



RESURRECTION
PHILADELPHIA

Friday, December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

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. To that end, we recognize that certain parts of the service may feel unfamiliar, so we've provided brief explanations throughout the bulletin.

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

Reflection

Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store.

-Dr. Seuss

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.

Prelude

Preparation

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

from Isaiah 9

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

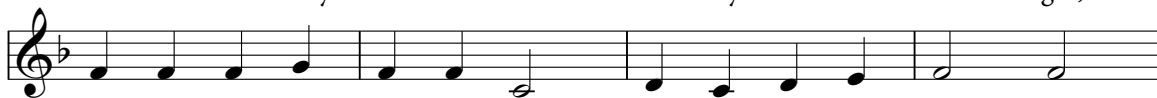
Opening Song

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

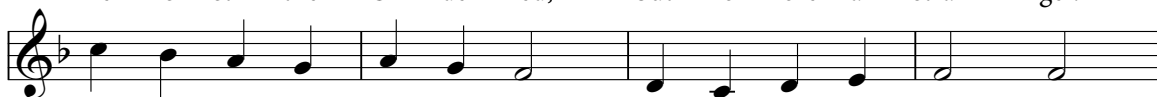
Joseph Simpson Cook, *Piae Cantiones*



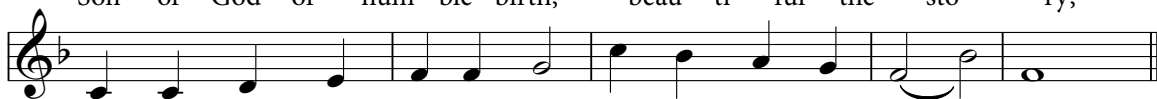
1. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
2. An - gels sang a - bout his birth, wise men sought and found him;
3. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



there he lay, the Un - de - filed, to the world a stran - ger.
hea - ven's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
he is still the Un - de - filed, but no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sa - vior?
Shep-herds saw the won-drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ring - ing.
praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glo - ry!

Opening of Worship

The glory of the Lord has been revealed

All and all flesh shall see it together.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

a light no darkness can quench.

The shepherds kept watch by night,

and your glory shone round about them.

The darkness is not dark to you,

the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness

and fill your Church with your glory.

Grace, mercy, and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All and also with you.

Opening Prayer

Song of Praise and Adoration

The First Noel

Traditional English carol

1. The first no - el the an - gel did say
2. They look - ed up and saw a star
3. And by the light of that same star,
4. Then let us all with one ac - cord

was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far;
the wise men came from coun - try far;
sing prai - ses to our heav'n - ly Lord

in fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep
and to the earth it gave great light,
to seek for a king was their in - tent,
that hath made heav'n and earth of nought

on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
and so it con - tin - ued both day and night:
and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went:
and with his blood man - kind hath bought:

No - el, no - el, no - el, no - el,
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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.

Confession of Sin

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Savior
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our selfishness and failure to believe.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

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

All Amen.

Songs

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Traditional English carol, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams



1. On Christ mas night all Chris tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring;
2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - dee - mer made us glad:
3. When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, then life and health come in its place;
4. All out of dark - ness we_ have light which made the an - gels sing this night;



on Christ - mas night all Chris tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring:
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all out of dark - ness we_ have light which made the an - gels sing this night:



news of great joy, news of great mirth,
when from our sin he set us free,
an - gels and men with joy may sing,
"Glo - ry to God and peace to men,



news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.
all for to gain our li - ber - ty.
all for to see the new - born king,
now and for - e - ver - more. A - men."

Tune © 1919 Stainer & Bell, Ltd., administered by Galaxy Music, Inc.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Trad. Polish, Edith Reed, Psalter Hymnal

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new,

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 2:1-20

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This

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.

will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

“The Birth of Jesus” – Rev. Chris Currie

Response

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

All **he has come to his people and set them free.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous

and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

Glory to God in the highest

and peace to his people on earth.

Song

O Holy Night

Adolphe Charles Adam, John S. Dwight, Placide Cappeau



1. O ho - ly night, the stars are bright - ly shin - ing; it is the
2. Led by the light of faith se - rene - ly beam - ing, with glo - wing
3. Tru - ly he taught us to love one a - no - ther; his law is



night of the dear Sa - vior's birth! Long lay the world in sin and er - ror
hearts by his cra - dle we stand. So led by light of a star, sweet - ly
love and his gos - pel is peace. Chains shall he break for the slave is our



pin - ing, till he ap - peared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the
gleam - ing, here came the wise men from O - ri - ent land. The King of kings lay
bro - ther and in his name all op - pres - sion shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in



wea - ry world re - joi - ces, for yon - der breaks a new and glo - rious morn. Fall on your
thus in low - ly man - ger, in all our tri - als born to be our friend! He knows our
grate - ful cho - rus raise we, let all with - in us praise his ho - ly name! Christ is the



knees, O hear the an - gel voi - ces! O night di - vine, O
need - to our weak - ness is no stran - ger. Be - hold your king; be -
Lord! O praise his name for - e - ver! His pow'r and glo - ry



night when Christ was born! O night di - vine, O night, O night di - vine!
fore - him low - ly bend! Be - hold your king; be - fore him low - ly bend!
e - ver - more pro - claim! His pow'r and glo - ry e - ver more pro - claim!

Intercessions

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor,
brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night
your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang,
“Peace to God’s people on earth.”

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
here in Philadelphia, our nation, and in all the world.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night
shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ’s redemption.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who lost loved ones to death
and comfort them in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world over
celebrate Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

The leader concludes:

Father, in this holy night
angels and shepherds worshipped
the newborn king enthroned within a manger.
Receive the worship we have offered this night
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Closing Carol and Candlelighting

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr, John F. Young, Franz Gruber



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

'round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child; ho - ly in - fant, so
glo - ries stream_ from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing
ra - diant beams_ from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re -

ten-der and mild, sleep in hea ven-ly peace,_ sleep_ in hea ven-ly peace.
al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa vior, is born!_ Chris, the Sa vior, is born!
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth,_ Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

While singing the carol, candles are lit, beginning from the Christ candle.

Blessing and Sending

Benediction

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks, and praise to God.

Announcements

Join us for worship on December 26 and January 2 at 9:30 am in Center City There will be no W Philly 11 am service on these dates, and no Children's Church on December 26. We will have Children's Church in Center City on January 2.

Officer Nominations Now Open! Our Officer Nomination committee is looking for nominations for elder and deacon. Nominations will close Sunday, January 16 at 5 pm. For details on what we're looking for and how to nominate someone, visit resurrectionphl.org/nominations.

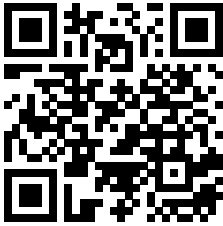
Art of Hard Conversations: How Do You Feel About Race? Saturday, January 15 at 10 am. Join us as we talk with a diverse panel about how it feels to walk through spaces like the church, academy, and social media with different colors of skin. How do historical events influence the current experience in place? Do we "think" about race differently than we "feel" about race? Panelists are Ruth Naomi Floyd, Rasool Berry, and Michael Chen. Register at resurrectionphl.org/conversations.

Winter Coat Collection for Emmanuel We're gathering men's and women's gently used winter coats, hats and gloves to distribute to the community members who take part in the Emmanuel meals (served from our Center City building). Please drop items in the box in the entry lobby in Center City. Coats will be distributed on a rolling basis.

Bartholomew Mailing Address 'Tis the season for Christmas cards! If you'd like to send one to Tuck and Stacy Bartholomew, you can send it to their VA address: 1602 Hardwood Ave, Charlottesville, VA 22903

If you'd like to contribute to the work of our church, you can do so at the address below or text any amount to the number 84321. resurrectionphl.org/give

*Resurrection Philadelphia office & mailing location:
123 S 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103*



Please provide us your feedback
as we together seek to refine our
gathered worship each week.

Musicians

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Sarah Long: voice

Carolina Diazgranados: cello

Veronica Jurkiewicz: viola

Carlos Santiago: violin

Resurrection Philadelphia CCLI License #2772464. Scriptures quoted from the NRSV bible © 1989 NCCUSA.

Help us welcome you.

Name(s): _____

Children & their ages: _____

If undergrad or grad student, school & year: _____

Address: _____

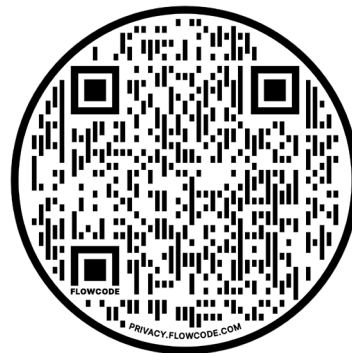
Phone number(s): _____

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.



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