



City Church
PHILADELPHIA



Sunday January 10, 2021
Epiphany: Baptism of the Lord

“Epiphany”

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, Scott Jennings

Reflection

God is too simple to be absent. It is we who, with complicated and cluttered minds, remain unaware that this foundational Light is flowering perpetually in the fertile and unfathomable *right now*.

- Martin Laird, *An Ocean of Light*

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

Epiphany follows Christ's birth and points us out from that moment to the world. The Magi traveled from afar to worship Jesus, and their eyes were opened to who God is and what he is doing. The Light is dawning in the darkness, drawing in all peoples. May we, with eyes wide open, see and celebrate the fact that Jesus is the light of the world—and of our lives too.

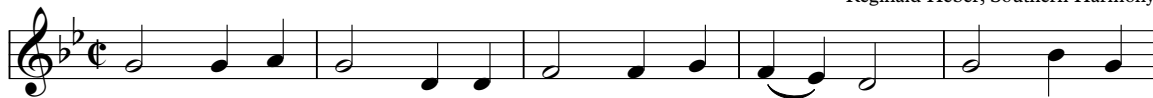
Welcome

Rev. Chris Currie

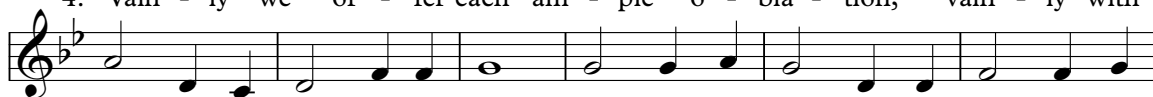
Opening Song

Brightest and Best

Reginald Heber, Southern Harmony



1. Hail the blest morn, see the great me - di - a - tor, down from the
2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew drops are shin - ing, low lies his
3. Say, shall we yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion, o - dors of
4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion; vain - ly with



re - gions of glo - ry des - cend! Shep herds, go wor - ship the babe in the
bed, with the beasts of the stall. An - gels a - dore him, in slum - ber re -
E - den and offr - ings di - vine? Gems from the moun - tain, and pearls from the
gold we his fa - vor se - cure. Rich - er by far is the heart's a - do -



man - ger, Lo, for his guard the bright an - gels at - tend.
clin - ing, wise men and shep - herds be - fore him do fall.
o - cean, myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?
ra - tion, dea - rer to God are the prayers of the poor.



Bright - est and best of the sons of the mor - ning, dawn on our dark - ness and



lend us thine aid. Star in the east, the ho - ri - zon a -



dor - ning, guide where our in - fant re - dee - mer was laid.

Opening of Worship

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

All And also with you.

All Our eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.

from Luke 2

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

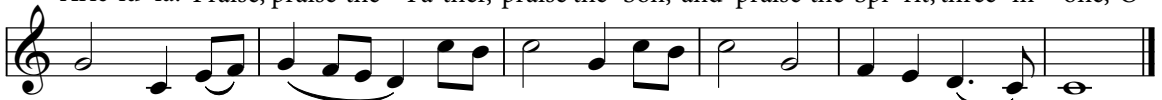
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



1. All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others take your part. Sing his praises,
2. Let all things their creator bless, and worship him with humbleness! O__ praise him,



Alle-lu ia! Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care! O
Alle-lu ia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, 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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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 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Matthew 2:1-12

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflection

"Epiphany" – Rev. Chris Currie

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

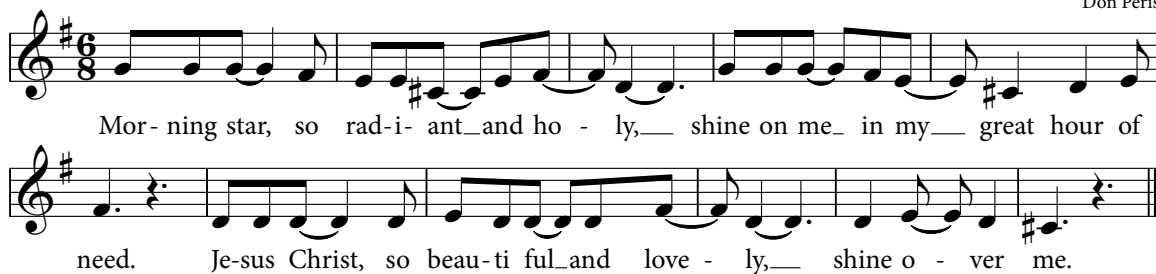
If you'd like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at the addresses below or text any amount to the number 84321.

citychurchphilly.com/give or libertichurch.org/give

Offertory Song

Morning Star

Don Peris



Mor- ning star, so rad-i- ant_ and ho - ly,___ shine on me_ in my___ great hour of
need. Je- sus Christ, so beau- ti ful_ and love - ly,___ shine o - ver me.

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

Father, the wise men came from the east
to worship your Son;
grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.
They presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh;
accept the gifts we bring
and the offering of our hearts
at the beginning of this new year.
For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ;
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world.
Where there is violence and oppression,
bring instead justice, healing, and wholeness.
For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The Holy Family
shared the life of the people of Nazareth;
protect in your mercy our neighbors and families,
together with the whole community of which we are part.
For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, your Son was rich,
yet for our sakes he became poor:
show your love for the poor and powerless,
and strengthen the sick and those who suffer.
We commend ourselves and all peoples of the world
to your unfailing love.
For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, 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.*

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.

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.

Confession of Sin

We have not held out the word of life
in a dark and twisted world:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have failed to share our bread with the hungry:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

We have closed our hearts to the love of God:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
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.

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

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.

Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us
of your Word made flesh.

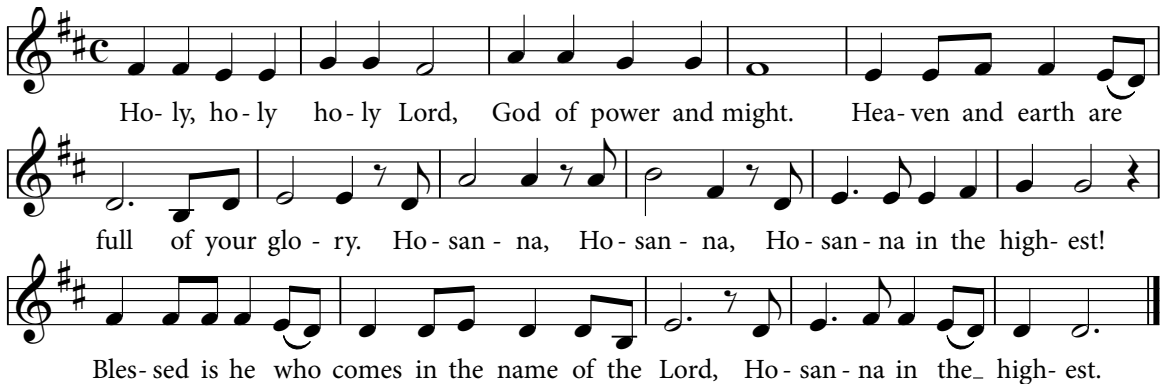
Your Spirit was seen as a dove,
revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.

Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
forever praising you and singing:

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. We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.

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,
forever 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 Lord God,
the bright splendor whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern in this meal and in our lives
the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

James Montgomery, Vito Aiuto



1. Hail to the Lord's__ a - noin-ted, great Da - vid's grea-ter_ Son!
2. He comes in suc - cor spee-dy_ to those who suf-fer_ wrong;
3. He shall come down__ like sho - wers up - on the fruit-ful_ earth;
4. To him shall prayer__ un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in__ the time__ ap - poin-ted, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor__ and nee - dy,_ and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope,__ like flo - wers, spring in his path to birth.
his king - dom still__ in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end:



He comes to break__ op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
to give them songs__ for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to_ light,
Be - fore him, on__ the moun - tains, shall peace, the he - rald, go,
the tide of time__ shall ne - ver his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way__ trans-gres-sion and rule in e - qui - ty_
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
and right - eous - ness,__ in foun-tains, from hill to val-ley flow.
his name shall stand__ for - e - ver, his name to us is__ love.

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Benediction

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord;
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

- **January Term will begin January 11.** The list of options will come in the e-news on January 5.
- **Read or Pray for our Services.** If you're willing to create a selfie video for our service, we'd love to have you help lead us. Contact Olivia at administrator@liberti.org for details.

Musicians

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Ross Bellenoit: guitar

Sarah Long: voice

Liturgist

Jonathan Bassett

Celebrant

Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

Video Prayers

Jenna Szoke

Tara Wooward

Elizabeth Littauer

Elisabeth Yang

LIBERTI



libertichurch.org



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