



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Sunday October 15, 2017

Galatians: The Gift of Christ
“The Promise to Abraham”

CITYCHURCHPHILLY.COM

PREPARATION

Ground us, we pray, and settle us in your truth
by sending your Holy Spirit into our hearts.

All Amen.

A period of silence is kept.

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

All And also with you.

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,

All make known his deeds among the peoples.

OPENING SONG

Trinity Song - Sandra McCracken

Holy Father, Son, and Spirit,
Holy Communion, Three in One. (*repeat*)

Come, with your peace, with your invitation,
bind us together in holy love. (*repeat*)

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OPENING RESPONSORIAL

O offspring of the Lord's servant Abraham,
All children of Jacob, his chosen ones,
remember the wonderful works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered.
He is mindful of his covenant forever,
the word he decreed to a thousand generations.
For he remembered his holy promise,
he remembered Abraham, his servant.
So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.
He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they inherited the wealth of the peoples.

from Psalm 105

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 Jesus Christ, risen Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sin
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.
We are your children through faith,
yet live too often by our own strength.
We are clothed with Christ in baptism,
yet listen to other words spoken over us.
We are all one in Christ Jesus,
yet regard former identities as ultimate.
Have mercy upon us and forgive us.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever.

All Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

From Depths of Woe - Martin Luther, Christopher Miner

From the depths of woe I raise to thee the voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication;
if thou iniquities dost mark, our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before thee (who shall stand before thee)?

To wash away the crimson stain, grace, grace alone availeth;
our works, alas! are all in vain; in much the best life faileth;
no man can glory in thy sight, all must alike confess thy might,
and live alone by mercy (live alone by mercy).

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;
on him my soul shall rest, his word upholds my fainting spirit;
his promised mercy is my fort,
my comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience (wait for it with patience).

What though I wait the live-long night,
and til the dawn appeareth,
my heart still trusteth in his might; it doubteth not nor feareth;
do thus, O ye of Israel's seed, ye of the Spirit born indeed;
and wait til God appeareth (wait til God appeareth).

Though great our sins and sore our woes
his grace much more aboundeth;
his helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.
Our shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free
from all their sin and sorrow (all their sin and sorrow).

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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: Galatians 3:15-29

¹⁵Brothers and sisters, I give an example from daily life: once a person's will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it. ¹⁶Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, "And to offsprings," as of many; but it says, "And to your offspring," that is, to one person, who is Christ. ¹⁷My point is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.

¹⁹Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. ²⁰Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one. ²¹Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. ²²But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer

male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: John 8:31-40

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Then Jesus said to the Judeans who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. ³⁸I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father." ³⁹They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, ⁴⁰but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"The Promise to Abraham" – 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.

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.

Loving Father, in Christ Jesus you free us
from the power of sin and make us your children.
As a people marked out by faith in Christ,
draw us into unity with all who confess his name.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you clothe a new humanity
to heal us of all division and conflict.
Draw all nations into your offered promise,
that peace and justice would prevail on earth.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of life and comfort, come near to us.
Heal the sick, raise up the downtrodden,
free the captive, protect the endangered,
and give hope to the hopeless.
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

Come, Ye Sinners - Hamilton, Hart, Seay

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and pow'r.

*I will arise and go to Jesus.
He will embrace me in his arms,
and in the arms of my dear Savior
there are ten thousand charms.*

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance,
ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All Faithful God,
you fulfilled your promises to Abraham
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
strengthen us now by these gifts
to live as your baptized people,
heirs of your promise, one in Christ Jesus.
Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star - Philipp Nicolai

How lovely shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
the light of Judah shining.
Thou David's Son of Jacob's race,
my bridegroom and my king of grace,
for thee my heart is pining.
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,
thou victorious prince of graces,
filling all the heav'nly places.

Now richly to my waiting heart,
O thou, my God, deign to impart
the grace of love undying.
In thy blest body let me be,
e'en as the branch is in the tree,
thy life my life supplying.
Sighing, crying, for the savor
of thy favor; resting never
till I rest in thee forever.

Thou, mighty Father, in thy Son
didst love me ere thou hadst begun
this ancient world's foundation.
Thy Son hath made a friend of me,
and when in spirit him I see,
I joy in tribulation!
What bliss is this! He that liveth
to me giveth life forever;
nothing me from him can sever.

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

Jonathan Davis: liturgist
Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice
Matt Engle: bass
Lee Jeon: violin, voice

Fairmount

Jonathan Davis: liturgist
Chris Currie: celebrant

Mike Chen: guitar, voice
Matt Engle: bass
Lee Jeon: violin, voice

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to our newsletter for more information about
community life and church events.

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