



City Church
PHILADELPHIA

LIBERTI



Sunday September 6, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers
“Presence in the Wilderness”

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

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.

Reflection

And then you

We arrange our lives as best we can,
to keep your holiness at bay,
with our pieties,
our doctrines,
our liturgies,
our moralities,
our secret ideologies,

Safe, virtuous, settled.

And then you —

you and your dreams,
you and your visions,
you and your purposes,
you and your commands,
you and our neighbors,

We find your holiness not at bay,
but probing, pervading,
insisting, demanding.

And we yield, sometimes gladly,
sometimes resentfully,
sometimes late...or soon.

We yield because you, beyond us, are our God.

We are your creatures met by your holiness,
by your holiness made our true selves.

And we yield. Amen.

-Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*

Prelude

Preparation

May we, with all our heart and mind and strength,
seek your face, O God,
and by your infinite mercy
be led into your holy presence.

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.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

All Let us sing joyful songs of praise!

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

Trinity Song

Sandra McCracken



Ho - ly__Fath - er, Son, and Spi - rit, Ho - ly com - mun - ion, Three in One.



Come, with your peace, with your in - vi - ta - tion, bind us to - geth - er in ho - ly love.

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The Opening of Worship

Let the righteous be joyful;

All let them exult before God!

Let them be jubilant with joy;

sing to God, sing praises to his name!

Lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds;

his name is the Lord: be exultant before him.

Father of orphans and protector of widows,

this is God in his holy habitation.

God gives the desolate a home to live in;

he leads out the prisoners to prosperity.

O God, when you went out before your people,

when you marched through the wilderness,

the earth quaked before you,

and the heavens poured down rain,

at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,

at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up,

for he is our God and our salvation.

from Psalm 68

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley

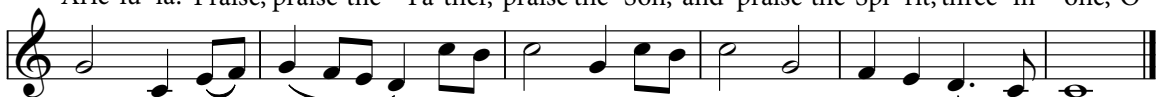


1. All ye who are of ten der heart, for- giv ing oth- ers take your part. Sing his prais- es,
2. Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and worship him with hum ble ness! O__ praise him,



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

God of our salvation, enthroned on high,
you fill the earth with your glory.
In the wilderness we cry to you:
have mercy on us and take our guilt away,
for we have not followed your leading.
Do not cast us from your presence,
but renew us by your Spirit.

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 presence
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

Lord, I Need You

Carson, Stanfill, Nockels, Maher, Reeves

Lord, I come, I con-fess, bow-ing here, I find my rest;
deep, your grace is more, where grace is found is where you are,
with-out you I fall a-part; you're the one that guides my heart.
and where you are, Lord I am free; hol - i - ness is Christ in me.
Lord, I need you, O I need you, ev' - ry hour I need you, my one de-fense, my
right-eous-ness, O God, how I need you. Where sin runs you. So
teach my song to rise to you when temp-ta-tion comes my way, and when I
can-not stand, I'll fall on you; Je - sus, you're my hope and stay.

CCLI #5925687 ©worshipitogether.com songs

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, Peter Williams, John Hughes



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
2. O - pen now the cry - stal_ foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow.
3. When I tread the verge of_ Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side.



I am weak, but thou art_ migh - ty; hold me with thy_ power - ful hand.
 Let the fire and clou - dy_ pil - lar lead me all my_ jour - ney through.
 Death of death, and hell's Des - truc - tion, land me safe on_ Ca - naan's side.



Bread of hea - ven, bread of hea - ven, feed me till I want no
 Strong De - li - verer, strong De - li - verer, be thou still my strength and
 Songs of prai - ses, songs of prai - ses I will e - ver give to



more; feed me till I want no more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will e - ver give to thee.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Numbers 9:15-23

¹⁵On the day the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant; and from evening until morning it was over the tabernacle, having the appearance of fire. ¹⁶It was always so: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷Whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, then the Israelites would set out; and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the Israelites would camp. ¹⁸At the command of the Lord the Israelites would set out, and at the command of the Lord they would camp. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, they would remain in camp. ¹⁹Even when the cloud continued over the tabernacle many days, the Israelites would keep the charge of the Lord, and would not set out. ²⁰Sometimes the cloud would remain a few days over the tabernacle, and according to the command of the Lord they would remain in camp; then according to the command of the Lord they would set out. ²¹Sometimes the cloud would remain from evening until morning; and when the cloud lifted in the morning, they would set out, or if it continued for a day and a night, when the cloud lifted they would set out. ²²Whether it was two days, or a month, or a longer time, that the cloud continued over the tabernacle, resting upon it, the Israelites would remain in camp and would not set out; but when it lifted they would set out. ²³At the command of the Lord they would camp, and at the command of the Lord they would set out. They kept the charge of the Lord, at the command of the Lord by Moses.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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.

Gospel reading: John 1:1-14

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 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 tabernacled among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"Presence in the Wilderness" – 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.*

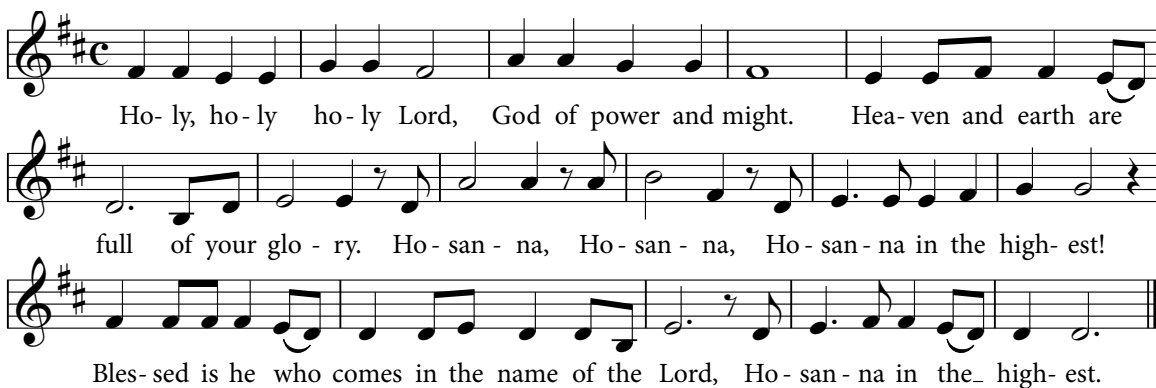
GOD STRENGTHENS US
AT HIS TABLE

*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 God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food
sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

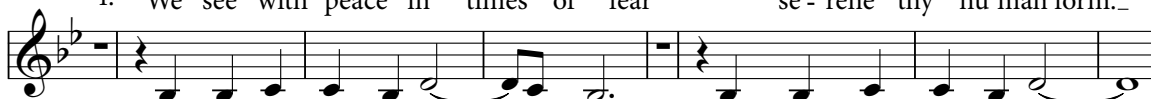
Blessing and Sending

The Son Forsook the Father's Home

Samuel Stone, Bruce Benedict



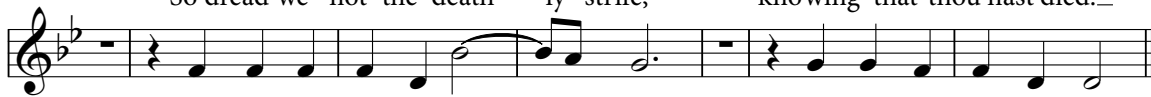
1. The Son for - sook the Fa - ther's home for mer - cy to lost man,
2. The Word made flesh, cre - a - tion sees its migh - ty God in man:—
3. Lord, we be - lieve with love_ and praise this wondrous truth of thee.—
4. We see with peace in times of fear se - rene thy hu man form.—



and did not scorn the vir - gin's womb to bear the sin ner's ban.—
great my - ste - ry of my - ste - ries since e - ver time be - gan!—
There - by in all our trou - bled days, how strong hence forth are we!—
Thy human voice with joy___ we hear, sweet toned a - bove the storm.—



Meek - ly the mai den pure___ be lieved the great arch - an gel's word___
That we might gain a sec - ond birth, the ho - ly Son was giv'n;—
So near art thou, so strong___ are we, for now, if we are thine,—
So dread we not the death - ly strife, knowing that thou hast died:—



and by the Ho - ly Ghost___ con ceived the Sa - vior, Christ the Lord.
'twas God him - self came down___ to earth to win us back to heav'n.
our bro ther in hu - ma - ni - ty, thou mak - est us di - vine.
it can but bear us in - to life, since near - rer to thy side.

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Benediction

May the Lord keep you from all evil;
may he keep your life.
May the Lord keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore;
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.

Announcements

If you've been visiting us on the livestream, we'd love a chance to welcome you personally. Use [this welcome form](#) to let us know you're here. And whether you've been around awhile or just recently started attending, we'd love to help you connect to a community group this fall — use [this groups form](#) to let us know what might best suit your schedule.

Jon Covert: bass

Sarah Long: voice

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Nick Millevoi: guitar

Keaton Thandi: drums

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