



City Church
PHILADELPHIA



Sunday August 30, 2020

Praying the Psalms in Christ
“Search Me and Know Me”

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today for worship. City Church and Liberti Center City are partnering to offer this worship service and other online points of gathering during this season of physical distancing.

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 websites, www.citychurchphilly.com and www.libertichurch.org, for more information about worship, help, and connecting during this season. We are glad you are joining us and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff

Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis, Scott Jennings

Reflection

It is not so much what we get out of the Psalms that rewards us, as what we put into them. If we really make them our prayer, really prefer them to other methods and expedients, in order to let God pray in us in His own words, and if we sincerely desire above all to offer Him this particularly pure homage of our Christian faith, then indeed we will enter into the meaning of the Psalms, and they will become our favorite vocal prayers.

- Thomas Merton, *Praying the Psalms*

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

We observe a season of Ordinary Time from Pentecost until Advent, which we count as weeks following Pentecost. During this time we especially remember the lives and actions of Jesus' followers. We think about how the first Christians lived their lives, and how we should live ours today. This season of Ordinary Time takes up half the year and it doesn't offer big exciting festivals such as Christmas or Easter. As a result, as one Sunday follows another, this season can begin to feel, well, ordinary.

Prelude

Preparation

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

All Amen.

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 come, let us sing unto the Lord.

All Let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

GOD SUMMONS US
AS HIS PEOPLE

*As we meet together
each week, we
recognize in the
preparation that God,
through his word and
Spirit, gathers us into
his presence and calls
us into his life and
mission.*

Opening Song

Immortal, Invisible

Walter Chalmers Smith



1. Im - mor - tal, in - vi - si - ble, God on - ly wise, in light in - ac -
2. Un - res - ting, un - has - ting, and si - lent as light, nor wan ting, nor
3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small; in all life thou
4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine an - gels a -



ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most bles - sed, most glo - rious, the
was - ting, thou rul - est in might; thy jus - tice, like moun tains, high
liv - est, the true life of all; we blos - som and flour - ish as
dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all praise we would re - nder; O



An - cient of Days, al - migh - ty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
soar - ing a - bove thy clouds, which are foun tains of good - ness and love.
leaves on the tree, and wi - ther and pe - rish but naught chang - eth thee.
help us to see 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hi - deth thee.

The Opening of Worship

Where can I go from your spirit?

All Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

from Psalm 139

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

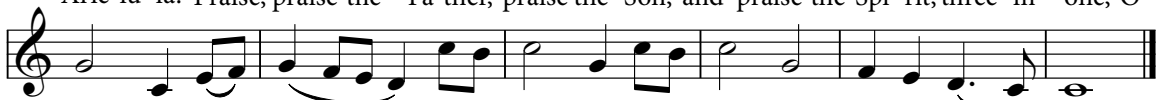
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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!

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Confession of Sin

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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.

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.

Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

Come, Light Our Hearts

Sandra McCracken

For you, O Lord, our souls in still-ness wait, for you, O Lord, our
souls in still-ness wait, tru-ly our hope is in you, tru-ly our hope is in you.
O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, your rad - iance shines on all who
O Joy a - bove all o - ther loves, in you we find more than e -
look to you in the dark; Em - ma - nu - el, come, come light our hearts.
nough. We come as we are, O heal and re - store, come light our hearts.

The musical score is written in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (F major), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes a repeat sign at the end. The third staff begins with a repeat sign and continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence and a repeat sign.

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Pilot Me

Edward Hopper, Isaac Wardell, Joseph Pensak



1. Je - sus, Sa - vior, pi - lot me o - ver life's tem - pes - tuous sea;
2. Though the sea be smooth and bright, spark - ling with the stars of night,
3. As a mo - ther stils her child, thou canst hush the o - cean wild;
4. When at last I near the shore, and the fear - ful brea - kers roar



un - known waves be - fore me roll, hi - ding rock and trea ch'rous
and my ship's path be a - blaze with the light of hal - cyon
boiste - rous waves o - bey thy will when thou sayest to them, "Be
'twixt me and the peace - ful rest, then, while lean - ing on thy



shoal. Chart and com - pass come from thee; Sav ior, pi - lot me.
days, still I know my need of thee; Sa - vior, pi - lot me.
still!" Won - drous So - vereign of the sea, Sa - vior, pi - lot me.
breast, may I hear thee say to me, "I will pi - lot thee."

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The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Psalm 139

- ¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
- ³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.
- ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- ⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
- ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
- ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
- ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"
- ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- ¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
- ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

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.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

¹⁹O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—

²⁰those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!

²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²²I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Matthew 7:24-29

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” ²⁸Now

when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"Search Me and Know Me" – Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

If you'd like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at the addresses below or text any amount to the number 84321.

citychurchphilly.com/give or libertichurch.org/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

Prayer is offered.

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.

*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.*

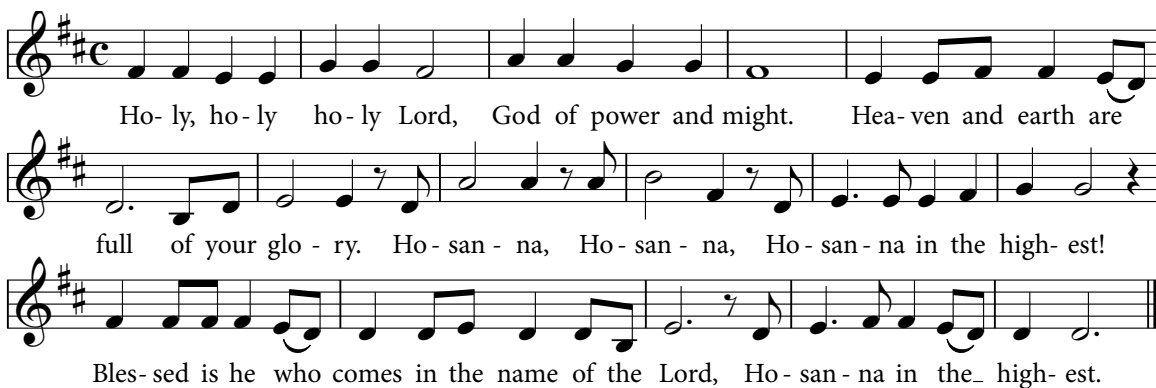
**GOD STRENGTHENS US
AT HIS TABLE**

*Communion, also
called the Lord's
Supper, is the family
meal of Christians.
We invite all baptized
followers of Jesus
Christ to participate.
If you are not a
follower of Jesus or
are not prepared to
share in the meal,
we encourage you
to spend this time
in prayer ("Prayers
for Reflection" are
included below).
We hope this time
is helpful to you as
you consider your
relationship with
Jesus Christ and with
his people, the church.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,
for Christ has risen from the tomb
and scattered the darkness of death
with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,
unfolds for us your word,
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.
And though the night will overtake this day
you summon us to live in endless light,
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you and singing:

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.

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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,
for ever 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.

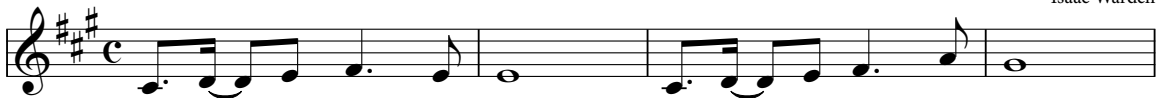
Prayer after Communion

All Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Take Us, O Lord

Isaac Wardell



1. O how he takes the cross; O how he lifts it up
2. Hear how he breaks the curse; hear how he cries a - loud.
3. How deep the wounds he wears; how dark the scars he shows.



to take_ the weight from us. O how he pays the cost;
Hear how his voice re-sounds. O how he forms the words.
How well_ the name he knows: writ- ten_ up - on his palms,



O how he drinks the cup to make a place for us.
O how he cries them out: "See, it_ is fin - ished now!"
O what a name to find: that name be-fore him, mine!



Take us,_ O Lord, and all we_ have known. Shape us,_ O Lord, and form us_ in-



to your own! Take ev' - ry heart and know ev' - ry



sin. Break us,_ O Lord, that we may_ be whole a - gain!

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Benediction

May Christ, whose glory is in the heavens,
fill your homes and illuminate your hearts;
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.**

Rachel Allison: voice

Jon Covert: guitar

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Jaron Olevsky: keys

LIBERTI



libertichurch.org



citychurchphilly.com