



City Church
PHILADELPHIA

LIBERTI



Sunday October 18, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers
“Confusion 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, Scott Jennings

Reflection

Innumerable times a whole Christian community has broken down because it had sprung from wishful dreaming. By sheer grace, God will not permit us to live even for a brief period in a dream world. He does not abandon us to those rapturous experiences and lofty moods that come over us like a dream. God is not a God of emotionalism, but the God of truth. Only that fellowship which faces such disillusionment with all its unhappy and ugly aspects, begins to be what it should be in God's sight, begins to grasp in faith the promise that is given to it.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

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

O Light that Knew No Dawn

Gregory of Nazianzus, Bifrost Arts

1. O light that knew no dawn, that shines to end - less
2. Thy grace, O Fa - ther, give, that we might serve in
3. That, cleansed from stain of sin, we may meet ho - mage
4. Thy grace, O Fa - ther, give, we hum - bly thee im -

— day, all things in earth and heaven are lus - tred
— fear; a - bove all else, we pray, grant us thy
— give; and pure in heart, be - hold thy beau - ty
— plore, and let thy mer - cy bless thy ser - vants

by thy ray; no eye can to thy
voice to hear. From sin thy child-ren in
while we live; clean hands in ho - ly
more and more. All grace and glo - ry

throne as - cend, nor mind thy bright-ness com - pre - hend.
mer - cy free, and let us dwell in light with thee.
wor - ship raise, and thee, O Christ our sa - vior, praise.
be to thee, from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

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 God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;

All you have been angry; now restore us!

You have caused the land to quake; you have torn it open;
repair the cracks in it, for it is tottering.

You have made your people see hard things;

you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.

You have set up a banner for those who fear you,
that they may flee to it from the shot of the bow.

Give victory with your right hand, and answer us,
so that your beloved ones may be rescued.

from Psalm 60

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 16:1-5, 28-33, 41-48

¹Now Korah son of Izhar son of Kohath son of Levi, along with Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—descendants of Reuben—took ²two hundred fifty Israelite men, leaders of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men, and they confronted Moses. ³They assembled against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, “You have gone too far! All the congregation are holy, everyone of them, and the Lord is among them. So why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?” ⁴When Moses heard it, he fell on his face. ⁵Then he said to Korah and all his company, “In the morning the Lord will make known who is his, and who is holy, and who will be allowed to approach him; the one whom he will choose he will allow to approach him.”

²⁸And Moses said, “This is how you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works; it has not been of my own accord: ²⁹If these people die a natural death, or if a natural fate comes on them, then the Lord has not sent me. ³⁰But if the Lord creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up, with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the Lord.” ³¹As soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground under them was split apart. ³²The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households—everyone who belonged to Korah and all their goods. ³³So they with all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol; the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

⁴¹On the next day, however, the whole congregation of the Israelites rebelled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, “You have killed the people of the Lord.” ⁴²And when the congregation had assembled against them, Moses and Aaron turned toward the tent of meeting; the cloud had covered it and the glory of the Lord appeared. ⁴³Then Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting, ⁴⁴and the Lord spoke

to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵“Get away from this congregation, so that I may consume them in a moment.” And they fell on their faces. ⁴⁶Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, put fire on it from the altar and lay incense on it, and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them. For wrath has gone out from the Lord; the plague has begun.” ⁴⁷So Aaron took it as Moses had ordered, and ran into the middle of the assembly, where the plague had already begun among the people. He put on the incense, and made atonement for the people. ⁴⁸He stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stopped.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Matthew 23:1, 37-39

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ³⁷“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

“Confusion in the Wilderness” – Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

Offering and Presentation of Gifts

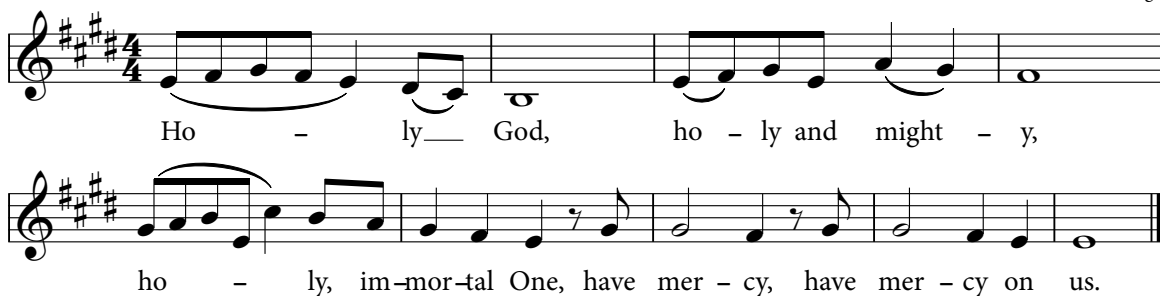
If you'd like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at:

citychurchphilly.com/give or libertichurch.org/give

Offertory Song

Trisagion

Ancient text, Fernando Ortega



Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly, im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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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.

Lord, teach us to doubt
the voice of our own fears
and to receive the gift of your presence
with humility and gratitude.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, bless those
whom you have called to lead your people.
Strengthen them to plead your mercy for the lost
and to proclaim your words of life.

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, we cry out for the refugees of our world who know what it is to wander in search of home. Care for those who are caught in the currents of national and international politics. Bless those who have already come to Philadelphia, and show us how to welcome them with your peace. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, to those who are sick, weary, lonely, or in distress, grant your tender care and the fellowship of your people and the bright hope of your new creation. 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 God, we doubt your promises, forget your faithful care, and grumble against the people you place in our lives. We approach you with pride, deceit, and unbelief. For the sake of your Son, forgive 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.

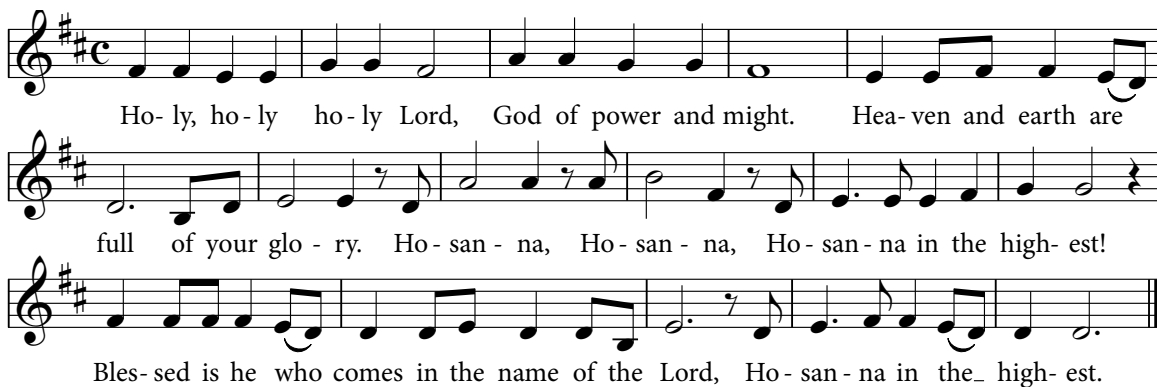
**GOD STRENGTHENS US
AT HIS TABLE**

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 Lord Jesus, you rescue us
by offering the perfect sacrifice
of your own body and blood.
By your Spirit, make us into a holy people
who intercede for those around us
and proclaim your mighty work of redemption.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending

What Wondrous Love Is This

James Christopher, Mead's General Selection



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2. When I was sin-king down, sin-king down, sin-king down, When
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; To
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that
I was sin-king down, sin-king down, When I was sin-king down be -
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's right-eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
is the great "I Am"; while mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

Benediction

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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

- **Join us in Rhythms of Renewal**, as we cultivate the virtue of compassion through the practice of curiosity. Read more at citychurchphilly.com/rhythms or libertichurch.org/rhythms
- **Church-wide Gathering** today at S. Georges Hill in Fairmount Park, 2-4:30. BYO s'mores supplies!

Sarah Long: voice

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Jaron Olevsky: bass

Matt Scarano: drums

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