



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Sunday December 3, 2017

The First Sunday of Advent
“Watching and Waiting”

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

The night is far spent, the day is now at hand:

All let us cast off works of darkness
and put on armor of light!

OPENING SONG

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence - Gerald Moultrie

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, alleluia
alleluia, Lord most high!

OPENING RESPONSORIAL

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

All O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

from Psalm 25

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

DOXOLOGY — Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley

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 God of peace and renewal,
we are impatient as we await your coming.
We grumble against one another,
and our hearts are weak.
Come among us and save us,
that we may have joy and gladness.

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 for ever.
All Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Of the Father's Love Begotten - Prudentius, Baker, Neale, Bush

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the world began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers
sang of old with one accord;
whom the scriptures of the prophets
promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise the Lord
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore.

God's Highway

Sandra McCracken



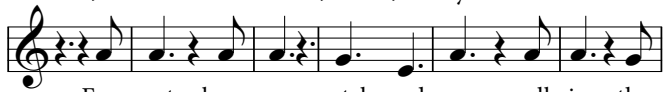
1. My feet are strong, my eyes are clear, I can not
2. The sha-dows flee, the valley is deep, but e - vil
3. I see the shore from trou-bled seas, this ti - ny



see the way from here. But on we go, he knows the
can-not con-quer me. Your rod and staff, they pro-protect
ship that car-ries me. It is not yet but it will



way, and in his arms he keeps me safe.
me; you give me rest, you give me peace.
be, so heav-en, come, it's you we need.



Fear not, keep on, watch and pray; walk in the



light of Gods high - way. I'm hol - ding



on - to you, Lord, you're hol - ding on - to me.

©2015 Drink Your Tea Music

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Mark 13:24-37

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴And Jesus said, “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Watching and Waiting” – The Rev. Chris Currie

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.

Come, Lord Jesus, to your church.
Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray for our newly elected officials,
that justice, mercy, and peace may prevail.
Before you, rulers will stand in silence.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter.
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.
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

Amen, Amen - Neil & Kate Robins

Let every creature rise and bring
their grateful praises to our King.
Angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeats a loud "Amen."

*Amen, amen,
amen, amen.*

*I found my life, I found my life in him,
amen, amen.*

Peace like a river from his throne
will flow to nations yet unknown.
His word a light where all hope is dim,
and all tribes unite to cry "Amen!"

And in this child we'll find our rest
and all the meek and lowly blessed.
An infant tongue could sing the hymn
of hallelujah and amen.

CCLI #1888971 ©2003 Sojourn Community Church

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin

but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - Charles Wesley, Mark E. Hunt

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth!"

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Stanzas 2 & 3 ©1978, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

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.

2017 Budget: \$757,657

Giving YTD	DECEMBER GOAL
\$542,540	\$215,117

Please visit citychurchphilly.com and subscribe
to our newsletter for more information about
community life and church events.

City Church CCLI License #2772464.

Scriptures quoted from the NRSV bible ©1989 NCCUSA.