



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Sunday March 5, 2017

Lent 1

Encounters with Jesus
“Jesus & the Seeker”

PREPARATION

Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.

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.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

OPENING SONG

Trinity Song

Sandra McCracken

Ho - ly Fath - er, Son, and Spi - rit,
Ho - ly com - mun - ion, Three in One.
Come, with your peace, with your in - vi - ta - tion,
bind us to - geth - er in ho - ly love.

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OPENING RESPONSORIAL

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,

All and you shall be clean;

you shall be clean from all your uncleanness,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you,

and a new spirit I will put within you;

I will remove from your body the heart of stone,

and I will give you a heart of flesh.

You shall be my people,

and I will be your God.

from Ezekiel 36

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin:

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the Father of all mercies
cleans us from our sins,
send his Spirit into our hearts,
and renew us as his children,
born from above
in him who was lifted up.

All Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Come, O Spirit - Isaac Wardell

Come, O Spirit, comfort true; help us by your pleading.
Come and every heart renew; breath of God proceeding.
You alone to God can win us:
Spirit, now work good within us.

All our knowledge, all our sight lies in darkness shrouded.
All our labors wrought in strife hath our judgment clouded.
O consume our wrong desires:
Holy Ghost, our souls inspire.

Come, our conscience to relieve from each sin remembered.
Come, our Savior's blood to plead; naked we surrender.
Sin hath left a wound revealing:
Spirit, help us with your healing.

All our riches, all our crowns cast we now before thee.
Scales removeth, chains unbound, boldly we implore thee:
as you knit us once together, fasten us to you forever.

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Wonderful, Merciful Savior - Dawn Rogers, Eric Wyse

Wonderful, merciful savior,
precious redeemer and friend,
who would have thought that a lamb
could rescue the souls of men?
O, you rescue the souls of men!

Counselor, comforter, keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace,
you offer hope when our hearts have
hopelessly lost the way.
O, we hopelessly lost the way.

You are the one that we praise;
you are the one we adore;
you give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for,
O, our hearts always hunger for.

Almighty, infinite Father,
faithfully loving your own,
here in our weakness you find us
falling before your throne.
O, we're falling before your throne!

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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: Romans 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel reading: John 3:1-15

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

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

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about

Continued on back...

heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Jesus & the Seeker” – 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. If you're visiting, we are so glad you are worshipping with us, but please do not feel obligated to give.

OFFERTORY

Open Thou Mine Eyes - Lancelot Andrews, Isaac Wardell

Open thou mine eyes, and I shall see;
incline my heart, and I shall desire.
Order my steps, and I shall walk
in the ways of thy commandments.

Open thou mine ears, and I shall hear;
dispel my pride, and I shall surrender.
Spirit of God, my teacher be
in the ways of thy commandments.

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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

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Father of new life and rebirth,
Nicodemus came to your Son by night,
to learn the gospel of your kingdom.
Teach us now and renew our hearts,
that we might understand and believe.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you descended from above,
to give us eyes to see your kingdom.
Grant our leaders and all authorities
a glimpse of the kingdom you bring to us,
that they might rule with justice and mercy.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, you blow where you will.
Break again our hearts of stone,
that we might know you and love you.
Pour out your love upon the poor and oppressed,
the sick and dying, prisoners and sojourners.
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

Jesus, I Come - William Sleeper, Greg Thompson

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.

Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my sickness into thy health,
out of my wanting and into thy wealth,
out of my sin and into thyself,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the glorious gain of thy cross,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm,
out of life's storms and into thy calm,
out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of myself to dwell in thy love,
out of despair into raptures above,
upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.

Into the joy and light of thy home,
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold,
into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
ever thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to thee.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who share together at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world
may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING

Be Thou My Vision - Traditional Irish poem

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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

Alex Arnold: liturgist
Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice
Rob Heiskell: guitar, voice

Fairmount

Mae Trieu: liturgist
Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice
Rob Heiskell: guitar, voice

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community life and church events.

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