



City Church  
PHILADELPHIA

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**LIBERTI**  


Sunday October 11, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers  
“Refusing Paradise”

# 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](http://www.citychurchphilly.com) and [www.libertichurch.org](http://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 provokes crisis to destroy our self-deceiving...dependence on what we as individuals can make and sustain, or what we as societies can administer for our own unchallenged interest. Self-dependence is revealed as a mechanism of self-destruction; to cling to it in the face of God's invitation to trust is a thinly veiled self-hatred.

- Rowan Williams, *The Wound of Knowledge*

## 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.

# Welcome

- Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

## Opening Song

*Come, Thou Fount*

Robert Robinson, John Wyeth



1. Come, thou Fount of ev'-ry bleſ-sing, tune my heart to ſing thy grace;
2. Here I raiſe my E-be - ne - zer; hi-ther by thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a deb - tor dai - ly I'm con ſtrained to be;



ſtreams of mer - cy, ne - ver ceas - ing, call for ſongs of lou-deſt praiſe,  
and I hope, by thy good plea - ſure, ſafe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wand'-ring heart to thee.



teach me ſome me - lo dious ſon - net, ſung by\_ fla-ming tongues a - bove;  
Je - ſus ſought me when a ſtran-ger, wand'-ring from the fold of God:  
prone to\_ wan - der, Lord, I feel\_ it, prone to\_ leave the God I love;



praiſe the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love.  
he, to re - ſcue me from dan - ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
here's my heart, O take and ſeal it, ſeal it for thy courts a - bove.

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## Opening of Worship

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

**All** And also with you.

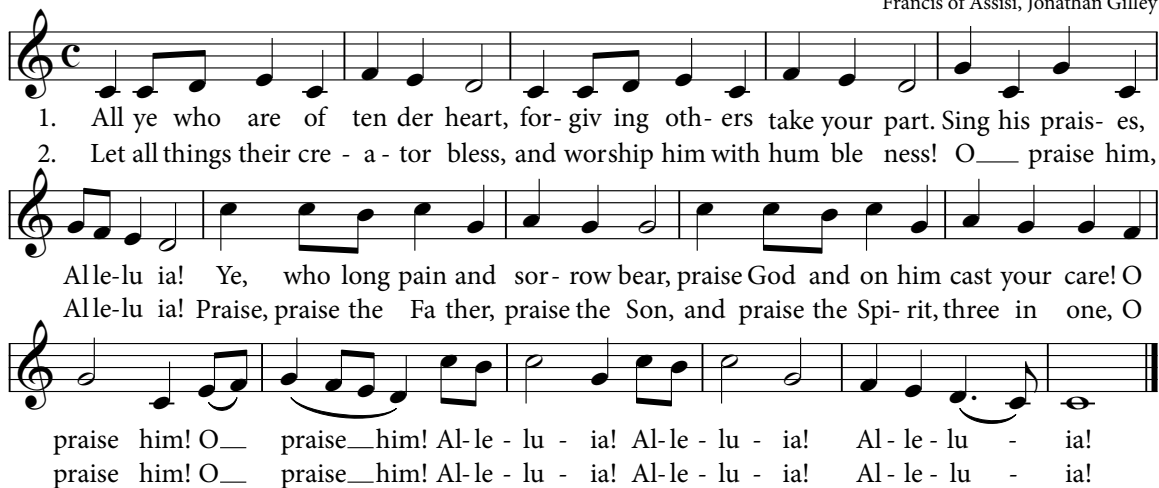
The Lord – he works vindication,  
**All** justice for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
**his acts to the people of Israel.**  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**  
He will not always accuse,  
**nor will he keep his anger forever.**  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
**so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**  
For he knows how we were made;  
**he remembers that we are dust.**

*from Psalm 103*

## 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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*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:* Numbers 14:1-24

<sup>1</sup>Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. <sup>2</sup>And all the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron; the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup>Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become booty; would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup>So they said to one another, "Let us choose a captain, and go back to Egypt."

<sup>5</sup>Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the Israelites. <sup>6</sup>And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup>and said to all the congregation of the Israelites, "The land that we went through as spies is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup>If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup>Only, do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they are no more than bread for us; their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." <sup>10</sup>But the whole congregation threatened to stone them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites.

<sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? <sup>12</sup>I will strike them with pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for in your might you brought up this people from among them, <sup>14</sup>and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O Lord, are in the midst of this people; for you, O Lord, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go in front of them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. <sup>15</sup>Now if you kill this people all at one time, then the nations who have heard about you will say, <sup>16</sup>It is because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land he swore to give them that he

has slaughtered them in the wilderness.’<sup>17</sup>And now, therefore, let the power of the Lord be great in the way that you promised when you spoke, saying, <sup>18</sup>‘The Lord is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children to the third and the fourth generation.’<sup>19</sup>Forgive the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have pardoned this people, from Egypt even until now.”

<sup>20</sup>Then the Lord said, “I do forgive, just as you have asked; <sup>21</sup>nevertheless—as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord— <sup>22</sup>none of the people who have seen my glory and the signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have tested me these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, <sup>23</sup>shall see the land that I swore to give to their ancestors; none of those who despised me shall see it. <sup>24</sup>But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading:* Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him

all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."  
<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
 All Praise to you, O Christ.

## Reflection

*"Refusing Paradise – Rev. Tuck Bartholomew*

## Offering and Presentation of Gifts

If you'd like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at:

[citychurchphilly.com/give](http://citychurchphilly.com/give) or [libertichurch.org/give](http://libertichurch.org/give)

## Offertory Song

*If on a Quiet Sea*

P. Andrews

1. If, on a quiet sea, toward heav-en we calm-ly sail,  
 2. Soon shall our doubts and fears all yield to thy con-trol;  
 with grate-ful hearts, O God, to thee, we'll own the fav'r-ing gale, but  
 thy ten-der mer-cies shall il-lume the mid-night of the soul. So  
 should the sur-ges a-rise and rest de-lay\_ to come,  
 teach us, in ev'-ry state to make thy will our own, and  
 blest be the sor-row and kind be the storm which drives us near-er home.  
 when the joys\_ of sense de-part, to live by faith a-lone.

©The New Ancients



# 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.*

God our Father,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers,  
and because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in walking in your ways,  
we may please you both in will and deed.  
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.*

Lord Jesus, King of the nations,  
have mercy on the peoples of the world.  
Where there is violence, bring peace.  
Where there is oppression, bring justice.  
Where there is want, bring plenty.  
Fill the earth with the knowledge of your salvation.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of compassion,  
you hear the cries of all who are in distress.  
We pray for those who face sickness, grief, or despair.  
Strengthen them in their time of need,  
and give them hope in you.  
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** Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins  
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.  
We have lived by our own strength  
and not by the power of your resurrection.  
We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.

We have lived for this world alone  
and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Lord, hear us and help us.

*Silence is kept.*

## Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the God of love  
bring you back to himself,  
forgive you your sins,  
and assure you of his eternal love  
in 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.

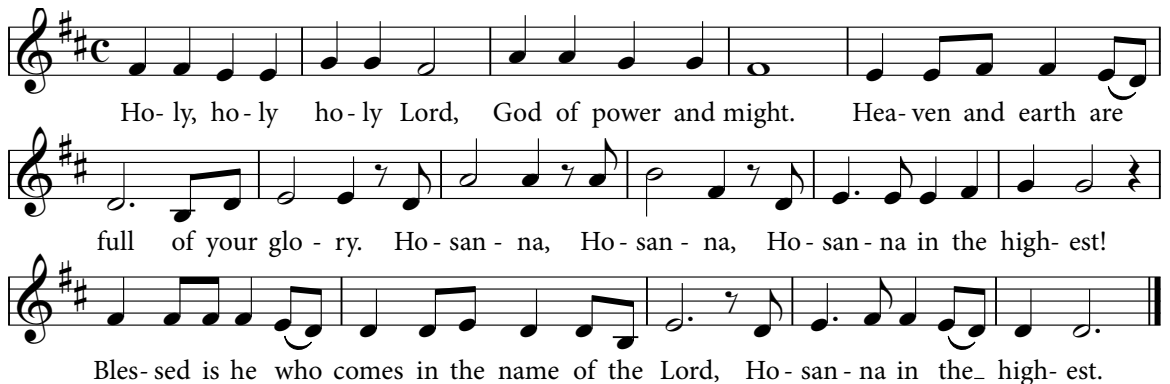
## GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

*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

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty  
to give thanks to you at all times and in all places,  
O Lord our Creator,  
almighty and everlasting God!  
You created heaven with all its hosts  
and the earth with all its plenty.  
You have given us life and being,  
and preserve us by your providence.  
But you have shown us the fullness of your love  
in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ,  
the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation.  
For the precious gift of this mighty Savior  
who has reconciled us to you  
we praise and bless you, O God.  
With your whole Church on earth  
and with all the company of heaven  
we worship and adore your glorious name.  
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 of our pilgrimage,  
you have willed that the gate of mercy  
should stand open for those who trust in you;  
look upon us with your favor,  
that we who follow the path of your will  
may never wander from the way of life.  
Amen.

# Blessing and Sending

## *His Love Can Never Fail*

E.S. Hall, Chris Miner

1. I do not ask to see the way my feet will have to tread, but  
2. And if my feet would go astray, they cannot, for I know that  
3. I will not fear, though darkness come a-broad o'er all the land, if

only that my soul may feed up-on the living bread. 'Tis better far that I  
Jesus guides my faltering steps as joyfully I go. And though I may not see  
I may only feel the touch of his own loving hand. And though I tremble when

— should walk by faith close to his side; I  
— his face, my faith is strong and clear that,  
— I think how weak I am, and frail, my

may not know the way I go, but O, I know my guide.  
in each hour of sore distress, my savior will be near.  
soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.

His love can never fail, his love can never fail; my soul is  
satisfied to know his love can never fail. My soul is  
satisfied to know his love can never fail.

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## Benediction

God has given you the citizenship of heaven,  
with his blessed and beloved  
and the whole company of the redeemed;  
may he give you the will to live each day in life eternal  
and bring you to the home  
that Christ prepares for all who love him;  
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.

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## Announcements

- **Join us in Rhythms of Renewal**, as we cultivate the virtue of contentment through the practice of sabbath. Read more at [citychurchphilly.com/rhythms](http://citychurchphilly.com/rhythms) or [libertichurch.org/rhythms](http://libertichurch.org/rhythms)
- **Two Neighborhood Gatherings Today:**
  - **West Philly:** Hang out at Clark Park at 4 pm, at the SW corner of Chester and 43rd. Contact Dave Brindley ([dave.brindley@cru.org](mailto:dave.brindley@cru.org)) if you have questions.
  - **Center City:** Join us at 4:30 pm at Palumbo Park (9th & Fitzwater). Contact Andrew Garbarino ([andrew@liberti.org](mailto:andrew@liberti.org)) if you have questions.

Rachel Allison: voice

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Joshua Stamper: guitar

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