



RESURRECTION
PHILADELPHIA

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve

“The Birth of Jesus”

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.

Reflection

Christmas Eve is the call to all of us who long to come home. To be where someone loves us best of all. Where we belong. And that is exactly what God has built for us. An architecture of love whose beauty is deep enough, immense enough for all of us to crawl into with all of our needs and our confusion, our longings and our fears. Big enough to encompass the whole world.

-Kate Bowler, *Bless the Advent We Actually Have*

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.

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Italian Market Community Group

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.

A period of silence is kept.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,

All and we have seen his glory.

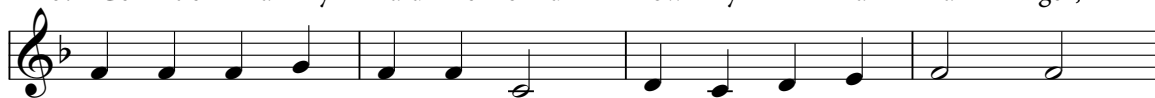
Opening Song

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

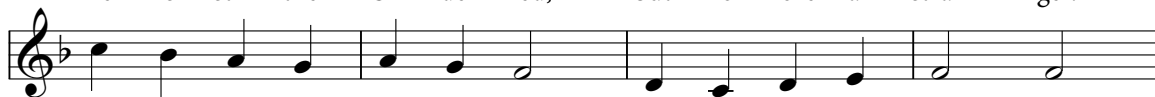
Joseph Simpson Cook, *Piae Cantiones*



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

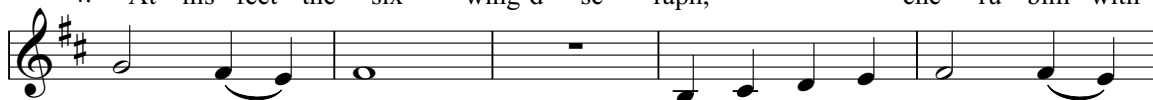
Song

Let All Mortal Flesh

Gerard Moultrie



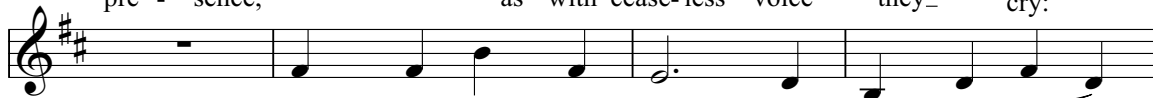
1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of_ Ma - ry, as of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of_ hea - ven spreads its van-guard
4. At his feet the six wing'd se - raph, che - ru - bim with



tremb - ling_ stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly_
earth he_ stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man_
on the_ way, as the Light of light des -
sleep - less_ eye, veil their fa - ces to the_



min - ded, for with bles - sing in his_ hand,
ves - ture, in the bo - dy and the_ blood;
cend - eth from the realms of end - less_ day,
pre - sence, as with cease - less voice they_ cry:



Christ our God to earth des - cend - -
he will give to all the faith - -
that the pow'rs of hell may va - -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - -



eth, our full ho - mage to de - mand._____
ful his own self for heav'n - ly_ food._____
nish as the dark - ness clears a - way._____
- ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord most_ high!_____

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

Come, See a Child of Low Estate

W.D. Springett, Karl Digerness



1. Come, see__ a_ child_ of low__ es - tate, in man - ger bed re - clin
2. For man_ he comes to rend_ the veil which hides__ death's gloom y por
3. Come, see__ a__ child_ of low__ es - tate, in man - ger bed re - clin



- ing; yet on__ his hum - ble dwel - ling place bright stars.
- tal, and make_ a_ home where man__ with him_ in peace
- ing; yet on__ his_ hum - ble dwel - ling_ place_ the Fa -



__ in heav'n are shin - ing. This lit - tle babe is Christ
__ may dwell, im - mor - tal. He comes_ to tri - umph o'er__
- ther's love__ is shin - ing. So may__ we all the pat -



_ the Lord, whom saints_ have long ex - pec - ted, for man_ he comes to live_
_ the grave and rise__ on Eas - ter mor - ning, and reign_ in heav'n at God's
- tern take from Je - sus, meek and low - ly: may we__ his faith - ful ser -



_ and die, des - pised, _ be - trayed, re - jec - ted.
_ right hand un - til__ the last day's daw - ning.
_ vants be kept by__ his Spi - rit ho - ly!

©City Hymns

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish carol, paraphrased by Edith M. G. Reed



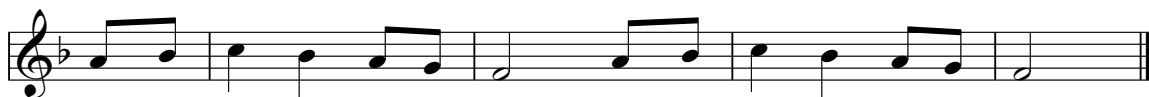
1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing: shep herds keep - ing vi - gil till the mor - ning new



ox - en lo - wing, lit - tle kno - wing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of a gos - pel true.



Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, ti - dings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prai ses 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.

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 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 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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Song

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French carol, arr. Edward Barnes



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply e cho back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be which in spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on ben - ded knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o,



glo - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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, in 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.

*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.*

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 Candle Lighting

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

May 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.

“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

June Bender: violin

Tom Kraines: cello

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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.

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.

Centering Discipleship Seminar on Saturday, Jan 13

How can we renew the intentional practice of being disciples who live into Jesus' Great Commission and make disciples of others? Join us for an interactive seminar with Dr. Eun Strawser, who will share insights from her book *Centering Discipleship* and help us think through how we can not only become more attentive to our own journey towards closeness to God, but also feel equipped to invite others along the journey. Register at resurrectionphl.org/upcoming-events.

Sherpa Training on Saturday, February 3

The digital world you encountered as a child differs vastly from the one your child must navigate. How will you help them through it? What safety skills will you teach them? How will you help them learn to make wise choices? As a parent, how do you match developmental maturity with appropriate internet access? What can you do to preserve trust? Join us for a morning with Julie Lowe, licensed professional counselor and author of *Safeguards* and *Childproof: Parenting by Faith, Not Formula*. The morning will include a Q & A with Julie as well as lunch with parents-of-peers groupings to discuss developing shared frameworks and practices. Sign up at resurrectionphl.org/upcoming-events.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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: _____

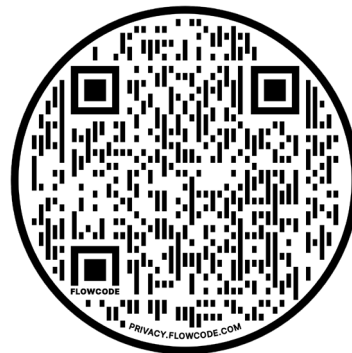
Phone number(s): _____

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.



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