



Sunday October 22, 2017

Galatians: The Gift of Christ
“When the Time Came”

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PREPARATION

May our souls take refuge
from the crowding turmoil of worldly thought,
and beneath the shadow of your wings,
find peace in you, O God.

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.

O sing unto the Lord a new song;
All sing to the Lord, all the earth!

OPENING SONG

O Light that Knew No Dawn - Gregory of Nanzianzus, Bifrost Arts

O light that knew no dawn, that shines to endless day,
all things in earth and heaven are lusted by thy ray;
no eye can to thy throne ascend,
nor mind thy brightness comprehend.

Thy grace, O Father, give, that we might serve in fear;
above all else, we pray, grant us thy voice to hear.
From sin thy children in mercy free,
and let us dwell in light with thee.

That, cleansed from stain of sin, we may meet homage give;
and pure in heart, behold thy beauty while we live;
clean hands in holy worship raise,
and thee, O Christ our savior, praise.

Thy grace, O Father, give, we humbly thee implore,
and let thy mercy bless thy servants more and more.
All grace and glory be to thee,
from age to age eternally.

OPENING RESPONSORIAL

This is the covenant I will make in those days,
All a covenant with the house of Israel:

I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another,
or say to each other, "Know the Lord,"
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest;
for I will forgive their iniquity,
and remember their sin no more.

from Jeremiah 31

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!

CONFSSION OF SIN

All Father of love and mercy,
you send your Spirit into our hearts
and make us your beloved children.
Yet we confess we too often live and act
not as sons and daughters but as slaves.
We bind ourselves to childish things,
serve powers designed to serve us,
and forget our rich inheritance in Christ.
Have mercy on us and forgive us.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May God the Father, by the death of his Son,
have mercy upon you and forgive you,
renew his Spirit of adoption within you,
and lead you to cry out, "Abba! Father!"

All Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Kingdom Come - Nicole C. Mullen

Our Father, in heaven, please hear me now I pray.
We need you, more than ever, in a million different ways.
There are wars on every land, poverty inside of man,
the earth is groaning from within; deliver us again
from the evil that devours, consume it with your power,
we implore you now this hour, we pray.

*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
right here on earth, as it is in heaven.
Come, set up your throne,
and let thy kingdom come.*

Our Father, in heaven, so holy is your name.
The angels, they adore you; soon all earth will do the same,
where every tear that we have cried
will be comforted and dried.
We'll eat from the Tree of Life, and life will never end,
and we'll worship at your throne,
where you'll make your glory known,
that you are God and God alone, and we pray...

Children of the heavenly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish;
in his holy courts they flourish;
from all evil things he spares them;
in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers:
your protector never slumbers.
at the will of your defender
every foeman must surrender.

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 4:1-11

¹My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; ²but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. ³So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

⁸Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. ⁹Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again?

¹⁰You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. ¹¹I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: John 1:9-17

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

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

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

"When the Time Came" – 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.

Father of love and mercy, renew us now
by sending your Spirit afresh in our hearts,
that we may know we are your children,
beloved in Christ, heirs together with him.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Christ, our world lies in bondage
to old ways that are weak and poor
and to customs that enslave and bind.
Bring us into the freedom of Christ.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of adoption, show us God's love.
Comfort all who mourn, free the captive,
bind up the broken-hearted,
and proclaim good news to the poor.

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

Your Child - Benjamin Stamper

There is no love like the Father's love.
I have tried everything, gone everywhere,
only to find none can compare.
Your eyes set this world on fire.
Your words pierce the darkest hour.

*I will always be your child,
I will ever be redeemed,
you will always be my Abba.*

There is no heart like the Father's heart.
I have turned every key to every door,
shed all my tears, what were they for?
Your hands pulled me safe ashore.
Your feet tread where none will dare.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*All Lord God our Father,
in these gifts you offer us life
and assure us that we are your children,
made heirs with your Son in baptism:
deliver us now from all that might enslave us,
and raise us to new life in your love,
sending your Holy Spirit into our hearts.
Amen.*

BLESSING AND SENDING

And Can It Be - Charles Wesley, Thomas Campbell

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

*Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

He left his Father's throne above
so free, so infinite his grace,
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

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

Stacy Bartholomew: liturgist
Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Fairmount

Jenn Cho: liturgist
Tuck Bartholomew: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice
Amy Christmas Halteman:
clarinet

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Amy Christmas Halteman:
clarinet

Matt Scarano: drums
Joshua Stamper: guitar

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