



City Church
PHILADELPHIA

LIBERTI
A stylized black key is positioned below the word LIBERTI. The key has a circular head on the left and a cross-shaped bit on the right. The bit is a simple cross with a small circle at its center.

Sunday January 3, 2021
The Second Sunday of Christmas

“Beholding the Glory of Christ”

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

"The Carol" by Eugene Peterson

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.

Luke 2:14

Untuned, I'm flat on my feet, sharp with my tongue,
A walking talking discord, out of sorts
My heart murmurs are entered in lab reports.
The noise between my ears cannot be sung.

Ill-pleased, I join a line of hard-to-please people
Who want to exchange their lumpy bourgeois souls
For a keen Greek mind with a strong Roman nose,
Then find ourselves, surprised, at the edge of a stable.

Caroling angels and a well-pleased God
Join a choir of cow and sheep and dog

At this barnyard border between wish and gift.
I glimpse the just-formed flesh, now mine. They lift

Praise voices and sing twelve tones
Of pleasure into my muscles, into my bones.

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

Christmas celebrates God's incarnation, which means "in the flesh."

Christmas is all about the amazing truth that God took on our flesh, our bones, and our human life. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

Welcome

Rev. Chris Currie

Opening Song

O Lord of Light Who Made the Stars

anonymous



1. O Lord of Light, who made the stars, O
2. In low - li - ness you came on earth, to
3. Lord, now you reign, the King of kings, a -
4. Lord, come as - sert your king - dom here in
5. To God the Fa - ther and the Son, for



dawn, by whom we see the way, O Christ, Re - dee - mer of the
re - scue us from Sa - tan's snares. O won - drous Love, you healed our
dorned in heav'n - ly ma - je - sty. Your ho - ly name is held in
all those whom you call your own. We joy - ous - ly in - vite you,
a - ges of e - ter - nal days, to - ge - ther with the Spi - rit



world, make haste to lis - ten as we pray.
wounds by ta - king on our mor - tal cares.
awe from pole to pole and sea to sea.
Lord, build in our hearts your king - ly throne.
be all glo - ry, ho - nor, might and praise.

Opening of Worship

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

All And also with you.

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

All His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy

at the presence of the Lord,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

from Psalm 98

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

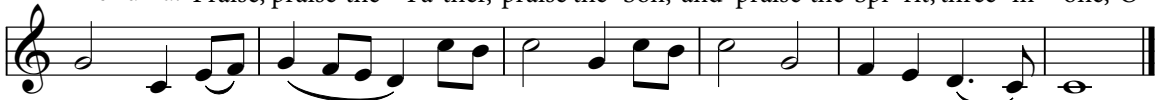
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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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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.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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 lived 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

"Beholding the Glory of Christ" – 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

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Caswall, Goss

1. See a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies;
3. Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was thine,
4. Teach, O teach us, ho - ly child, by thy face so meek and mild,
see, the gen - tle lamb ap - pears, pro - mised from e - ter - nal years.
he who, throned in height su - blime, sits a - mid the che - ru - bim.
thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this.
teach us to re - sem - ble thee, in thy sweet hu - mi - li - ty.
Hail, thou e - ver bless - ed morn, hail re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn,
sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

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

Our incarnate Lord,
you have brought us out of darkness
and into your own marvellous light:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love,
and fill her with the Spirit of truth.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide in righteousness the leaders of the nations and cities;
protect by your mercy all your children;
bless our families, and renew our communities.

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.*

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power
give to all who suffer sickness or distress
your gift of wholeness and peace.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Father,
full of the Spirit,
hear our prayer,
receive our praises,
fill our lives.

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.

Confession of Sin

All Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
You were born for our salvation;
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
You came to bring wholeness and peace;
forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.
You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives;
forgive our reluctance to seek you.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself
and cleanse you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
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.

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.

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

And now we give you thanks, mighty creator, ever-living God, for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, and was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. 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,
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 God our Father,
thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, our Savior.
Your Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

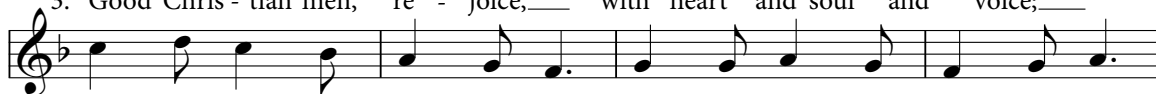
Blessing and Sending

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

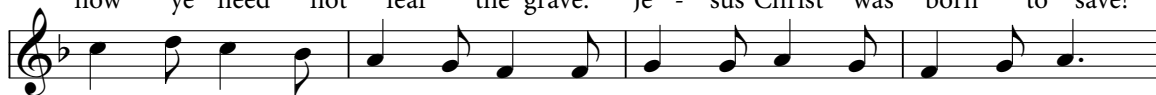
Heinrich Suso, 14th c. German melody



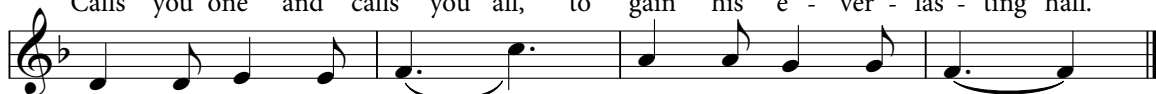
1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice___ with heart and soul, and voice;___
2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice,___ with heart and soul and voice;___
3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice,___ with heart and soul and voice;___



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow; and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and man is blest for - e - ver more.
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his e - ver - las - ting hall.



Christ is born to - day!___ Christ is born to - day!___
Christ was born for this!___ Christ was born for this!___
Christ was born to save!___ Christ was born to save!___

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Benediction

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace;
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

- Jan Term will begin January 11. The list of options will come in the enews 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
Sarah Long: voice
Jeremy McDonald: bass
Josh Stamper: guitar

Liturgist

Whitney Buchmann

Celebrant

Rev. Scott Jennings

Video Prayers

Lindsay Kimball
Jo Little
Jenna Szoke
Monica Horvath

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