



City Church
PHILADELPHIA



Sunday December 27, 2020
The First Sunday of Christmas

“Rejoicing in Christ”

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today for worship. City Church and Liberti Center City are partnering to offer this worship service and other online points of gathering during this season of physical distancing.

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.

Please visit our websites, www.citychurchphilly.com and www.libertichurch.org, for more information about worship, help, and connecting during this season. We are glad you are joining us and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff
Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Scott Jennings

Reflection

The Christmas story is set not in a palace surrounded by dignitaries but among the poor and humble whose lives are always subject to forfeit. It's a reminder that the church is not most truly herself when she courts power. The church finds her voice when she remembers that God 'has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble,' as the Gospel of Luke puts it. The very telling of the Christmas story is an act of resistance.

-Esau McCaulley, "The Bloody Fourth Day of Christmas," *New York Times*, December 27, 2019

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.

Welcome

Rev. Chris Currie

Opening Song

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Aurelius Prudentius, Henry Baker, J.M. Neale, arr. Sam Bush



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the world be - gan to be,
2. O, that birth for - e - ver bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sin - gers sang of old with one ac - cord;
4. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the en - ding he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the sa - vior of our race,
whom the scrip-tures of the pro - phets pro-mised in their faith-ful word.
hymn and chant and high thanks - gi - ving and un - wea - ried prai - ses be,



of the things that are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture years shall see
and the babe, the world's re - dee - mer, first re-vealed his sa - cred face
Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise the Lord
ho - nor, glo - ry, and do - mi - nion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



e - ver - more and e - ver - more. _____

Opening of Worship

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.

Praise the Lord!

**All Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!**

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**Praise him, sun and moon; praise him,
all you shining stars!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

from Psalm 72

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

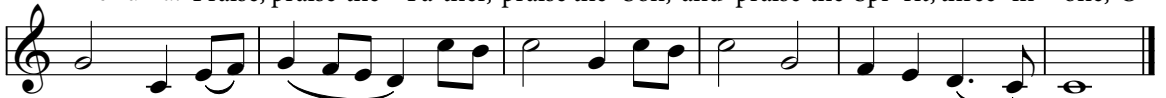
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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 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 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 2:22-40

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

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

"Rejoicing in Christ" – Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

If you'd like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at the addresses below or text any amount to the number 84321.

citychurchphilly.com/give or libertichurch.org/give

Offertory Song

The Spirit of the Lord

Bruce Benedict, Naaman Wood



1. When all the pro - phets sang the words__ and told us of__ the One:
2. When Je - sus stood in Na - zar - eth__ and sang the pro - phet's words:
3. When o'er the womb of Pent - e - cost__ the brood - ing Spir - it howled
4. When plunged in - to the death of Christ__ and raised to life__ a - new,



"He'll bring the way, the truth, the life;__ his fa - vor will be won,"
"I bring good news, re - lease, and sight,"__ his fa - vor now an - nounced,
and birthed the liv - ing flesh of Christ,__ his fa - vor now poured out,
the Ho - ly Spi - rit rests on us,__ his fa - vor to im - bue.



The Spi - rit of__ the Lord, the Spi - rit of__ the Lord
(Spi - rit of)



1. was_ up - on them, was_ up - on them, was_ up - on them.
2. was_ up - on him, was_ up - on him, was_ up - on him.
3. was_ up - on them, was_ up - on them, was_ up - on them.
4. is__ up - on us, is__ up - on us, is__ up - on us.

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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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
Wonderful counsellor,
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
make the whole world know
that the government is on your shoulders.
Everlasting Father,
establish your reign of justice and righteousness for ever.
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.*

**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.

Prince of peace,
put an end to the wars in our world, strife in our nation,
violence in our city, and anger in our homes;
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty Lord,
hear our prayer
and fulfil your purposes in us,
as you accomplished your will
in our Lord Jesus Christ.
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.

Confession of Sin

All God our Father, you sent your Son full of
grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Jesus our Savior,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

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 you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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.

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

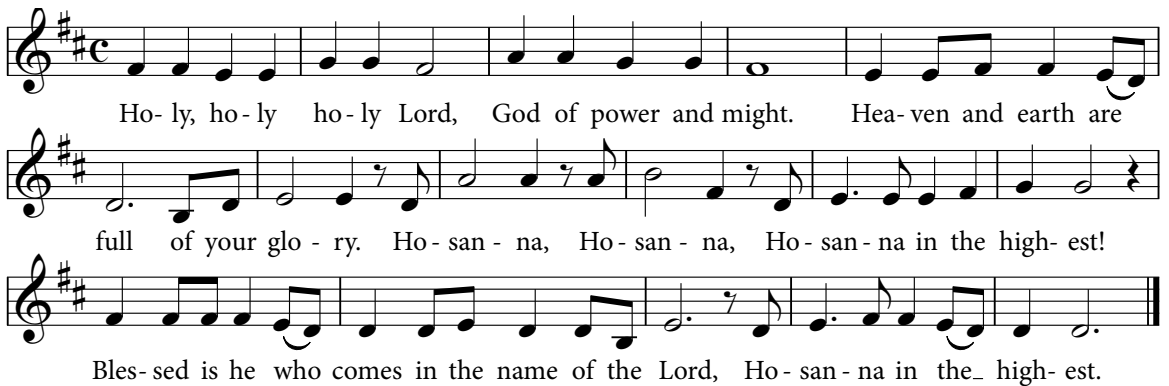
Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ to participate. If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope this time is helpful to you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

The Eucharistic Prayer

And now we give you thanks,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
and 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.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels 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.

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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,
forever 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.

Prayer after Communion

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, George Frideric Handel



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - iour reigns; let men their
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev' - ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bles - sings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the soun - ding joy, re - peat the soun - ding
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
- ness, and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the soun - ding joy.
found, far as, far as, the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders, of his love.

Benediction

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children;
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.

Announcements

- Jan Term will begin January 11. The list of options will come in the enews on January 5.
- Read or Pray for our Services. If you're willing to create a selfie video for our service, we'd love to have you help lead us. Contact Olivia at administrator@liberti.org for details.

Musicians

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice
Sarah Long: voice
Nick Millevoi: guitar
Josh Stamper: bass

Liturgist

Whitney Buchmann

Celebrant

Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

Video Prayers

Arlene Navarro
Kim Dengler
Ellen Solomon
Dan Solomon

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