



City Church
PHILADELPHIA

LIBERTI



Sunday November 15, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers
“Justice 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

We live in a world of violence and conflict and pray for peace. We deplore suffering, injustice, and poverty but live comfortably off the oppression of others. We worry about where God is when faced with genocide or our own vulnerability and mortality, and the majority of our contemporaries have decided there cannot be a God, given the state of the world. It is this whole complex context which demands that we move beyond an easy spirituality of personal well-being, comfort, and happiness to rediscover the wilderness way that lies at the heart of the Bible.

- Frances M. Young, *Brokenness & Blessing*

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 Worship the King

Robert Grant, Johann Michael Haydn



1. O wor - ship the king, all glor - ious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly sing his
2. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - migh - ty, thy pow'r hath
3. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the air, it
4. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in thee do we trust, nor
5. O mea - sure - less might! In - ef - fa - ble love! While an - gels de - light to



pow'r and his love; our shield and de - fen - der, the An - cient of
foun - ded of old; es - ta - blished it fast by a change - less de -
shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it des - cends to the
find thee to fail; thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the
hymn thee a - bove, the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their



Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gir - ded with praise.
cree, and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
plain and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
end, our ma - ker, de - fen - der, re - dee - mer and friend.
lays, with true a - do - ra - tion shall lisp to thy praise.

Opening of Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

All And also with you.

I will sing a new song to you, O God;
All upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you.
 May our sons spring up in their youth,
may they be like plants full grown.
 May our daughters be like corner pillars,
cut for the building of a palace.
 May our barns be filled, with produce of every kind;
may our sheep increase by thousands.
 May there be no breach in the walls,
no exile, and no cry of distress in our streets.
 Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall;
happy are the people whose God is the Lord.

from Psalm 144

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

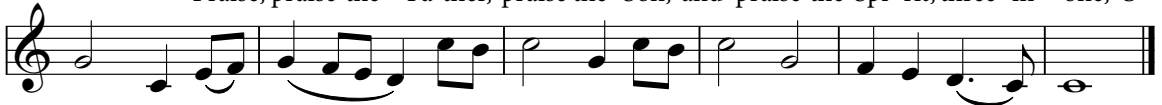
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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 27:1-11

¹Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Zelophehad was son of Hephher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh son of Joseph, a member of the Manassite clans. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. ²They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and they said, ³"Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the Lord in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin; and he had no sons. ⁴Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers." ⁵Moses brought their case before the Lord. ⁶And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ⁷The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father's brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them. ⁸You shall also say to the Israelites, "If a man dies, and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. ⁹If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. ¹¹And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as the Lord commanded Moses."

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 18: 1-8

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused;

but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"Justice 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

In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful

J. Berthier

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near." The melody is simple and melodic, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff.

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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

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, you came to our world
as a light shining in the darkness.

By your love, renew us in your image
that we may live as your children.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Spring of life, give refreshment from your word
and the fellowship of your people
to those who are disheartened
by the wrongs they experience and see
as they work and wait
to see the fruits of your kingdom.

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.

*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.

Confession of Sin

All Father,
we sin against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be your daughters and sons.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself,
and grant us an inheritance in your kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

We indeed give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
for you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.
Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost,
restores the sinner,
and gives dignity to the despised.
In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.
Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation,
we glorify your name,
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,
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 peace,

whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom

and restored the broken to wholeness of life:

look with compassion on the anguish of the world,

and by your healing power

make whole both people and nations;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Have Mercy

David Gungor, Latifah Alattas, Madison Cunningham

1. The good - ness of the Lord is the kind - ness of the Lord with
2. The beau - ty of the Lord is the suff' - ring of the Lord, is

ev' - ry breath we take, the gift of life and grace; the pow - er of the Lord is the
Christ u - pon a tree, _____ stripped of dig - ni - ty, the glo - ry of the Lord is the

meek - ness of the Lord who bore hu - man - i - ty with brave hu - mil - i - ty:
mer - cy of the Lord, gives life for us to see a new hu - man - i - ty:

Let your mer - cy flow through us, _____ your mer - cy, your mer - cy. _____

Let your mer - cy flow through us, your mer - cy, your mer - cy. _____

When they see us, may they see your mer - cy, your mer - cy. _____

When they know us, may they know your mer - cy, your mer - cy. _____

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Benediction

May you be made strong
with all the strength that comes from his glorious power,
and may you be prepared to endure everything with
patience,
while joyfully giving thanks to the Father,
who has enabled you to share
in the inheritance of the saints in the light;
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 this week in Rhythms of Renewal as we cultivate the virtue of honesty through the practice of confession. Read more at citychurchphilly.com/rhythms or libertichurch.org/rhythms
- Share any thoughts you have on name and structure for our new church at citychurchphilly.com/merger
- Volunteer to serve Thanksgiving Breakfast at citychurchphilly.com/emmanuel

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Will Graefe: guitar

Sarah Long: voice

Jeremy McDonald: bass

Matt Scarano: drums

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