



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Sunday, December 24, 2018

Christmas Eve

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 5th grade dismiss just before the sermon. 1st – 5th graders will return prior to communion.

Adult Ed Class, Upstairs Library On break until Jan 13

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

Coffee is available in the SE hallway at 10:15am and before Adult Ed classes when offered.

Fairmount

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

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

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

Reflection

“Here is the heart, the centre, the beginning and the end of the gospel: the heart, the centre, the beginning and the end of history. God, the eternal God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, became like us, a vulnerable, mortal human being.”

- Jean Vanier, *Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John*

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

Christmas celebrates God’s incarnation, which means “in the flesh.” Christmas is all about the amazing truth that God took on our flesh, our bones, and our human life. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

from Isaiah 9

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Opening song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O
2. God of God, Light of Light; lo, he ab -
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing: Je - sus, to

come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him born the king of an - gels;
hors_ not the vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God in the high - est;
thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Song

God Rest Ye Merry

English Carol, 18th c.

1. God rest ye mer-ry, gen-tle-men, let noth-ing you dis-may,
2. From God our heav'n-ly Fa-ther a bles-sed an-gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an-gel, "let noth-ing you a-fright;
4. The shep-herds at those ti-dings re-joic-ed much in mind,
re-mem-ber Christ our sa-avior was born on Christ-mas day;
and un-to cer-tain shep-herds brought ti-dings of the same;
this day is born a sa-avior of a pure vir-gin bright,
and left their flocks a-feed-ing in temp-est, storm and wind,
to save us all from Sa-tan's pow'r when we were gone as-tray.
how that in Beth-le-hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa-tan's pow'r and might."
and went to Beth-le-hem straight-way the Son of God to find.
O- tidings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy; O- ti-dings of com-fort and joy.

Confession of sin

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Savior
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our selfishness and failure to believe.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal 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

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Savior
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

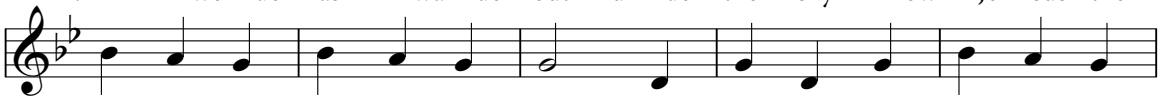
Songs

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles



1. I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky how Je - sus the
2. When Ma - ry birthed Je - sus 'twas in a cow's stall with wise men and
3. If Je - sus had wan-ted for a - ny wee thing, a star in the
4. I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky how Je - sus the



sa - vior did come for to die for poor on' - ry peo - ple like
far - mers and shep - herds and all, but high from God's hea - ven, a
sky or a bird on the wing or all of God's an - gels in
sa - vior did come for to die for poor on' - ry peo - ple like



you and like I; I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky.
star's light did fall, and the pro-mise of a - ges it then did re - call.
hea - ven to sing, he sure - ly could have it, 'cause he was the king.
you and like I; I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky.

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Johann Rist, John Troutbeck, Johann Schop

Break forth, O beau-teous heav-nly light, and ush-er in the morn - ing.

O shep-herds shrink not with a-fright, but hear the an-gel's warn - ing:

this child, now weak in in - fan - cy, our con - fi - dence and joy shall be,

the pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef for the voice part and a grand staff (treble and bass clef) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major). The time signature is 4/4, with a 2/4 section in the middle of each system. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 2:1-20

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of

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.

great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

The Rev. Chris Currie

Response

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
All he has come to his people and set them free.
Light has sprung up for the righteous
and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.
Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.

Song

Angels We Have Heard

Traditional French carol, arr. Edward Barnes

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply e cho back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be which in spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on ben - ded knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Intercessions

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night
your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer
in the sadness of our world.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang,
"Peace to God's people on earth."
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
here in Philadelphia, our nation, and in all the world.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night
shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those who lost loved ones to death
and comfort them in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night
Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God

All hear our prayer.

The leader concludes:

Father, in this holy night
angels and shepherds worshipped
the newborn king enthroned within a manger.
Receive the worship we have offered this night
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

All hear our prayer.

Closing Carol and Candlelighting

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr, John F. Young, Franz Gruber

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

'round you vir - gin mo - ther and child; ho - ly in - fant, so
glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, — sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! — Chris, the Sa - vior, is born!
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, — Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

While singing the carol, candles are lit, beginning from the Christ candle.

Blessing and Sending

Benediction

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his
will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks, and praise to God.

*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.*

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice
Samuel Nebyu: violin
Azer Damirov: violin
Shannon Merlino: viola
Nellie Smith: cello

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

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

Fairmount

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

South Philly

- 12th & Wharton, Wednesdays 7:30PM
Kirstin Peth, kirstin.peth@gmail.com

Roxborough

- Tuesdays 6:30PM
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 gospel-centered 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/spiritual-formation
- 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, Lnewbrander@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

Year-End Giving Update: \$75K Match! We've received a matching gift for all contributions between now and December 31, 2018, up to \$75K. If you'd like to check your church giving record you can do so at citychurchphilly.com/give or by emailing office@citychurchphilly.com. Please be in prayer for our giving, and for the many different ministry objectives funded by your generosity.

Jan Term Classes *During the Epiphany season, we pause our weekly community group gatherings and take time for study and reflection. We offer multiple classes and seminars on a variety of topics. Choose one (or more!) that may be of interest to you. Register online: citychurchphilly.com/jan-term.*

Manuscript Study: The Book of Joel *Tuesdays, 1/8-1/29, 7-9 pm*
This class, led by Tom and Janet Nygren, Candy Cason, and David Wynne, will take a deep dive into the prophetic book of Joel. Each week we will spend time studying individually, discussing in small groups, and learning from one another. The prophet Joel uses an economic disaster in his time as a metaphor that serves to look at the hope of God's restoration for his people in the midst of calamity. We hope you will join us to wrestle together over what this prophet has to teach us today.

Conversations that Heal: Strengthen Your Marriage in Stressful Times (Co-Hosted with Liberti Church) *Wednesdays, 1/9 - 1/23, 7:30-9:30 pm*
This is a marriage workshop led by Gwen & Rod White. Gwen has been the Director of Circle Counseling for over 20 years, and her husband Rod is the Founding Pastor of Circle of Hope. They have been married to each other for 43 years and have a track record of care for married people and wisdom towards traversing the terrain of marriage. If you and your spouse are unable to attend all 3 sessions, you can still participate; each week will function like a stand-alone session. Cost is \$20/couple.

Vintage Saints & Sinners *Thursdays, 1/10-1/31, 7 pm*
This class will feature both a wine-tasting component ("vintage"), and a history/biography component ("saints and sinners"). Each week, Chris Currie will introduce figures from Christian history and discuss how their stories might inspire or inform our own, and resident sommelier Su Jin Kim will introduce us to wines from the native regions of the featured "saints." Bring a friend!

Continued on next page...

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January

- 7 Jan Term begins
- 27 Youth Chili Cookoff

February

- 9 Parenting Conference

March

- 6 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm (UCity)
- 22-24 Men's Retreat

Joy to the World! *Sundays, 1/13-2/3, 9:15 am* Did you know that between City Church and Woodland Presbyterian, we support 10+ global partners? Each week, we'll "meet" a different global partner, learn what challenges and opportunities they are facing, and pray for their work. This class is led by the Global Outreach team.

Book Study: Child Proof: Parenting By Faith Not Formula, by Julie Lowe *Sundays, 1/13-2/3, 3:15 pm* Julie Lowe, counselor, parent, and author of Child Proof is coming to City Church to lead a parenting conference on Saturday, February 9. We'll discuss her book and began to think through how it might shape and encourage us as parents — and what questions we have for Julie when she's with us! Discussion facilitated by Liz Voboril.

Staff

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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.



citychurchphilly.com