet at the Mas - ter's feast, where his
 seek your Sa - vior while he may be_ found, sure that



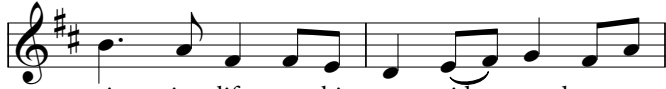
break in - to our dar-kened hearts.
 love and faith - ful - ness pro - vide.
 Je - sus' words can ne - ver lie.



I will trust in you as you speak to me; I will



turn to you as you call my name. As the



rain gives life on this a - rid_ ground, so your



word will bring your chil- dren home.

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Children attending kindergarten and younger are invited to go to their classes at this time. Children in 1st and 2nd grades are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.

THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament reading: Galatians 1:6-24

⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! ⁹As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed!

¹⁰Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I

Continued on back...

would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; ¹²for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. ¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Mark 3:13-19

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Jesus went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, ¹⁵and to have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Then he went home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"The Gospel of Heaven" – Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

OFFERING AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offertory is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at citychurchphilly.com/give. If you're visiting, we are so glad you are worshipping with us, but please do not feel obligated to give.

CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

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

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Father, you call men and women to leave the past behind
and follow Jesus as his disciples
along the way of the cross.
Look with mercy upon those he continues to call today.
Confirm their sense of mission and strengthen them in it.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

In their worry, your Son told his followers not to fear
and sent them out to proclaim your good news.
Look with mercy now
upon the world to which we are sent;
grant nations and rulers peace and justice by the gospel.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Your Son sent out apostles
to preach good news to the poor, to heal the sick,
to deliver the oppressed from evil powers.
Look with mercy
upon all who yearn to hear the good news;
grant them health and comfort, and deliver them from evil.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

*Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at
this time, ending with,*

For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly
as our Savior has taught us:

All 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 and ever.

Amen.

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest!

The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer and speaks the Words of Institution.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All Therefore, let us keep the feast.

We use wine in Communion. Non-alcoholic white grape juice and gluten-free rice cakes are also available if preferred. Please recycle your Communion cup as you leave worship.

COMMUNION SONG

Before the Throne of God Above - Charitie Lees Bancroft,
Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea;
a great high priest, whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God the just is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness;
the great unchangeable "I AM,"
the king of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;

my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ my savior and my God,
with Christ my savior and my God.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful
to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING

Be Thou My Vision - Traditional Irish poem

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

West Philly

Julia Snyder: liturgist
Chris Currie: celebrant

Fairmount

Jenn Cho: liturgist
Chris Currie: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice
Rob Heiskell: guitar, voice
Lee Jeon: violin, voice

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Rob Heiskell: guitar, voice
Lee Jeon: violin, voice

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community life and church events.

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