



# City Church

PHILADELPHIA

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Sunday December 15, 2019  
The 3rd Sunday of Advent

“Love”

# 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

**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** No classes are currently meeting.

**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.

## Reflection

Christ's love makes us shudder. It shatters us with tenderness. Love somehow goes with suffering. Freedom goes with suffering. Truth, wisdom, knowledge of reality, go with suffering. It seems that everything that has intrinsic value, everything that cannot be bought or negotiated or compromised or relativized or reduced, goes with suffering.

- Peter Kreeft, *Making Sense Out of Suffering*

## Church Calendar

### **ADVENT**

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

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

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-3

<sup>1</sup>At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. <sup>2</sup>Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, <sup>3</sup>the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**All And also with you.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,

**All and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!**

# Opening Song

## *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.

## Opening of Worship

My heart exults in the Lord;

**All my strength is exalted in my God.**

There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you;

**there is no Rock like our God.**

Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth;

**for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.**

The bows of the mighty are broken,

**but the feeble gird on strength.**

The Lord makes poor and makes rich;

**he brings low, he also exalts.**

He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.**

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,

**and on them he has set the world.**

*from 1 Samuel 2*

# Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

## Doxology

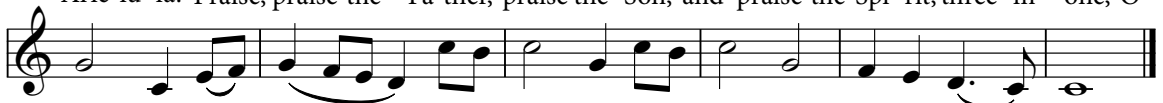
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



1. All ye who are of ten der heart, for- giv ing oth- ers take your part. Sing his prais- es,  
2. Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and worship him with hum ble ness! O\_\_ praise him,



Alle-lu ia! Ye, who long pain and sor- row bear, praise God and on him cast your care! O  
Alle-lu ia! Praise, praise the Fa ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi- rit, three in one, O



praise him! O\_\_ praise\_\_him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him! O\_\_ praise\_\_him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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### 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.*

## Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father,  
you exalted the humble and meek:  
give us humble and contrite hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:  
be planted also in our hearts and lives.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit,  
you overshadowed Mary,  
that she might become the God-bearer:  
fill us with your heavenly gifts.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

## Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

Our God is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;  
and out of that love God sent Jesus Christ  
to die for us that we may be restored to life.  
Therefore, as Isaiah proclaimed,  
as Mary and Elizabeth proclaimed,  
so too, can we proclaim to one another now:  
God redeems you and restores you,  
God loves you and forgives you,  
God sees you and calls you his own.

*All* Amen.

# Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

## *My Savior's Love Endures*

Jennie Lee Riddle, JJ and Dave Heller



1. My soul does mag - ni - fy the great-ness of the Lord. On  
2. He has done migh - ty things - ho - ly is his name. All  
3. Oh I - srael find your help sole - ly in the Lord His



me his fa - vor lights; in my sa - vior, I re-joyce.  
crea-tures un - der heav-en fear him whose mer-cy reigns.  
mer - cy's with-out end His pro-mise He'll up hold.



He has pro - ven his might, his arm out-stretched with strength; he has



scat-tered the proud and brought down all vain con ceit. He has lif-ted the low-ly, brings



good-ness to the poor. My Sa - vior's love en - dures.\_



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and Son, glo - ry be to the Spi - rit, three in one.



Glo-ry be in the be - gin-ning and the end, glo-ry for - e - ver, a - men.\_

© 2009 Jennie Lee Riddle, JJ Heller and Dave Heller, CCLI # 5359590



## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

German, 15th c.; Theodore Baker



1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
3. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,
4. O Sav - ior, child of Ma - ry, who felt our hu - man woe;



of Jes - se's lin - eage co - ming, as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et  
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the vir - gin mo - ther kind. To show God's love a -  
dis - pels with glorious splen - dor the darkness ev' - rywhere. True man, yet ve - ry  
O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we



bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
right, she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
God; from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
pray, to the bright courts of heav - en, and to the end - less day.

## 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. 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.*

*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.*

## The Word of God

*Old Testament reading: Isaiah 43:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading: Luke 1:39-55*

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

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from

now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

“Love” – Rev. Chris Currie

## 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

## 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.**

*The offering 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 are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give—we're grateful simply for your presence here today.*

*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.*

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, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.

Make the frailty of our praise  
a dwelling place for your glory.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we intercede on behalf  
of the world that you have made.

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;  
draw all people from hatred to love;

and establish your kingdom of justice and peace  
on earth as in heaven.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our Redeemer,  
come to the suffering as savior and comforter.

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness, need, and distress,  
and set us free to serve you forever.

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.

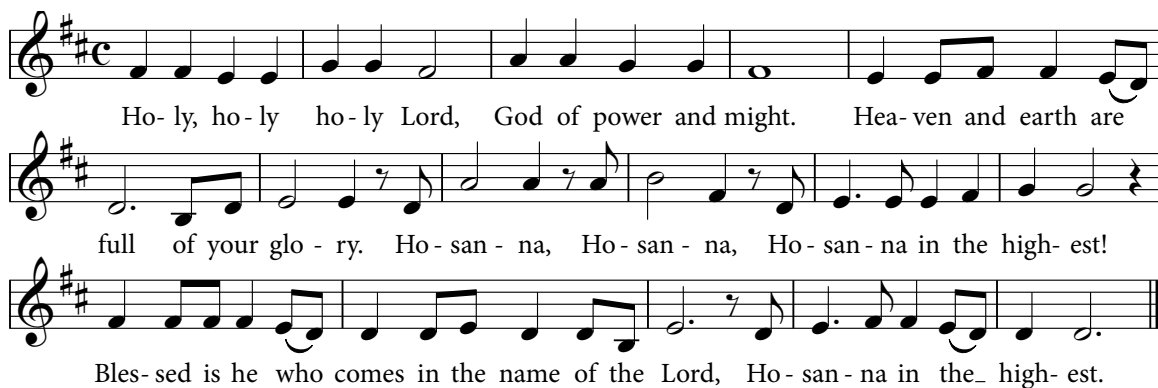
### GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

*Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus 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 Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.*

# The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.  
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory  
for ever praising you and singing:

## *Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
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.

*If you would like prayer for healing and anointing with oil, please come to the back of the room after you have been served, and an elder will pray for you. This will be a time of liturgical prayer; you will not be asked to share your particular situation.*

*We use wine in Communion. Non-alcoholic white grape juice and a gluten-free option are also available if preferred. Please discard 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

*All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

Paul Gerhardt, Catherine Winkworth, Johann Ebeling



1. All my heart this night re - joi - ces as I hear far and near
2. Forth to - day the Cong' ror go - eth, who the foe, sin and woe,
3. He be - comes the Lamb that tak - eth sin a - way and for aye
4. Hark! a voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, doth en - treat:



sweet - est an - gel voi - ces. "Christ is born," their choirs are sing -  
death and hell, o'er - throw - eth. God is man, man to de - li -  
full at - one - ment mak - eth. For our life his own he ten -  
"Flee from woe and dan - ger, breth - ren, from all ills that grieve



ing till the air ev' - ry where now with joy is ring - ing.  
ver; his dear son now is one with our blood for - e - ver.  
ders; and our race, by his grace, meet for glo - ry ren - ders.  
you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you.

5. Come, then, banish all your sadness,  
one and all, great and small;  
come with songs of gladness.  
Love him who with love is glowing;  
hail the star, near and far  
light and joy bestowing.

## Prayer after Communion

*All* Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised savior:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



# Blessing and Sending

*Come, See a Child of Low Estate*

W.D. Springett, Karl Digerness



1. Come, see a child of low estate, in manger bed recline
2. For man he comes to rend the veil which hides death's gloomy port
3. Come, see a child of low estate, in manger bed recline



- ing; yet on his humble dwelling place bright stars  
- tal, and make a home where man with him in peace  
- ing; yet on his humble dwelling place the Fa -



— in heav'n are shining. This little babe is Christ  
— may dwell, immortal. He comes to triumph o'er—  
- ther's love is shining. So may we all the pat -



— the Lord, whom saints have long expected, for man he comes to live—  
— the grave and rise on Easter morning, and reign in heav'n at God's  
- tern take from Jesus, meek and lowly: may we his faithful ser -



— and die, despised, betrayed, rejected.  
— right hand until the last day's dawning.  
— vants be kept by his Spirit holy!

©City Hymns

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 God the Holy Spirit,  
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
help you bear the fruits of holiness;  
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.**

Liturgist: Natalie Harvey  
Celebrant: Tuck Bartholomew

Bethany Danel Brooks: piano, voice  
Michael Jones: trumpet  
Joshua Stamper: bass

# 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 7PM  
Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 52nd & Larchwood, Tuesdays 7PM  
Jade Avelis, jade.avelis@gmail.com
- 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore at Linda's, Wed 6:30PM  
Janet Nygren, janetnygren@gmail.com
- 49<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore, Thursdays 6PM  
Vieen Leung, vieenleung@gmail.com
- 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore at Dick's, Thursdays 6:30PM  
Joel Bassett, jbassett4@gmail.com

## Fairmount

- Ringgold & Poplar, Wednesdays 7PM  
Su Jin Kim, splujin@gmail.com
- 22<sup>nd</sup> & Poplar, Sundays 4PM  
Bonnie Currie, bonnie.currie@gmail.com

## South Philly

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

## Roxborough

- Tuesdays 6:30PM  
Cale Weatherly, cale.weatherly@gmail.com

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**FAMILY MINISTRIES** come 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 a 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 details. Contact Amy Lee, amy@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 Eric Burrows-Stone, eric@citychurchphilly.com

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** The Gathering is an intentional Community Group for college students from any university in West Philly that meets once a week for a (FREE) meal and topical discussion. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm in Houston Hall 225. 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 Miriam Wattenbarger, mwattenb@hotmail.com.

**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](http://citychurchphilly.com/spiritual-formation)
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox [citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer](http://citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer)
- Check out current and upcoming Adult Ed classes | [citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed](http://citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed)

## 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](http://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

## SERVE

**We seek to be a church that demonstrates the love of Christ to our city.** Over the years, our deacons have cultivated partnerships with several local organizations. To view current opportunities to serve, please visit [citychurchphilly.org/serve-city](http://citychurchphilly.org/serve-city).



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Youth Group Bake Sale this Sunday, December 15** Plan to stop by the youth group's annual Bake Sale Fundraiser before or after the worship service this Sunday and pick up some treats to sweeten your day! All proceeds will go to the youth group's mission fund.

**Seekers' Group Meets Wednesday, December 18** Looking for a safe place to wrestle with "unsafe" questions about the Christian faith? The Seekers' Group is a community of believers, nonbelievers, skeptics, and seekers, walking together as friends and fellow travelers on an open-ended journey of faith, doubt, and wonder. We'll meet at the Turners' home, 2214 Wallace St., from 7:30 to 9 pm. Contact Chris at [Chris@citychurchphilly.com](mailto:Chris@citychurchphilly.com) to join the conversation.

**Advent Prayer Guide** Join us in the practice of waiting and longing this Advent season through an Advent Prayer Guide. We'll also be sending these daily readings out each day via our regular morning & evening prayer emails (one reading per day). If you aren't a regular prayer email subscriber but want to join for Advent, you can sign up for advent emails at [citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer](http://citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer). If you'd like a print copy of this resource, please contact Jonathan at [jonathan@citychurchphilly.com](mailto:jonathan@citychurchphilly.com)

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm** Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24 at 5 pm at West Catholic. This service is a warm, family-friendly time of celebrating the birth of Christ. Please join us! We will also have regular worship services on 12/22 and 12/29.

**Fireside Chats with Tuck, Book Study on Courage & Calling, and More! Jan Term is Coming...** Jan Term begins Sunday, January 5. During this season, we break from our regularly scheduled community group meetings to make space for special classes and seminars. Registration will open this week. To view the full list of options, visit [citychurchphilly.com/jan-term](http://citychurchphilly.com/jan-term).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### December

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**18** Seekers' Group

**24** Christmas Eve Service,  
5 pm

# December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Advent begins	2 Officer nominations end	3	4	5	6	7
8 Lessons & Carols, 5 pm	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Seekers' Group	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Staff

**Tuck Bartholomew**  
Senior Pastor  
tuck@citychurchphilly.com

**Eric Burrows-Stone**  
Youth Ministry  
eric@citychurchphilly.com

**Dan Cason**  
Sunday Volunteers  
dan@citychurchphilly.com

**Chris Currie**  
Site Pastor, Fairmount  
chris@citychurchphilly.com

**Bethany Danel Brooks**  
Worship Director  
bethany@citychurchphilly.com

**Jonathan Davis**  
Assistant Pastor  
jonathan@citychurchphilly.com

**Natalie Harvey**  
University Ministry  
natalie@citychurchphilly.com

**Amy Lee**  
Children's Program Administrator  
amy@citychurchphilly.com

**Anne Smith**  
Children's Lead Teacher  
anne@citychurchphilly.com

**Liz Voboril**  
Communications Coordinator  
liz@citychurchphilly.com

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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): \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me:  Weekly Newsletter  Morning & Evening Prayer

## Please contact me about:

- Community Groups
- Neighborhood Service Opportunities
- Volunteering on Sundays
- Children's & Youth Ministries
- Meeting with a Pastor
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer Requests

*Our staff prays weekly on Tuesdays, and our deacons pray monthly on 4th Sundays.*

*Fill out your name above if you'd like to be prayed for by name.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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



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