



# City Church

PHILADELPHIA

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Sunday August 6, 2017

Philippians: Life in Christ  
“The Surpassing Value of Christ”

## **PREPARATION**

May our souls take refuge  
from the crowding turmoil of worldly thought,  
and beneath the shadow of your wings,  
find peace in you, O God.

**All** Amen.

*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.

I will bless you as long as I live;

**All** I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

## **OPENING SONG**

*Open the Eyes of My Heart* - Paul Baloche

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see you,  
I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up,  
shining in the light of your glory.  
Pour out your power and love  
as we sing holy, holy, holy:

Holy, holy, holy,  
holy, holy, holy  
holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you.

## **OPENING RESPONSORIAL**

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
*All* my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
Your steadfast love is better than life,  
therefore my lips will praise you.  
My soul is satisfied, as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.

*from Psalm 63*

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING**

### **DOXOLOGY**

All ye who are of tender heart,  
forgiving others take your part.  
Sing his praises, Alleluia!  
Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on him cast your care!  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit three in one,  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*All* Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we wander and stray like lost sheep.  
We too often set our confidence in the flesh,  
looking to status, achievement, and worldly value  
as our gain, our worth, and our security.  
We confess and sorrow for our unbelief.  
Have mercy upon us and forgive us,  
that we may renew our faith,  
boast in Christ Jesus, and be found in him.

## **WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

# SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

## *How Sweet to Wait*

Joseph Swain, Clint Wells, Karl Digerness



1. How sweet to wait up - on\_\_\_ the Lord,
2. To see, while pros - trate at\_\_\_ his feet,
3. "Fa - ther," he cries, "I will\_\_\_ that these
4. With this de - light - ful pros - pect fired,



while he ful - fills his gra - cious word;  
Je - ho - vah on the mer - cy - seat;  
be - fore thee on their ben - ded knees,  
we'll run, nor in thy ways be\_ tired;\_



to seek his face, and not\_\_\_ in\_ vain,  
and Je - sus, at the Lord's\_\_\_ right hand,  
for whom my life I once\_\_\_ laid down,  
and all the tri - als here we\_ see,\_\_\_



to be so loved, and love a - gain!  
with his di - vine a - tone - ment stand!  
be with me soon on this my throne."  
will make us long to reign with thee. \_



A - men! our hearts with rap - ture cry, \_



may we with rev' - rence look\_ so high;



as - cen - ded Sa - vior, fix our eyes,



by faith up - on\_\_\_ this glo - rious prize!

*Fairest Lord Jesus - Münster Gesangbuch, Joseph Seiss*

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine.

## **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. Children in 1st and 2nd grades are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

*New Testament reading:* Philippians 3:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard.

<sup>2</sup>Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! <sup>3</sup>For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup>even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading:* Luke 9:18-25

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

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

<sup>18</sup>Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” <sup>19</sup>They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.” <sup>20</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.” <sup>21</sup>He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, <sup>22</sup>saying, “The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” <sup>23</sup>Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and

follow me. <sup>24</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup>What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* Praise to you, O Christ.

## **SERMON**

*“The Surpassing Value of Christ”* – The Rev. Chris Currie

## **OFFERING AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

*The offertory 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're visiting, we are so glad you are worshipping with us, but please do not feel obligated to give.*

## **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.*

Father, your Son called disciples to deny themselves,  
and follow in his steps along the way of the cross.  
Renew us now in our knowledge of Christ Jesus,  
to count all else as loss that we may be found in him.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Jesus Christ, our boast and confidence are in you.  
Grant humility to the arrogant and powerful,  
that they would not assert their own righteousness,  
but serve and minister to the weak and vulnerable.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, our only comforter and advocate,  
draw near the sick, mournful, oppressed, and lonely.  
Assure them that, as they share in Christ's suffering,  
so too will they share in his resurrection life.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

*Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at this time, ending with,*

For this, O Lord, we pray.

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our Savior has taught us:

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

## **COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**All** We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### *Sanctus*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest!

*The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer  
and speaks the Words of Institution.*

## **MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All** Christ has died:

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**All** Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*We use wine in Communion. Non-alcoholic white grape juice and gluten-free rice cakes are also available if preferred. Please recycle your Communion cup as you leave worship.*

## COMMUNION SONG

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us* - Stuart Townend

How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss:  
the Father turns his face away  
as wounds which mar the chosen one,  
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there  
until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life;  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from his reward?  
I cannot give an answer,  
but this I know with all my heart:  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*All* Lord God, your Son is the source of life,  
ever giving himself that the world may live:  
renew us now by these gifts,  
and fix our eyes upon the surpassing value of Christ  
so we may count all other things as loss,  
that we might forever live with him.  
Amen.

## **BLESSING AND SENDING**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* - Edward Mote

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne.

## **BENEDICTION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth to serve the world  
as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*All* Thanks be to God.

### **West Philly**

Candy Cason: liturgist  
Chris Currie: celebrant

Andrew Duncan: bass  
Lee Jeon: violin, voice  
Jordan McCree: drums  
Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

### **Fairmount**

Jenn Cho: liturgist  
Chris Currie: celebrant

Andrew Duncan: bass  
Lee Jeon: violin, voice  
Jordan McCree: drums  
Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

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