



RESURRECTION
PHILADELPHIA

Sunday December 17, 2023
The 3rd Sunday of Advent

“ZECHARIAH’S SONG”

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today for worship! We hope you find Resurrection Philadelphia to be a warm, welcoming community--regardless of your background, beliefs, or life situation.

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 website resurrectionphl.org for more information about worship and ways to connect further to this church community. We are glad you are joining us and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff
Chris Currie, Scott Jennings

Sunday Information

- **Nursery + Children’s Ministry:** Check-in available at both 17th and Sansom Street entrances.
 - Nursery for children 6-30 months: Available for the duration of the service.
 - Sunday School for ages 30 months through 5th grade: Children are dismissed to class just before the sermon; K-5th graders return in time for communion.
 - For nursing mothers seeking privacy, there’s a room behind the SE exit from the Sanctuary where the service can be watched.
- **Accessibility:** A street level entrance is available on Sansom Street, and an elevator providing access to all other levels can be accessed there. Assistive listening devices are available; to request one, please see one of the greeters.
- **Restrooms:** Men’s and Women’s restrooms are on the lower level; two single-user restrooms open to anyone are available on the 2nd floor.
- **Coffee Hour:** After the service, located in the Community room, behind the front of the Sanctuary. All are welcome!
- **Parking/Transportation:** Free parking for worship is available at the Liberty Place Garage. Get a timed ticket when you enter the garage, and a chaser ticket (validation ticket) at church. Limited bike and stroller parking at the Sansom lobby, as well as single journey SEPTA passes.

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

48th & Walton community group

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
 to you be praise and glory for ever.
 Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
 as a burning and shining light.
 May we your servants rejoice in his light
 and so be led to witness to him
 who is the Lord of our coming kingdom,
 Jesus our Savior and King of the ages.

All Blessed be God forever.

Opening Song

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

James Montgomery, Vito Aiuto



1. Hail to the Lord's__ a - noin-ted, great Da - vid's grea - ter_ Son!
2. He comes in suc - cor spee - dy_ to those who suf - fer_ wrong;
3. He shall come down__ like sho - wers up - on the fruit - ful_ earth;
4. To him shall prayer__ un - ceas - ing_ and dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in__ the time__ ap - poin - ted, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor__ and nee - dy,_ and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope,__ like flo - wers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still__ in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end:



He comes to break__ op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 to give them songs__ for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to__ light,
 Be - fore him, on__ the moun - tains, shall peace, the he - rald, go,
 the tide of time__ shall ne - ver his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way__ trans - gres - sion and rule in e - qui - ty_
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
 and right - eous - ness,__ in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 his name shall stand__ for - e - ver, his name to us is__ love.

CCLI #5390676 © 2008 New Jerusalem Music

Opening of Worship

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Responsive Reading

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

All and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

from Isaiah 60

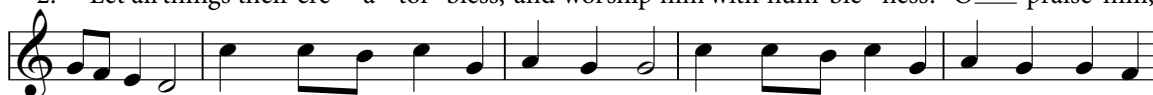
Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Doxology

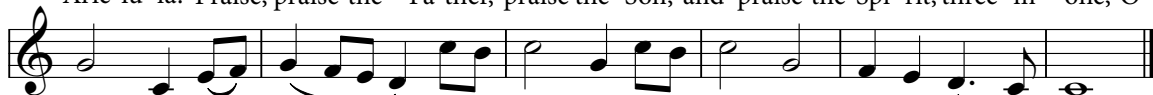
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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!

©1998 Jonathan Gilley

Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Silence is kept.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May almighty God
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will,
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through 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.*

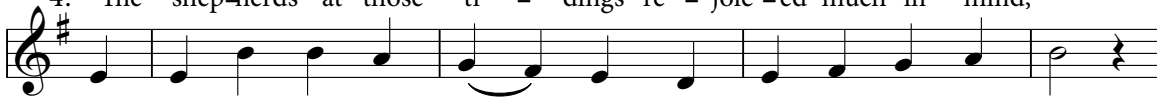
Song of Praise and Adoration

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

English Carol, 18th c.



1. God rest ye mer-ry, gen-tle-men, let noth-ing you dis-may,
2. From God our heav'n-ly Fa-ther a bles-sed an-gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an-gel, "let noth-ing you a-fright;
4. The shep-herds at those ti-dings re-joic-ed much in mind,



re-mem-ber Christ our sa-vior was born on Christ-mas day;
and un-to cer-tain shep-herds brought ti-dings of the same;
this day is born a sa-vior of a pure vir-gin bright,
and left their flocks a-feed-ing in temp-est, storm and wind,



to save us all from Sa-tan's pow'r when we were gone as-tray.
how that in Beth-le-hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa-tan's pow'r and might."
and went to Beth-le-hem straight-way the Son of God to find.



O_ ti-dings of com fort and joy, com fort and joy; O_ ti-dings of com fort and joy.

Pre-school children are invited to go to their classes at this time. Elementary children through grade 5 are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Song of Response, following the Reflection.

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.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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.

Gospel reading: Luke 1:67-80

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

“*Zechariah’s Song*” –Dr. Cyndi Parker

Offertory

Bless the Lord - Taizé, Psalm 103

©1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

When encouraging the early church toward generosity, the Apostle Paul pointed to Jesus' giving of himself:

“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

If you'd like to contribute to the work of our church, you can do so by scanning the QR code at the left or text any amount to the number 84321.

The offering is part of our worship together, an opportunity to participate in the ministry of Resurrection. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give— we're grateful simply for your presence here today.



resurrectionphl.org/give

*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.*

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.

Jesus, we pray to you in joyful expectation
of your coming to our aid:
come to your Church as Lord and judge.
Help us to live in the light of your coming,
and give us a longing for your kingdom.
Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.
We pray especially for nations devoured
by war and oppression.
Before you rulers will stand in silence.
Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter.
Break into our lives
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you forever.
Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

And for what else should we pray?

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

Maranatha:

All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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 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 Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

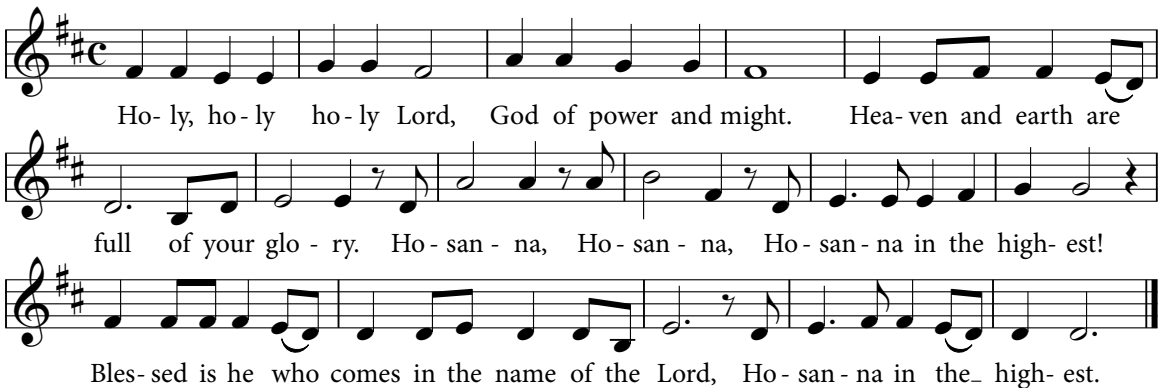
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

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,
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.

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 | 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

As with Gladness, Men of Old

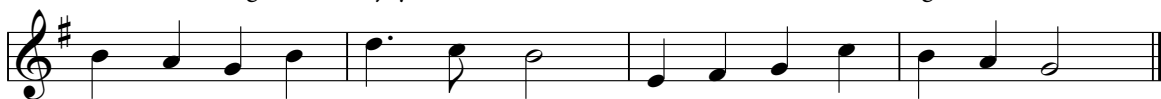
William C. Dix, Conrad Kocher, William Monk



1. As with glad-ness, men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold
2. As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed
3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger rude and bare;
4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev'-ry day keep us in the nar-row way;
5. In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright, need they no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright
there to bend the knee be-fore him whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra-cious God, may we e-ver-more be led to thee.
so may we with wil-ling feet e-ver seek thy mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
there for-e-ver may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King!

Prayer after Communion

All We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,
that when your Christ comes again,
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and forever.
Amen.

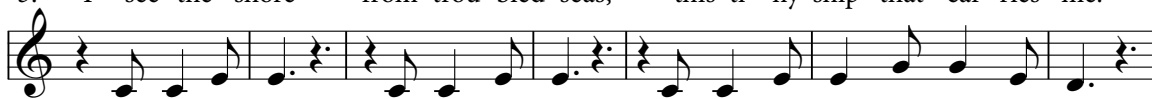
Blessing and Sending

God's Highway

Sandra McCracken



1. My feet are strong, my eyes are clear, I can-not see the way from here.
2. The sha-dows flee, the valley is deep, but e - vil can -not con-quer me.
3. I see the shore from trou-bled seas, this ti - ny ship that car -ries me.



But on we go, he knows the way, and in his arms he keeps me safe.
Your rod and staff, they pro-tect me; you give me rest, you give me peace.
It is not yet but it will be, so heav-en, come, it's you we need.



Fear not, keep on, watch and pray; walk in the light of God's high- way.



I'm hol - ding on - to you, Lord, you're hol - ding on - to me.

©2015 Drink Your Tea Music

Benediction

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
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.

“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.” (James 5:14)

After the service, ministers and elders of the church will be stationed at the front of the sanctuary to offer healing prayer and anointing with oil for those seeking God’s healing in any aspect of life: physical, relational, emotional, psychological, or spiritual. If you come for healing prayer, you will not be asked any personal questions about your situation, only for your consent to be anointed with oil on your forehead. Receiving healing prayer and anointing with oil only takes a few seconds, but the practice can be a powerful way to experience God’s help in our weakness.

Musicians

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Sarah Long: voice

Andrew Urbina: saxophone

Matt Engle: bass

Doug Hirlinger: drums

Liturgist

Mae Trieu

Scripture Reading

James McLaughlin

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Currie

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CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS gather across the city and region on varying frequencies (weekly/bi-weekly), with the intent of taking up basic practices of fellowship, prayer, and study of the Scriptures. Groups range in size from 10-15 people.

CONNECTION GROUPS provide connection to the life of the church and to one another via shared interests or other affinity (such as mens or womens groups, study groups, prayer groups, service groups, etc.).

To see current groups, visit resurrectionphl.org/groups or scan the QR code at right.



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 Sunday morning children's classes use a gospel-centered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to help children find their place in God's big story. Children leave the service at the Passing of the Peace. Elementary age children return during the hymn of response. Contact Terri Taylor, terri@resurrectionphl.org
- **Resurrection Youth.** Students Grades 6-12 and Volunteer Leaders gather regularly to hang out, play games, and explore questions of faith and belonging to Christ. Youth Group meets most Sundays from 4-6 pm at the Center City building. For more info, contact Paul Burkhart at paul@resurrectionphl.org.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS During the academic year, our university ministry hosts speaker series and dinner discussion groups on campus. Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate. We also host regular Sunday brunches for graduate students. Reach out to Ryan McCormick (ryan@resurrectionphl.org) for more information about these events.

GROW

Resurrection 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, Resurrection seeks to become more like Jesus by engaging spiritual practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Join “Resurrection Rhythms” to foster spiritual growth through practices resurrectionphl.org/practices
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox resurrectionphl.org/daily-prayer to help you get started.

GIVE

The intentional financial participation of those who consider Resurrection Philadelphia 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 Resurrection Philadelphia:

- Give online | resurrectionphl.org/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select Resurrection Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: Resurrection Philadelphia, 123 S 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

SERVE

We seek to be a church that demonstrates the love of Christ to our city. This year, our deacons have cultivated partnerships with several local organizations. To view current opportunities to serve, please visit <https://www.resurrectionphl.org/serve-city>



Announcements

Do You Get Resurrection News?

If not, sign up using the form at the bottom of resurrectionphl.org, or by filling out the welcome form at the end of this bulletin.

Cookies & Carols at Woodland TODAY

All are welcome to Cocoa, Cookies & Carols at the Woodland Annex today at 3:30 pm. Weather permitting, we'll have a fire pit going! There will be a train set up for kids to enjoy, we'll provide cocoa, and you can bring some cookies from home to round out the table! 15 parking spaces are available for use at The City School on 41st St.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24 @ 5 pm

Please join us for a family-friendly Christmas Eve Service at the Center City building on Friday, December 24 at 5 pm.

Toddler Free Play on Thursday, Dec 21

Toddlers and their parents or caregivers are invited to the Woodland Annex (401 S. 42nd St) on Thursday, Dec 21 from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Feel free to bring neighbors or friends: free play for the kiddos and conversation and connection time for the adults.

A Few Save-the-Dates for 2024

We're starting the year off with a couple of Saturday discipleship seminars and wanted to get them on your calendar!

- Saturday, January 13, 9 am - 1 pm: Centering Discipleship with Dr. Eun Strawser, author of a book by the same name. Start the new year off with a renewed vision for following Jesus in everyday life!
- Saturday, February 3, time TBD: Parenting and Technology with Julie Lowe, author of Safe Guards. Julie will talk about wise parenting in a tech-saturated world.

Year-end Giving to Resurrection

If you would like to make a year-end gift to Resurrection, you can find information on how to give online and by several other means at resurrectionphl.org/give.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

17: Cookies & Carols at Woodland Annex

21: Toddler Free Play

24: No AM service; 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service

January

13: Centering Discipleship

February

3: Parenting & Technology

Help us welcome you.

Name(s): _____

Children & their ages: _____

If undergrad or grad student, school & year: _____

Address: _____

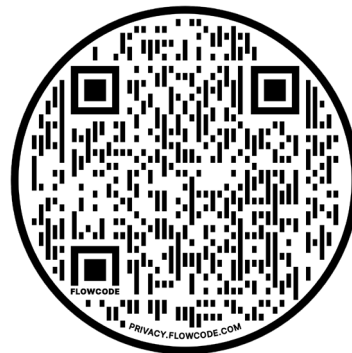
Phone number(s): _____

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 box by the welcome table.



RESURRECTION
PHILADELPHIA

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