



# City Church

PHILADELPHIA

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Sunday December 31, 2017

The First Sunday of Christmas  
“Beholding the Glory of Christ”

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## PRELUDE

## PREPARATION

O Emmanuel, our King,  
the hope of the nations and their Savior:  
come and save us, O Lord our God.

*All* Amen.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

*All* Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,

*All* and we beheld his glory.

## OPENING SONG

*Joy to the World* - Isaac Watts, George Frederic Handel

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the savior reigns;  
let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders, of his love.

## OPENING RESPONSORIAL

I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;

*All* I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,  
to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon  
those who sit in darkness.

*from Isaiah 42*

## 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* Lord of grace and truth,  
we confess our unworthiness  
to stand in your presence as your children.  
Your Son our Savior  
was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.  
We have sinned: forgive and heal us.

## **WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## **SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

*What Child Is This* - William Chatterton Dix

What child is this who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste, to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
come peasant, king to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

*Come, See a Child of Low Estate* – W.D. Springett, Karl Digerness,  
alt. B. Brooks

Come, see a child of low estate,  
in manger bed reclining;  
yet on his humble dwelling place  
bright stars in heaven are shining.  
This little babe is Christ the Lord,  
whom saints have long expected;  
for man he comes to live and die,  
despised, betrayed, rejected.

For man he comes to rend the veil  
which hides death's gloomy portal  
and make a home where where man with him  
in peace may dwell, immortal.  
He comes to triumph o'er the grave,  
and rise on Easter morning,  
and reign in heaven at God's right hand  
until the last day's dawning.

Come, see a child of low estate,  
in manger bed reclining;  
yet on his humble dwelling place  
the Father's love is shining.  
So may we all the pattern take  
from Jesus, meek and lowly;  
may we his faithful servants be  
kept by his Spirit holy!

## **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:* 1 Peter 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious;  
but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner'.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading: Luke 2:21-40*

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

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ.

## **SERMON**

*“Beholding the Glory of Christ”*

– The 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](http://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.*

In a world of change and hope,  
of fear and adventure,  
faithful God, glorify your name.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

*All* Lord, hear our prayer.

Among our friends  
and in our homes,  
faithful God, glorify your name.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

*All* Lord, hear our prayer.

In our times of joy,  
in our days of sorrow,  
faithful God, glorify your name.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

*All* Lord, hear our prayer.

In our strengths and triumphs,  
in our weakness and at our death,  
faithful God, glorify your name.  
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

*See, amid the Winter's Snow* - Caswall, Goss

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

Hail thou ever blessed morn,  
hail redemption's happy dawn,  
sing through all Jerusalem:  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies;  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

“As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing ‘Peace on earth’  
told us of the savior's birth.”

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this.

Teach, O teach us, holy child,  
by thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble thee,  
in thy sweet humility.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*All* Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Amen.

## **BLESSING AND SENDING**

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice* - Heinrich Suso,  
14th c. German melody

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow; and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## **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.

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to our newsletter for more information about  
community life and church events.

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