



City Church  
PHILADELPHIA

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Sunday November 22, 2020  
Christ the King

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers  
“A Future beyond 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](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

[I]t is the very transcendence of God - in the ascension of the Son who now reigns from heaven, and in the futurity of the coming kingdom for which we pray - that disciplines and disrupts and haunts our tendency to settle for "this world." It is the call of the Son from heaven, and the vision of the new Jerusalem descending from heaven, that pushes back on our illusions that we could figure this all out, that we could bring this about.

- James K. A. Smith, *Awaiting the King*

## 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

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Martin Rinkart, Catherine Winkworth, Johann Crüger



1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voi - ces, who  
2. O may this boun teous God through all our life be near us, with  
3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be gi - ven, the



won drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joi - ces; who  
ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bles - sed peace to cheer us; and  
Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en, the



from our mo - thers' arms hath blessed us on our way with  
keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed, and  
one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore; for



count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
thus it was, is now, and shall be e - ver - more.

## 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.

The Lord is my shepherd,  
**All I shall want for nothing.**  
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
**he leads me beside still waters.**  
 He restores my soul.  
**He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**  
 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
**I fear no evil; for you are with me.**  
 Your rod and your staff—they comfort me.  
**You prepare a table before me**  
**in the presence of my enemies.**  
 You anoint my head with oil.  
**My cup overflows.**  
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
 all the days of my life,  
**and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

*from Psalm 23*

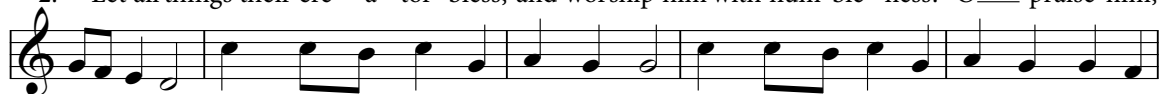
## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

### Doxology

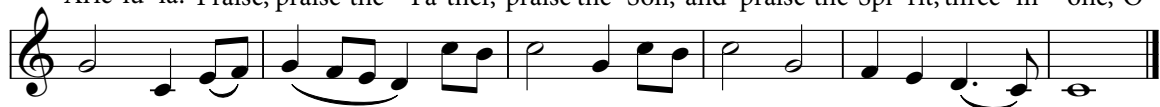
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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 27:12-23*

<sup>12</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go up this mountain of the Abarim range, and see the land that I have given to the Israelites. <sup>13</sup>When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, <sup>14</sup>because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled with me. You did not show my holiness before their eyes at the waters." (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

<sup>15</sup>Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, <sup>16</sup>"Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint someone over the congregation <sup>17</sup>who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep without a shepherd." <sup>18</sup>So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand upon him; <sup>19</sup>have him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. <sup>20</sup>You shall give him some of your authority, so that all the congregation of the Israelites may obey. <sup>21</sup>But he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the decision of the Urim before the Lord; at his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the Israelites with him, the whole congregation." <sup>22</sup>So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation; <sup>23</sup>he laid his hands on him and commissioned him—as the Lord had directed through Moses.

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.**

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and 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 Future beyond 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](http://citychurchphilly.com/give) or [libertichurch.org/give](http://libertichurch.org/give)

# Offertory Song

## *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

George Croly, Karl Digerness



1. Spi - rit of God, des-cend up - on my heart, wean it from earth, through
2. I ask no dream, no pro-phet ec - sta - sies; no sud-den rend - ing
3. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh; teach me the strug - gles
4. Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King? All\_\_\_ thine own, soul,
5. Teach me to love thee as thine an-gels love, one ho - ly pas - sion



all its pul - ses move; stoop to my weak - ness, migh - ty  
of the veil of clay; no an - gel vi - sion, no\_\_\_  
of the soul to bear, to check the ri - sing doubt, the\_\_\_  
heart and strength and mind; I see thy cross\_\_\_ there teach  
fil - ling all my frame: the pre - sence of\_\_\_ thy des -



as\_ thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
o - pen - ing skies; but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
re - bel sigh; teach me the pa - ti - ence of un - an - swered prayer.  
me to cling; O let me seek thee, and O let me find.  
\_ cen - ded dove, my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

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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

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet.  
For this, O Lord, we pray.

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Jesus, our Shepherd King,  
you are faithful to us in our wilderness wanderings.  
Show us the workings of your grace amidst our unbelief.  
Free us from the idolatry of trusting any other savior.  
Let us follow you with diligence,  
you who entered our lost world to lead us home.  
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.*

Sustaining Spirit,  
breathe your life into us and into all who face  
illness, injustice, exhaustion,  
loneliness, bitterness, or despair.  
In your mercy, give us a foretaste  
of the coming kingdom of Christ.  
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** O King enthroned on high,  
filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name,  
Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Silence is kept.*

## Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through 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.

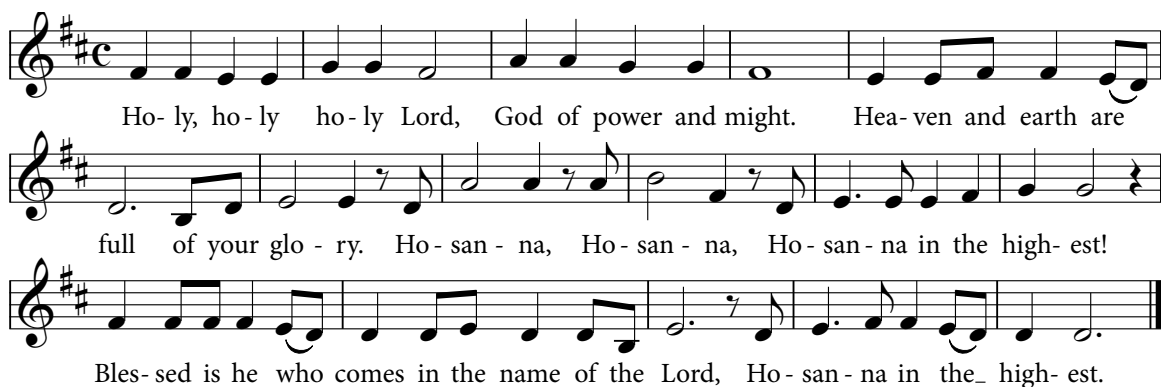
GOD STRENGTHENS US  
AT HIS TABLE

*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. 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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
For with the oil of gladness  
you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,  
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.  
As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross  
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.  
As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,  
that he may bring before your infinite majesty  
a kingdom of truth and life,  
a kingdom of holiness and grace,  
a kingdom of justice, love, and peace.  
And so with angels and archangels  
and all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

## *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 our Father,  
strengthen us by this meal,  
and help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory.  
Amen.

# Blessing and Sending

## Wondrous King, All-Glorious

Joachim Neander, tr. William J. Schaefer

1. Won-drous king, all glo - rious, so - vereign Lord vic - to - rious, oh, re - ceive our  
2. Hea - vens, spread the sto - ry of our ma - ker's glo - ry, all the pomp of  
3. Oh my soul, re - joic - ing, sing, thy prai - ses voic - ing, sing, with hymns of  
4. Hal - le - lu - jahs ren - der to the Lord most ten - der, ye who know and  
praise with fa - vor! From thee welled God's kind - ness though we in our  
earth ob - scur - ing. Sun, thy rays be sen - ding, thy bright beams ex -  
faith a - dore him! All who here have be - ing, shout, your voi - ces  
love the Sa - vior. Hal - le - lu - jahs sing ye, ye re - deemed, oh,  
blind - ness strayed from thee, our bles - sed Sa - vior. Streng - then thou,  
pen - ding, light to all the earth as - sur - ing. Moon and star,  
free - ing, bow down in the dust be - fore him. He is God  
bring ye hearts that yield him glad be - ha - vior. Blest are ye  
help us now; let our tongues be sing - ing, thee our prai - ses bring - ing.  
praise a - far him who glor - ious made you; the vast hea - vens aid you.  
Sa - ba - oth; Praise a - lone the Sa - vior, here and there for e - ver.  
end - less - ly; sin - less there for e - ver, ye shall laud him e - ver.

Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

## Benediction

May Christ our King make you faithful  
to the hope of his calling,  
that you may reign with him in glory;  
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 generosity through the practice of alms-giving. Read more at [citychurchphilly.com/rhythms](http://citychurchphilly.com/rhythms) or [libertichurch.org/rhythms](http://libertichurch.org/rhythms)
- Volunteer to serve Thanksgiving Breakfast at [citychurchphilly.com/emmanuel](http://citychurchphilly.com/emmanuel)
- Visit [citychurchphilly.com/turkeytrot](http://citychurchphilly.com/turkeytrot) to sign up for the youth group's virtual 5k.

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Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Tom Cladek: drums

Jon Covert: bass

LIBERTI



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