

Sunday December 29, 2019 The First Sunday of Christmas

"Joy"

# 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

My faith is not a magic charm, like garlic to chase away vampires. It is, instead, what sustains me in the midst of all the normal joys and tragedies of the ordinary human life. It is faith that helps my grief to be creative, not destructive.... It is faith that what happens to me matters to God as well as to me that gives me joy, that promises me that I am eternally the subject of God's compassion, and that assures me that the compassion was manifested most brilliantly when God came to us in a stable in Bethlehem.

- Madeleine L'Engle, The Rock that is Higher

# 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

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

### All Amen.

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.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, *All* and we beheld his glory.

Opening Song

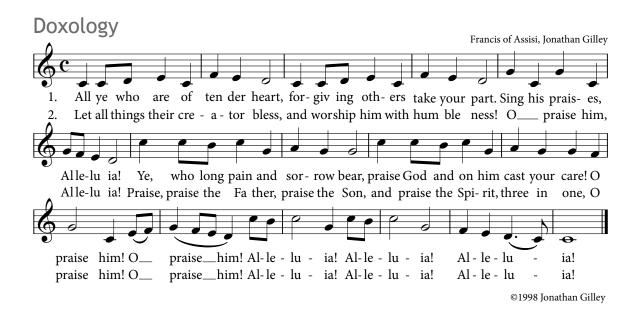
O Come, All Ye Faithful John Francis Wade, Frederick Oakeley 1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um- phant, O come ye, O come ye to 2. God of\_\_\_ God,\_ Light of\_ light,\_ lo, he ab - hors not the Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, 3. sing, all ye ci-ti zens of 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py mor- ning; thee be all Je - sus, to 0 Beth le- hem. Come and be - hold him, born the king of \_ an gels; Ve - ry\_ God, got- ten, not cre vir gin's womb. be a ted glo - ry to heav'n\_ a- bove; God\_ in\_\_\_\_ the\_ high - est ry giv'n; of the late in flesh ap - pear - ing glo Fa - ther, Word 0 come, let a - dore him, O us come, let us a - dore him, O come, let dore him,\_\_\_\_ Christ\_ the Lord. us a -

# **Opening of Worship**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

 All we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. *from Psalm 126*

## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation



# Confession of Sin

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

# Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

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

All Amen.

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.

### Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

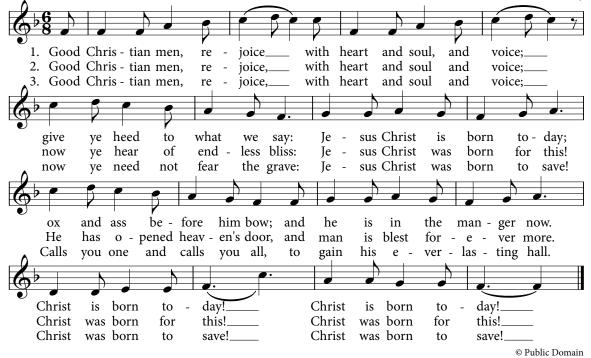
Mary's Song

Wendell Kimbrough



Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Heinrich Suso, 14th c. German melody



### Passing of the Peace

All

The peace of the Lord be with you always. 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.

#### 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.

# The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 2:21-38

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. *All* Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

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

### Sermon

All

*"Joy"* – 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 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.

## Prayers

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Faithful and eternal God, you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for, and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

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. Jesus, our Messiah, we pray for our global partners, the Nazareth Project, as they help Arab and Jewish workers at a hospital in Nazareth to labor together in caring for the sick and blessing their community. Please provide for every need, and give healing and reconciliation. For this, O Lord, we pray:

### All Lord, hear our prayer.

Merciful Spirit, in this season help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved, and the oppressed. Keep in safety those who travel and all who are in danger. Heal the sick in body and mind, and provide for the homeless, the hungry, and the destitute. 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.

#### 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.* 

Sanctus

### Communion

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

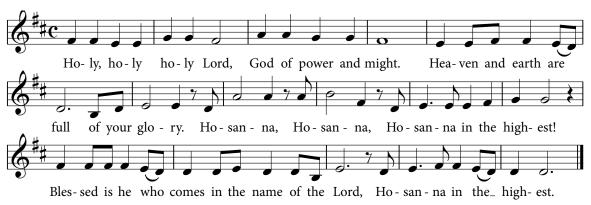
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* It is right to give thanks and praise.

# The Eucharistic Prayer

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:



<sup>©2011</sup> 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.

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. Nonalcoholic white grape juice and a glutenfree 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.

## Memorial Acclamation

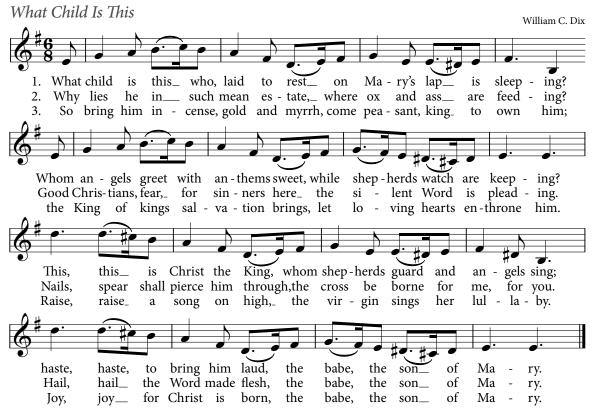
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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.

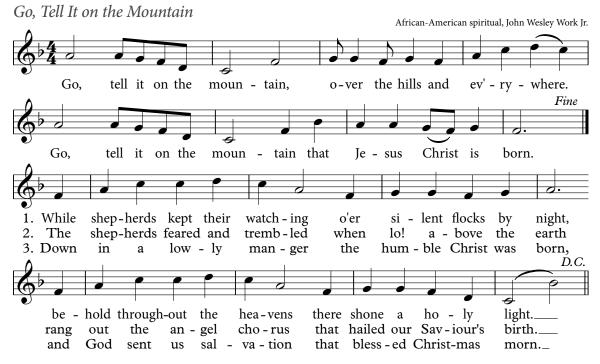
## **Communion Song**



# Prayer after Communion

All Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

# **Blessing and Sending**



#### 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 Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; 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.

Eric Burrows-Stone: liturgist Chris Currie: celebrant

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

# 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, jona-than@citychurchphilly.com if you have questions.

#### West Philly

- 50<sup>th</sup> & Springfield, Tuesdays 7<sub>РМ</sub> Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 52nd & Larchwood, Tuesdays 7рм 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>РМ</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

#### Fairmount

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

#### **South Philly**

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

#### Roxborough

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

**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/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

# 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

# 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.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Year-End Giving Update Thank you all for your generous giving to City Church! Our \$80K year-end giving match has been met, leaving a gap of only \$43K left to fully fund our ministry. If you haven't yet participated, there's still time! You can give online at citychurchphilly.com/give.
- Jan Term Classes Now Open for Registration During the month of January, we break from our regularly scheduled community group meetings to make space for special classes and seminars. Unless otherwise notes, classes begin Sunday, January 5. To view the full list of options and to register, visit citychurchphilly.com/jan-term.

#### Weekly classes:

- Elementary Kids Class: Coming to the Table | Sundays, 9:30 am
- Women's Study: Colossians | Sundays, 9:30 am
- Fireside Chats with Tuck on Hot Topics | Sundays, 7 pm
- Adult Class: "Scripture & The Authority of God" | Sundays (beginning Jan 12), 9:30 am
- Book Study: Courage & Calling | Thursdays, 7 pm

#### Other Events and Workshops:

- Seekers' Group | Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 pm
- Faith & Finances: Biblical Foundations for Christian Stewardship | Thursday, January 28, 7:00 pm
- *Meetup: Jazz at the Art Museum ("Color as Time")* | *F*riday, January 17, performances at 5:45 and 7:15 pm
- Workshop: Using the Enneagram | TBD

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# December 2019

| SUNDAY                                | MONDAY                                    | TUESDAY                              | WEDNESDAY                      | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 1<br>Advent<br>begins                 | <b>2</b><br>Officer<br>nominations<br>end | 3                                    | 4                              | 5        | 6      | 7        |
| <b>8</b><br>Lessons &<br>Carols, 5 pm | 9   | 10                                   | 11                             | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| 15                                    | 16  | 17                                   | <b>18</b><br>Seekers'<br>Group | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| 22                                    | 23  | 24<br>Christmas Eve<br>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

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):   |
| 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.

