



City Church  
PHILADELPHIA

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**LIBERTI**  
A black silhouette of a key. The head of the key is on the left, and the bit is on the right. The bit is shaped like a cross with rounded ends.

Sunday November 29, 2020  
The 1st Sunday of Advent  
“Watching & Waiting”

## Reflection

The Advent season should come as a reminder to us that we can never be, and should not be, adjusted to the world. We are here to proclaim the reality and the imminence of a wholly other world, a world in which different powers rule and different standards operate. We are here to make it possible for ordinary men and women to believe this, and therefore to live in hope and readiness.

- Lesslie Newbigin, *The Good Shepherd - Future and Advent*

## Church Calendar

### **ADVENT**

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:4-5a, 7-8

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him...<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

The night is far spent, the day is now at hand:

**All let us cast off works of darkness  
and put on armor of light!**

# Opening Song

*Comfort, Comfort*

Johannes Olearius, Catherine Winkworth, Johann Schop



1. Com-fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2. For the he - rald's voice is cry - ing in the de - sert far and near,
3. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot ting out each dark mis deed;
4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain:



com-fort those who sit in dark ness, mour ning 'neath their sor row's load.  
bid-ding all men to re - pen tance, since the king - dom now is here.  
all that well de - served his an - ger he will no more see nor heed.  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign,



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
O that war - ning cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!  
She has suf - fered many a day, now her griefs have passed a - way,  
for the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad,



tell her that her sins I co - ver, and her war-fare now is o - ver.  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.  
God will change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to e - ver spring - ing glad ness.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is ne - ver bro - ken.

## 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.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
**All you who lead Joseph like a flock!**  
 You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
**Stir up your might, and come to save us!**  
 O Lord God of hosts,  
 how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
**You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given  
 them tears to drink in full measure.**  
 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**  
 Then we will never turn back from you;  
**give us life, and we will call on your name.**  
 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

*from Psalm 80*

## 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: Isaiah 64:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading:* Mark 13:24-37

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

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

<sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Reflection

"Watching & Waiting" – 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 the addresses below or text any amount to the number 84321.

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

## Offertory Song

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Gerard Moultrie



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and tremb - ling stand;
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on earth he stood,
3. Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van-guard on the way,
4. At his feet the six wing'd se - raph, che - ru - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly min - ded, for with bles - sing in his hand,  
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bo - dy and the blood;  
as the Light of light des - cend - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fa - ces to the pre - sence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth des - cend - eth, our full ho - mage to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
that the pow'rs of hell may va - nish as the dark - ness clears a way.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!



# 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

Jesus, our shepherd,  
come to your church as Lord and judge.  
We pray for unity and wisdom  
for ourselves and those you've given to lead us.  
Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your kingdom.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Come to your world as king of the nations.  
We pray that you would  
empower goodness and restrain evil  
in all those in authority.  
Before you rulers will stand in silence.  
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.*

Come to the suffering as savior and comforter.  
We lift up to you our needs and longings,  
as well as those of our families, friends, and neighbors.  
Break into our lives  
where we struggle with sickness and distress,  
and set us free to serve you forever.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.  
By your coming,  
raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven.  
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

God, through Jesus Christ,  
will judge the secret thoughts of all:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'  
will enter the kingdom of heaven:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

*Silence is kept.*

## Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
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.

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 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.*

## 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

And now we give you thanks, for when your Son humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. 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** O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Blessing and Sending

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Charles Wesley, Rowland Pritchard



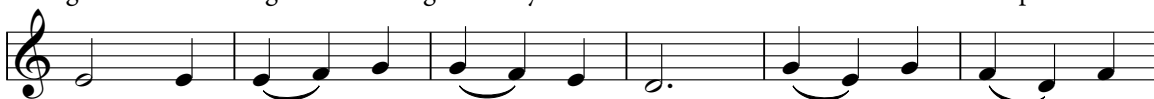
1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
2. Joy to those\_ who long to see\_ thee, Day - spring from on  
3. Come to earth\_ to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries  
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child and



peo - ple free; from our fears\_ and sins re - lease us; let us  
high, ap - pear; come, thou pro - mised Rod of Jes - se, of thy  
knew no end; by his life\_ he brings us glad - ness, our Re -  
yet\_ a king, born to reign\_ in us for - e - ver, now thy



find our rest\_ in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
birth we long to hear! O'er the hills\_ the an - gels sing - ing  
dee - mer, Shep - herd, Friend. Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber,  
gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own\_ e - ter - nal Spi - rit



hope of all\_ the earth thou art, dear\_ De - sire\_ of  
news, glad ti - dings of\_ a birth; "Go\_ to him,\_ your  
born with - in\_ a cat - tle stall; this\_ the e - ver -  
rule in all\_ our hearts a - lone; by\_ thine all - suf -



ev - ry na - tion, joy of ev - ry long - ing heart.  
prai - ses bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
las - ting won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
fi - cient me - rit, raise us to\_ thy glo - rious throne.

## Benediction

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him  
when he comes 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 patience through the practice of waiting. Read more at [citychurchphilly.com/rhythms](https://citychurchphilly.com/rhythms) or [libertichurch.org/rhythms](https://libertichurch.org/rhythms)
- It's not too late to Turkey Trot! Sign up + walk or run your 5K by November 30. [citychurchphilly.com/turkeytrot](https://citychurchphilly.com/turkeytrot)
- Look for your copy of our Advent Prayerbook in the mail, or download at [citychurchphilly.com/advent2020](https://citychurchphilly.com/advent2020)

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Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Sarah Long: voice

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