

Sunday November 11, 2018

Revelation and the Christian Imagination

"The Last Word on Heaven"

### Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today in worship. We hope you find City Church to be a warm, welcoming community—regardless of your background, beliefs, or life situation. To that end, we recognize that certain parts of the service may feel unfamiliar, so we've provided brief explanations throughout this guide.

Our worship is "liturgical." The Greek word "leitourgia" means a public work, the work of the people. Liturgical worship begins with God's call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity and then moving us outward into our world.

On pages 19-22, you'll find information about our community. We hope this helps you get to know us better and that, in turn, we can get to know you better. Help us welcome you by filling out the contact sheet on the back page and placing it in the offering basket or in our hands after the worship service.

All to say, we are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff

Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis

# Sunday Info

#### **UCity**

Nursery, Room 111 Children 4 – 24 months for the duration of the service

Children's, Church Room 112–113 Children ages 2 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders will return prior to communion.

Adult Ed Class, Upstairs Library "The Advent of Advent" with Cyndi Parker

Accessibility A wheelchair ramp and elevator are on site. A Greeter can assist you.

**Coffee** is available at 9:15 am in the SE hallway.

#### **Fairmount**

Nursery, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Blue Room Children 4 – 36 months for the duration of the service

Children's Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Green Room Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders will return prior to communion.

Accessibility A wheelchair ramp is on site. A greeter can assist you.

# Reflection

Despite what many people think, within the Christian family and outside it, the point of Christianity isn't 'to go to heaven when you die.' ...God's plan is not to abandon this world which he said was 'very good.' Rather, he intends to remake it. And when he does, he will raise all his people to new bodily life to live in it. That is the promise of the Christian gospel.

- N.T. Wright, Simply Christian

### Church Calendar

ADVENT
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

We observe a season of Ordinary Time from Pentecost until Advent, which we count as weeks following Pentecost. During this time we especially remember the lives and actions of Jesus' followers. We think about how the first Christians lived their lives, and how we should live ours today. This season of Ordinary Time takes up half the year and it doesn't offer big exciting festivals such as Christmas or Easter. As a result, as one Sunday follows another, this season can begin to feel, well, ordinary.

GOD SUMMONS US AS HIS PEOPLE

As we meet together each week, we recognize in the preparation that God, through his word and Spirit, gathers us into his presence and calls us into his life and mission.

### Prelude

# Preparation

Let us take a moment in silence to remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

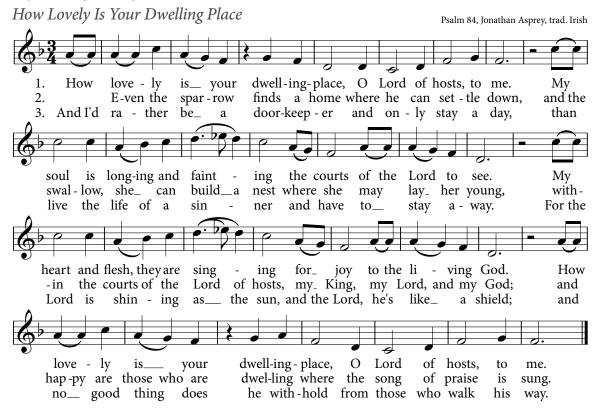
All Amen.

Silence is kept.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

All Let us sing joyful songs of praise!

# Opening song

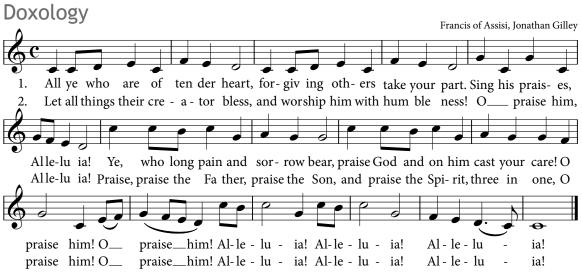


# The Opening of Worship

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

from Psalm 146

# Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving



©1998 Jonathan Gilley

### Confession of sin

All Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

#### GOD SANCTIFIES US TO HIMSELF

*Throughout Scripture,* when people find themselves in God's presence, they sense how far short they fall and become aware of their own shame and brokenness. In the same way, we make a confession of sin, both as a community and also silently as individuals. In this, we remember that *God is always ready,* by his mercy and grace, to forgive us.

# Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

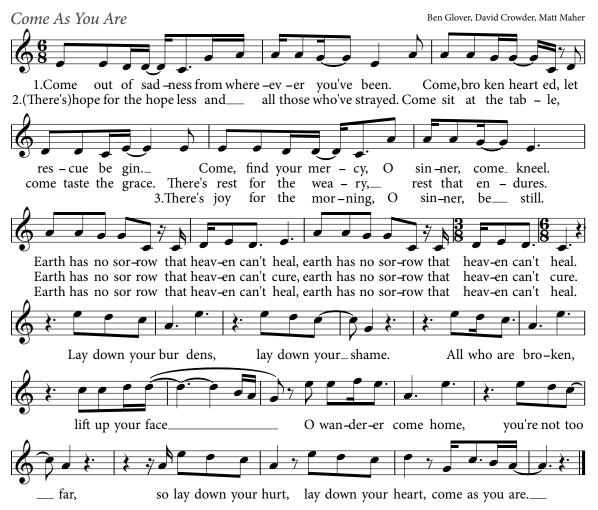
Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given you a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will, and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

# Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving



CCLI #5944929 ©2011 Broadman Press



CCLI #7017790 ©2014 9t One Songs

Children attending kindergarten and younger are invited to go to their classes at this time. 1st - 5th graders are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.

# 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

New Testament reading: Revelation 21:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; <sup>3</sup>and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup>And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son. <sup>8</sup>But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death."

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US
IN HIS WORD

In the public reading of the word of God and its exposition in the sermon, God shares the story of his saving mission in Jesus, encouraging us to join in that mission and orienting us again to his priorities.

Gospel reading: Mark 12:38-44

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>38</sup>And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go about in long robes, and to have salutations in the marketplaces <sup>39</sup>and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, <sup>40</sup>who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." <sup>41</sup>And he sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. <sup>43</sup>And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

### Sermon

ΑII

"The Last Word on Heaven" - Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

# Offering and Presentation of Gifts

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich" - 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

The offering is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at citychurchphilly. com/give. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give—we're grateful simply for your presence here today.

### 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. Having offered ourselves up in faith through the creed, affirming the power of God's redemption, we lift up the church, our world, and other needs to God in prayer for his provision and healing.

### **Prayers**

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

King of Heaven!
We so often find ourselves
mired in the cares and details of our lives;
may we long to hear your name glorified!
Bring glory to yourself
among the people of the world.
Bring glory to yourself in our
neighborhoods and families.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

#### All Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ our Lord,
we often come to your table starved and lost.
Yet we know that you offer us both abundance and power.
May we become strong foes of darkness.
We ask to be filled with your spirit anew,
today and each day.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

#### All Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Justice,
you promise that one word from you
will restore a broken world to perfect wholeness.
We pray and groan with those among us,
and in your global body,
who suffer from injustice
and seek to be vindicated by you.
Act on their behalf.
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.

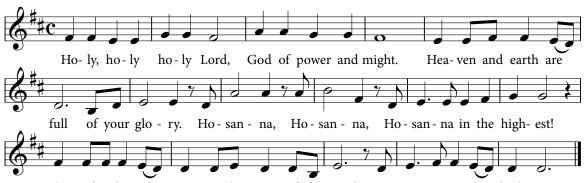
# The Eucharistic Prayer

And now we give you thanks for bringing us in this meal to your heavenly table.
Though we see in part, one day we will see your glory unshaded.
And so we we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and singing:

GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

Communion, also called the Lord's *Supper, is the family* meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Iesus Christ to participate. If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal. we encourage you to spend this time in prayer ("Prayers for Reflection" are included below). We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with *Iesus Christ and with* his people, the church.

#### Sanctus



Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho-san-na in the\_high-est.

©2011 Bethany R Brooks

The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The minister 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. Nonalcoholic white grape juice and gluten-free rice cakes are also available if preferred. Please recycle your Communion cup as you leave worship.

# Prayers for Reflection

#### Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

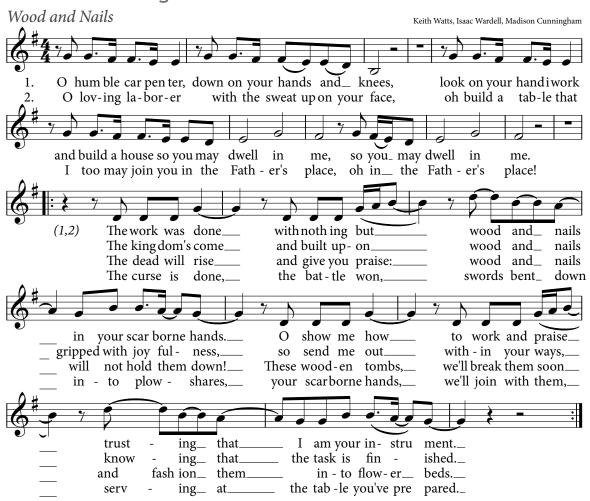
#### Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weak and sinful, but through you, I am loved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death in order to offer me forgiveness and renewal. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord.

#### Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life.

# **Communion Song**



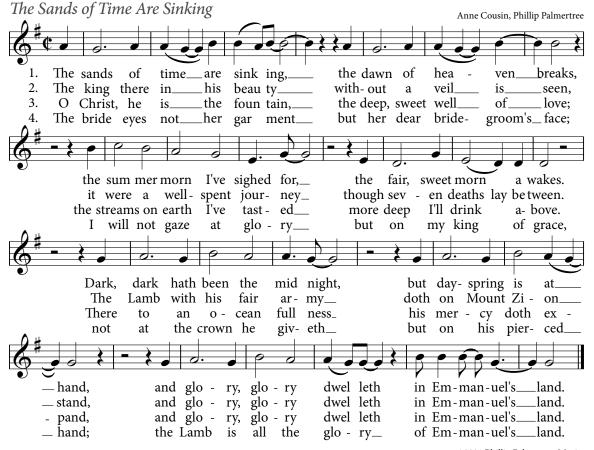
©2017 Hymns from the Porter's Gate

# Prayer after Communion

All praise to you, our God and Father, for you have fed us with the bread of heaven and quenched our thirst from the true vine; hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ, we may grow together in unity and feast with him in his kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





©2001 Phillip Palmertree Music

GOD SENDS US
INTO THE WORLD

We have responded to God's call, heard his word, offered ourselves to his service, and received strength at his table. Now, at the close of worship, God sends us out to carry forward the gospel story.

### Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

### **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 Jonathan Davis: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice

Mike Jones: trumpet

#### Fairmount

Arlene Navarro: liturgist Chris Currie: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice

Mike Jones: trumpet

### CONNECT

**COMMUNITY GROUPS** range in size from 10-15 people and meet weekly in the home of a group member for spiritual formation and friendship. We encourage you to visit multiple groups to see which one might be a good fit. Contact a leader if you plan to visit. Contact Jonathan Davis, jonathan@citychurchphilly.com if you have questions.

#### **West Philly**

- 50<sup>th</sup> & Springfield, Tuesdays 7<sub>PM</sub> Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 49<sup>th</sup> & Chancellor, Tuesdays 7<sub>PM</sub>
   Candy Cason, candy.cason@gmail.com
- 46<sup>th</sup> & Cedar, Tuesdays 7:30<sub>PM</sub>
   Jade Avelis, jade.avelis@gmail.com
- 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore at Linda's, Wed 6:30<sub>PM</sub>
   Janet Nygren, janetnygren@gmail.com
- 49<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore, Thursdays 6<sub>PM</sub>
   Vieen Leung, vieenleung@gmail.com
- 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore at Dick's, Thursdays 6:30<sub>PM</sub> Joel Bassett, jbassett4@gmail.com
- 51<sup>st</sup> & Chestnut, Fridays 6<sub>PM</sub> Jason Turner, jason.h.turner@gmail.com

#### **Fairmount**

- 21st & Parrish, Wednesdays 7pm Chaney Widmer, chaney.widmer@gmail.com
- 24<sup>th</sup> & Brown, Thursdays 7<sub>PM</sub>
   Katie Wildes, km.young.wildes@gmail.com
- 22<sup>nd</sup> & Poplar, Fridays 6:30<sub>PM</sub>
   Liz Voboril, voborils@gmail.com

#### **South Philly**

• 12<sup>th</sup> & Wharton, Wednesdays 7:30<sub>PM</sub> Kirstin Peth, kirstin.peth@gmail.com

#### Roxborough

• Tuesdays 6:30<sub>PM</sub> Cale Weatherly, cale.weatherly@gmail.com

**FAMILY MINISTRIES** comes alongside families as they disciple their children, seeking to help them cultivate friendships, connect with the wider church community, and grow into maturity as people of faith.

- Children's Ministry Our children's classes use gospelcentered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to allow them opportunities to form spiritual friendships with their peers and teachers. See page 2 for site-specific details. Contact Ginger Hayes, ginger@ citychurchphilly.com.
- City Church Youth, Sundays 12:30-2:30pm. Students and Volunteer Leaders gather at a Woodland Presbyterian Church (42 & Pine) for fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Lunch is provided each week. Contact Jonathan Davis, jonathan@citychurchphilly. com.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** Ekklesia is our mid-week, liturgically oriented, worship space for college students. We meet together to pray, sing, confess, and hear from God's Word. Contact Natalie Harvey, natalie@citychurchphilly.com.

**55+** is a group of older people attending City Church who gather monthly after Sunday services for a shared meal and shared prayer. Contact Ginny Toliver, ginny. toliver@verizon.net.

**WOMEN'S DAYTIME BOOK STUDY** Tuesdays 9:30AM, Childcare available. Contact Eeva, eevaduddleston@gmail.com.

### **GROW**

**City Church is a community committed to** growing in our life of joy and peace through communion with God in Christ. God uses many means to form his children into his likeness. As a church family, City Church focuses on eight practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Read about our approach to Spiritual Formation | citychurchphilly.com/spiritualformation
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer
- Check out current and upcoming Adult Ed classes | citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed

### **SERVE**

#### Church

- Prepare the space for worship by joining one of our hospitality teams: setup, communion, coffee, greeters, and scripture readers.
   Contact Dan Cason (UCity), dan@citychurchphilly.com
   Ryan McCormick(Fairmount), rmmccormick@outlook.com
- Serve our children and youth. Contact Ginger Hayes (children), ginger@citychurchphilly.com Jonathan Davis (youth), jonathan@citychurchphilly.com

# City

- Serve dinners with University City Hospitality Coalition on Friday evenings at Woodland Presbyterian Church, 42nd & Pine. Contact Julia Snyder, julia.a.snyder@gmail.com
- Tutor 1st graders at Lea Elementary. Contact Stacy Bartholomew, stacy. bartholomew@gmail.com
- Read with K-3rd grade students or serve a meal at Family Homework Night in Brewerytown - Thursdays at United Missionary Baptist Church. Contact Chris Currie, chris@citychurchphilly.com

#### World

- Assist refugees
   with needs such as
   housing, employment,
   transportation, community
   resources, education, and
   social services through
   our partnership with HIAS
   Pennsylvania. Contact
   Esuga Abaya,
   esugaabaya@gmail.com
- Host international students for dinner.
   Contact Lyn Newbrander, Inewbrander@isionline.org

## **GIVE**

The intentional financial participation of those who consider City Church their church home is vital. If you are not already tithing regularly, please prayerfully consider doing so. Our desire in giving is not only to meet our own needs but to be able to serve others in our city and neighborhoods. Here are a few ways that you can contribute financially to City Church:

- Place cash or check in the offering basket on Sundays
- Give online | citychurchphilly.com/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select City Church Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: City Church, PO Box 30902, Philadelphia, PA 19104

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sign Up for Daily Prayer** We participate in the cycle of prayer and bible readings found in the Daily Office, a structured form of prayer embraced across many traditions of Christianity. You can sign up to receive daily emails that include prayers, and texts of scripture for reflection and prayer at citychurchphilly.org/daily-prayer.

#### **UCITY**

**Graduate Student Lunch After Worship Today** Grad Students are invited to lunch after the service today. See Ryan McCormick for details, or to get a heads-up on the next one: rmmccormick@outlook.com.

University Students Come to "The Table" Sunday, November 18 University students are invited to lunch after worship on Sunday, November 18 at the home of Julia Snyder, 5031 Walton Avenue. Contact Natalie at Natalie@citychurchphilly.com for more information.

#### **FAIRMOUNT**

Interested in Helping with Hospitality at Worship? Help prepare the City School space for worship by joining one of our hospitality teams: setup, communion, coffee, greeters, and scripture readers. Contact Ryan McCormick at rmmccormick@outlook.com.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### December

**9** Lessons & Carols Service (5:00 PM in UCity)

#### **February**

9 Parenting Conference

### November 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
Advent of Advent Sunday School Class, 9:15 AM	5	Women's Daytime Book Study, 9:30 AM	7	8	9	10
Advent of Advent Sunday School Class, 9:15 AM	12	Women's Daytime Book Study, 9:30 AM	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	Women's Daytime Book Study, 9:30 AM	28	29	30	

### Staff

#### **Tuck Bartholomew**

Senior Pastor tuck@citychurchphilly.com 215.779.4242

### **Bethany Brooks**

Worship Director bethany@citychurchphilly.com 215.280.6713

#### **Dan Cason**

Sunday Volunteers dan@citychurchphilly.com 803.543.8905

#### **Chris Currie**

Site Pastor, Fairmount chris@citychurchphilly.com 215.317.4571

#### **Jonathan Davis**

Assistant Pastor jonathan@citychurchphilly.com 678.458.7614

#### **Natalie Harvey**

University Ministry natalie@citychurchphilly.com 724.504.7589

#### **Ginger Hayes**

Children's Ministry ginger@citychurchphilly.com 917.583.2316

Instagram @citychurchphilly Twitter @citychurchphl Facebook @city.church.philadelphia

# Help us welcome you.

Name(s):
Children & their ages:
If undergrad or grad student, school & year:
Address:
Phone number(s):
Email(s):
Would you like to receive our weekly e-newsletter? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Please contact me about:
☐ Community Groups
☐ Neighborhood Service Opportunities
☐ Volunteering on Sundays
☐ Children's & Youth Ministries
☐ Meeting with a Pastor
☐ Other:
Anything else you would like us to know about you?

Please tear off this back page and place in the offering basket.

