



# City Church

PHILADELPHIA

---

Sunday June 3, 2018

Tell It Slant: Jesus's Stories of  
Kingdom, Grace, & Judgment

“The Sower”

## PRELUDE

### PREPARATION

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

*All* And also with you.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

*All* Let us sing joyful songs of praise!

### OPENING SONG

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* - Robert Robinson,  
Asahel Nettleton

Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God:  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

### THE OPENING OF WORSHIP

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger

*All* who announces peace, who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together, they sing for joy; for in plain sight  
they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

*from Isaiah 52*

## 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* Almighty God,  
in our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*Holy Ground* - Evan Mazunik

Brothers, take your sandals off;  
you're standing on holy ground.  
Listen to the Spirit's voice  
and on your face fall down.  
For behold: a bush is burning;  
inflamed but not consumed!  
Brothers, take your sandals off,  
for you're standing...on holy ground.

Sisters, take your sandals off;  
you're standing on holy ground.  
Listen to the Spirit's voice  
and on your face fall down.  
For behold: a bush is burning;  
inflamed but not consumed!  
Sisters, take your sandals off,  
for you're standing...on holy ground.

Faithful, take your sandals off;  
you're standing on holy ground.  
Listen to the Spirit's voice  
and on your face fall down.  
For on every head's descending  
a sacred tongue of fire!  
Faithful, take your sandals off,  
for you're standing...on holy ground.

©2010 Evan Mazunik

***Come Light Our Hearts*** - Sandra McCracken

*For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,  
for you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,  
truly our hope is in you, truly our hope is in you.*

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
your radiance shines  
on all who look to you in the dark;  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves,  
in you we find more than enough.  
We come as we are, O heal and restore,  
come light our hearts.

©2014 Drink Your Tea

## **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**

*Old Testament reading: Isaiah 55:10-13*

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!”

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

*“The Sower”* – Rev. Jonathan Davis

## **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.*

## **ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS & DEACONS**

*West Philly* – Katie Brindley and Anne Smith to be ordained and installed to the Office of Deacon; Tom Nygren and Kory Stamper to the Office of Elder.

*Fairmount* – Brian Cooper and Ted Voboril to be ordained and installed to the Office of Deacon.

## PRAYERS

*Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.*

Almighty God,  
may every grace of ministry  
rest on these elders and deacons,  
keep them strong and faithful,  
that your church may prosper in peace.  
Grant them wisdom, courage,  
discretion, and benevolence,  
that they may fulfill their charge  
to the glory of Jesus Christ;  
for this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bestow your grace on this people  
that they may support these deacons and elders  
with prayer, cooperation, and encouragement,  
to guard them  
from growing weary in doing what is right;  
for this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Inspire your whole church  
with your Spirit of power, unity, and peace.  
Grant that all who trust you  
may live together in love;  
for this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lead all nations in the way of justice.  
Direct those who govern;  
may they be fair, maintain order,  
support those in need, and defend the oppressed,  
that the world may know true peace;  
for this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give grace to all who proclaim the gospel  
through Word and sacrament and deeds of mercy,  
that by teaching and example  
others may come to live for you;  
for this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Comfort and deliver, O Lord,  
all who are in trouble, sorrow,  
poverty, sickness, and grief.  
Heal them in body, mind, spirit, or circumstance,  
working in them, by your grace,  
wonders beyond their dreams and hopes,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
who taught us to pray:

**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

*Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* - Bernard of Clairvaux,  
Brian T. Murphy

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,  
thou fount of life, thou light of men,  
from the best bliss that earth imparts,  
we turn unfilled to thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;  
thou savest those that on thee call;  
to them that seek thee thou art good,  
to them that find thee all in all.

We taste of thee, O living bread,  
and long to feast upon thee still;  
we drink of thee, the fountainhead,  
and thirst our souls from thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for thee,  
where'er our changeful lot is cast;  
glad when thy gracious smile we see,  
bless'd when our faith can hold thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay,  
make all our moments calm and bright;  
chase the dark night of sin away,  
shed o'er the world thy holy light.

CCLI #5743869 ©2006 Cardiphonia Music

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*All* God of grace and peace,  
we thank you for feeding us at the table of your Son  
with the food and drink of life.  
Renew us now, by your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may boast in nothing but the cross of  
Christ  
and that your mercy and peace may be upon us  
this day and forevermore.  
Amen.

## BLESSING AND SENDING

*Psalm 126* – Isaac Wardell

Our mouths, they were filled, filled with laughter;  
our tongues, they were loosed, loosed with joy.  
Restore us, O Lord!  
Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping, Lord, help us keep sowing  
the seeds of your kingdom for the day you will reap them.  
Your sheaves we will carry; Lord, please do not tarry.  
All those who sow weeping will go out with songs of joy.*

The nations will say, “He has done great things!”  
The nations will sing songs of joy.  
Restore us, O Lord!  
Restore us, O Lord!

©2011 Isaac Wardell

## 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

Candy Cason: liturgist  
Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice  
Ross Bellenoit: guitar  
David Danel: violin

### Fairmount

Liz Voboril : liturgist  
Chris Currie: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice  
Ross Bellenoit: guitar  
David Danel: violin

Please visit [citychurchphilly.com](http://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.