



City Church
PHILADELPHIA

LIBERTI


Sunday October 4, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers
“A View of 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 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 great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own', or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life—the life God is sending one day by day: what one calls one's 'real life' is a phantom of one's own imagination.

—C.S. Lewis, in a letter to Arthur Greeves, 20 December 1943

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

The Lord's My Shepherd

Stuart Townend



1. The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me lie in pas-tures green,
2. He guides my ways in right-eous - ness and he a-noints my head with oil
3. And though I walk the dark-est path, I will not fear the e - vil one



he leads me by the still, still wa - ters, his good-ness re-stores my soul.
and my cup it o - ver - flows with joy; I_ feast on his pure de - lights.
for you are with me, and your rod and staff are the com-fort I need to know.



And I will trust in you a - lone, and I will trust in you a - lone, for your



end - less mer - cy fol - lows me, your good-ness will lead me home.

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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.

By awesome deeds you deliver us,
O God of our salvation;

**All you are the hope of all the ends of the earth,
and the hope of the farthest seas.**

By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring waves, the tumult of the peoples.

At earth's farthest bounds they are in awe of your signs;
you make the morning and evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth, water and enrich it,
for the river of God is full of water.

You provide the people with grain,
for this reason you have prepared it.

You crown the year with your bounty;
your paths overflow with richness.

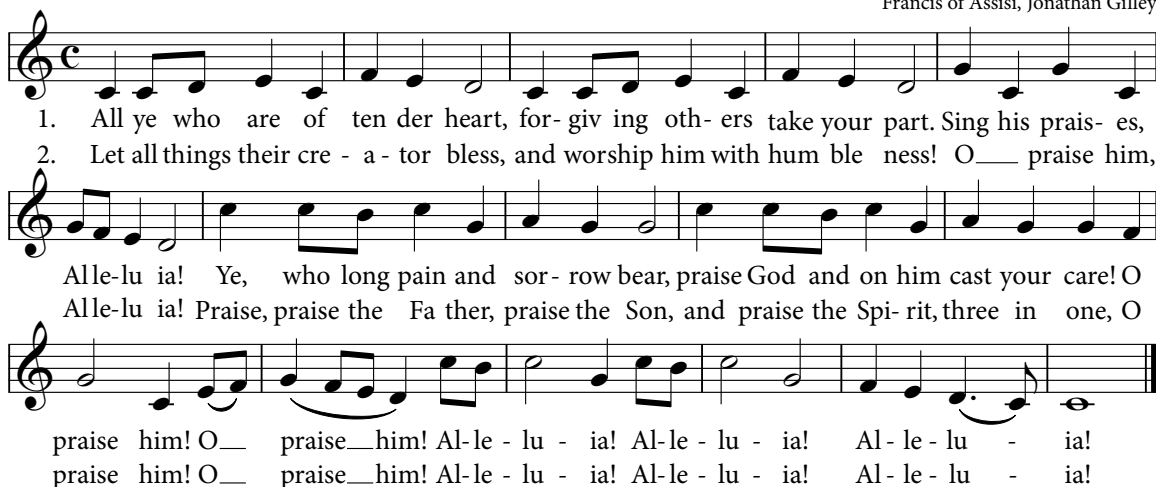
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
and the hills gird themselves with joy.

from Psalm 65

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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The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Numbers 13:21-33

²¹So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. ²²They went up into the Negeb, and came to Hebron; and Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the Anakites, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³And they came to the Wadi Eshcol, and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them. They also brought some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴That place was called the Wadi Eshcol, because of the cluster that the Israelites cut down from there.

²⁵At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land.

²⁶And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷And they told him, "We came

to the land to which you sent us; it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸Yet the people who live in the land are strong, and the towns are fortified and very large; and besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the land of the Negeb; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea, and along the Jordan.” ³⁰But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” ³¹Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we.” ³²So they brought to the Israelites an unfavorable report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size. ³³There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Matthew 28:16-20

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

“A View of Paradise” – Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

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.

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

Lord, I Believe

D. Howard, G. Croly, I. Wardell



1. Lord, I be - lieve: help thou mine un - be - lief. _____
2. Lord, I be - lieve, the hold of sin is strong, _____
3. I ask no dream, no pro - phet ec - sta - sies, _____
4. Lord, I be - lieve, in mer - cy grant me grace _____



I see the cross, oh teach my heart to cling. _____
and stout its heart to pluck me from thy love. _____
I have no con - stant heart, no kin - dled faith. _____
to know the bless - ed Sa - vior more and more. _____



Has thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
But stron - ger is thy grace, oh raise me up! _____
But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way. _____
I can do naught with - out thee; show thy face. _____



Spi - rit, help _____ my un - be - lief. _____

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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.

God our shepherd,
you call us to fullness of life;
deliver us from unbelief,
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.
For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

God our judge,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, wise,
courageous, and faithful,
for your glory's sake.
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.

God our king, in your mercy,
grant that those with power in our world
may act in accordance with your justice
in ways that lead to provision and peace.
For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

God our savior,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
draw near to those who suffer from
sickness, grief, injustice, want, and despair.
Make us agents of your goodness and grace.
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 Gracious Father,
you give us all good things.
You give generously and abundantly,
yet we live as if you were stingy,
and we do not trust in you.
Your wisdom, power, and fatherly care are unfailing,
yet we rely on the sight of our own eyes
and the strength of our own hands.
Lord, 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.

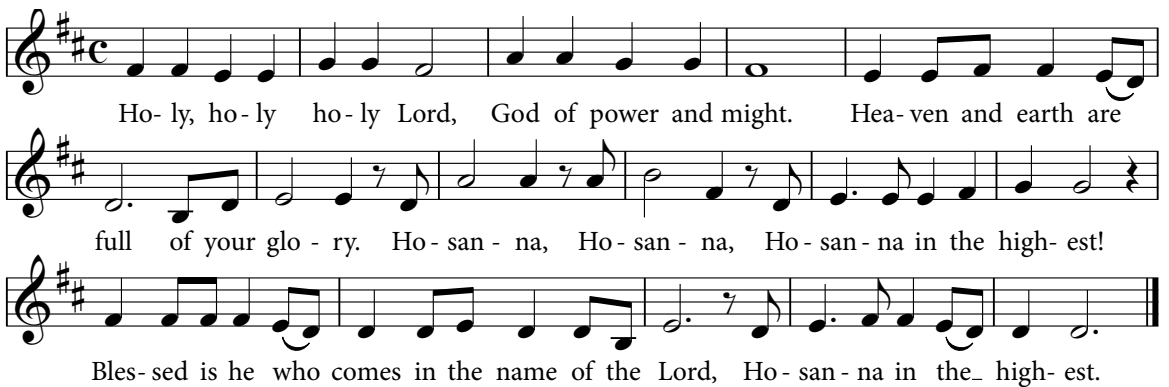
**GOD STRENGTHENS US
AT HIS TABLE**

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.

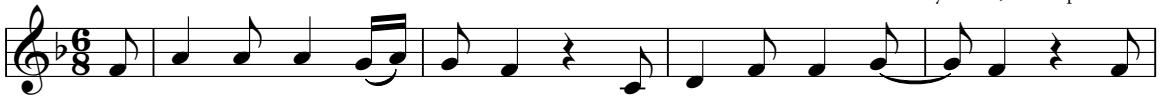
Prayer after Communion

All We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where you reign
with all your saints forever.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand

Henry Alford, Christopher Miner



1. Ten thou-sand times ten thou sand in spark-ling rai - ment_ bright, the
2. What rush of al - le - lu - ias fills all the earth and_ sky! What
3. O then what rap - tured greet-ings on Ca-naan's hap - py_ shore; what
4. Bring near thy great sal - va - tion, thou lamb for sin - ners_ slain; fill



ar - mies of the ran-somed saints throng up the steep of_ light: 'tis
ring - ing of a thou-sand harps be-speaks the tri - umph_ nigh! O
knit - ting sev - ered friend-ship up where part - ings are no_ more. Then
up the roll of thine e - lect, then take thy pow'r, and_ reign; ap -



fin - ished, all is_ fin-ished, their fight with death and sin;_ fling
day,_ for which cre - a - tion and all its tribes were made;_ O
eyes_ with joy shall spark - le, that brimmed with tears of late;_ or -
pear,_ de - sire of_ na-tions, thine ex - iles long for home;_ show



o - pen wide the gold - en gates and let the vic - tors_ in.
joy, for all its form - er woes a thou - sand-fold re - paid!
phans no lon - ger fa - ther-less, nor wi - dows de - so - late.
in the heav'n thy prom - ised sign; thou prince and sav - ior,_ come.

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Benediction

May God the Holy Trinity
make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and bring you to the fullness of joy
of his coming kingdom;
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 for a church-wide gathering at Lemon Hill Pavilion TODAY. We'll be celebrating communion and baptisms, and sharing about vision. Come at your region's time slot or whenever works for you! 1 pm - Center City, 2 pm - South Philly & W Burbs, 3 pm - W Philly, 4 pm - Fairmount & Northern Burbs.
- Coming this week in Rhythms of Renewal: Cultivating the virtue of love through the practice of hospitality. Visit citychurchphilly.com/rhythms or libertichurch.org/rhythms for more info.

Jon Covert: guitar

Matt Engle: bass

Sarah Long: voice

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

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