



City Church
PHILADELPHIA

LIBERTI



Sunday December 13, 2020
The 3rd Sunday of Advent
“Longing for Justice”

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

In a very real sense, the Christian community lives in Advent all the time. It can well be called the Time Between, because the people of God live in the time between the first coming of Christ, incognito in the stable in Bethlehem, and his second coming, in glory, to judge the living and the dead...Advent contains within itself the crucial balance of the now and the not-yet that our faith requires.

- Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*

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

The Garbarino Family

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,

All and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

Opening Song

My Savior's Love Endures

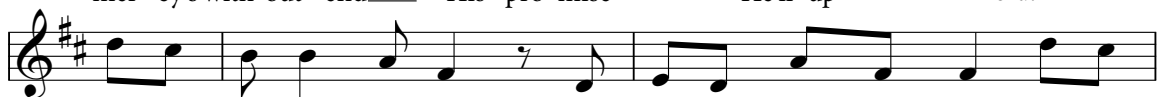
Jennie Lee Riddle, JJ and Dave Heller



1. My soul does mag - ni - fy the great-ness of the Lord. On
2. He has done migh - ty things - ho - ly is his name. All
3. Oh I - srael find your help sole - ly in the Lord His



me his fa - vor lights; in my sa - vior, I re-joyce.
crea-tures un - der heav-en fear him whose mer - cy reigns.
mer - cy's with-out end His pro-mise He'll up hold.



He has pro - ven his might, his arm out-stretched with strength; he has



scat-tered the proud and brought down all vain con ceit. He has lif-ted the low-ly, brings



good-ness to the poor. My Sa - vior's love en - dures.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and Son, glo-ry be to the Spi-rit, three in one.



Glo-ry be in the be - gin-ning and the end, glo-ry for-e- ver, a - men.

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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.

All When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

from Psalm 126

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

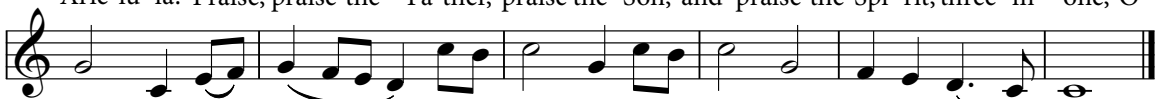
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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.

Gospel reading: John 1:6-8,19-28

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"Longing for Justice" – Rev. Chris Currie

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 or libertichurch.org/give

Offertory Song

Instrument of Peace

Isaac Wardell, Liz Vice, Jessica Fox, Orlando Palmer, Paul Zach

last time to Coda



Lord, make me an in-stru-ment of peace, an in-stru-ment of peace._



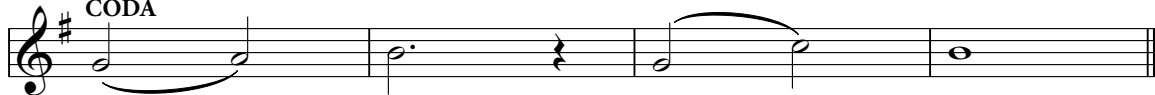
1. Where there is ha-tred, let me sow love. Where there is dark-ness, let me sow light.
2. Where there is sor-row, let me sow hope. Where there is doubt,_ let me sow faith.

D.C. al Coda



For in the gi-ving, we shall re ceive, and in the dy-ing, we're gi-ven life.
Where there is inju-ry, your par-don give, your con-so-la-tion to those in pain.

CODA



A - - men, a - - men.

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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.

*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.*

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

Lord our God, creator of the universe,
we pray that you would bring to our world
your kingdom of justice and mercy.
Establish among the nations
your scepter of righteousness.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ, our redeemer,
give us strength to stand with confidence before you.
Let us seek you in the Scriptures
and recognize you in the breaking of the bread.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of all comfort,
please bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick,
and raise up all who have fallen.
May the light of God's coming dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Trinity,
cause us, with all the saints in light,
to shine forth to the world your goodness and truth,
that when Jesus comes again,
he may find in us
the completion of his redeeming work.
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, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people;
come among us and save us.
We have willfully misused your gifts of creation.
We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid.
We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice.
We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbors as ourselves.
Lord, be merciful; forgive us our sin.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the almighty and merciful Lord
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

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.

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.

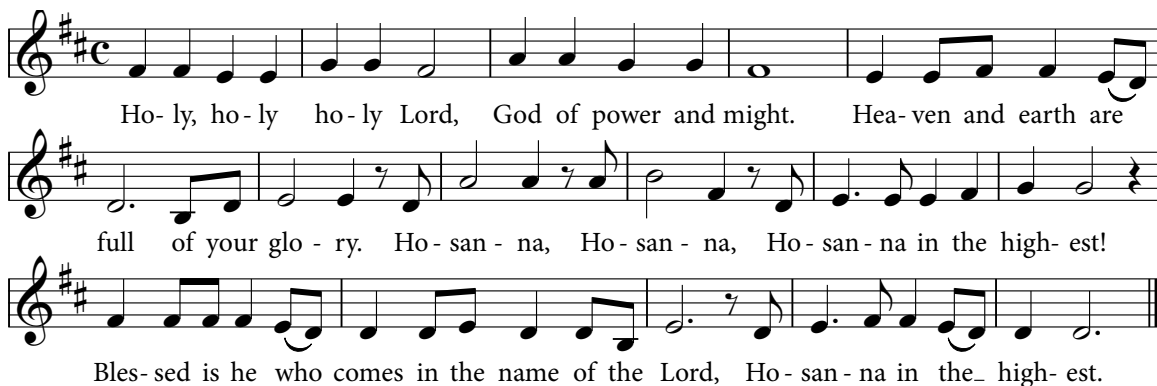
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 Thank you, Father, for welcoming us to your table.
By this meal, soften our proud and stubborn hearts,
teach us to forgive one another as you have forgiven us,
and direct us in your way of righteousness and justice.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Savior of the Nations, Come

St. Ambrose, Calvisius, Luther, Seerveld

1. Sa - vior of the na - tions, come; show your - self, the
2. Christ laid down his ma - je - sty, passed through dark Geth -
3. Christ in glo - ry in - ter - cede for your crea - tures'
4. Praise to you, O Lord, we sing. Praise to Christ, our

vir - gin's son. Mar - vel, hea - ven, won - der, earth
se - ma - ne. Though he left his Fa - ther's home,
suf - f'ring need. Let your re - sur - rec - ting pow'r
new - born King! With the Fa - ther, Spi - rit, one,

that our God chose such a birth.
Christ now sits on God's own throne.
soon com - plete the vic - t'ry hour.
let your last - ing king - dom come.

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Benediction

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom;
may God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory;
may God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love;
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 Joy through the practice of Gratitude. Read more at citychurchphilly.com/rhythms
- **Plan to watch for Lessons & Carols on December 24** — it will release in the AM so you can watch whenever works for you.

Musicians

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Matt Engle: bass

Tom Kraines: cello

Sarah Long: voice

Mike Szekely: drums

Liturgist

Jenn Cho

Video Prayers

Jo Little

Mekenzie Williams

Paul Burkhart

Tara Woodward

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