



City Church
PHILADELPHIA

LIBERTI


Sunday December 20, 2020
The 4th Sunday of Advent
“Awaiting the King”

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 between Advent and Advent; between the first great Advent, the coming of the Son into the world, and the second Advent, when He shall come again in power and glory to judge the living and the dead. That's why Advent is sometimes quite confusing, preparing for the birth of Jesus and at the same time preparing for the time when God makes all things new, when the whole cosmos has its exodus from slavery.

- N. T. Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

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

Jennifer & Henry Polen

Reading: Romans 15:4-9, 12-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"....¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

All Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Opening Song

Mary's Song

Wendell Kimbrough



1. My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord; my spi - rit re - joi - ces in_ God!
2. He scat-ters the proud and rich; he lifts up the hum-ble and weak.
3. From now to the end of time, the na-tions will know me as_ blest



My sa - vior has_ seen his ser - vant in_
The kings of the_ earth, he casts from their
for God has made new his pro - mise of_



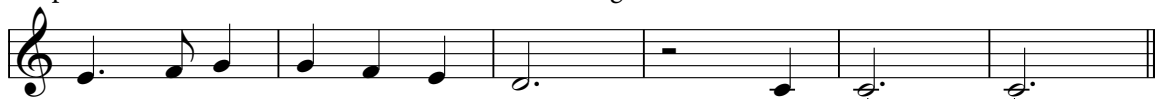
need, and be - hold the great things he has done:
thrones, and the hun - gry he wel-comes to feast.
love and_ mer - cy through A - bra - ham's seed.



Oh, be - hold, my sa - vior has come! And my soul will tell of his



praise for he who is strong has come to the weak and, at



last, he will reign as our king of peace.

©2014 Wendell Kimbrough

Opening of Worship

Grace, mercy, and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

All Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,
until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

from Psalm 72

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

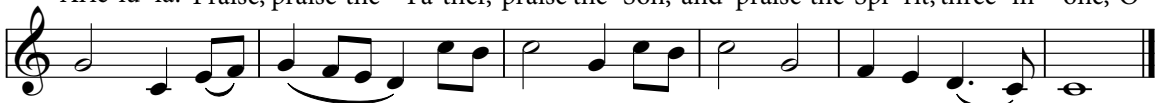
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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!

©1998 Jonathan Gilley

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Matthew 3:1-12

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

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.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

Reflection

"Awaiting the King" – 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 or libertichurch.org/give

Offertory Song

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Traditional English carol, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams



1. On Christ mas night all Chris tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring;
2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - dee - mer made us glad:
3. When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, then life and health come in its place;
4. All out of dark - ness we_ have light which made the an - gels sing this night;



on Christ - mas night all Chris tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring:
then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - dee - mer made us glad:
when sin de - parts be - fore your grace, then life and health come in its place;
all out of dark - ness we_ have light which made the an - gels sing this night:



news of great joy, news of great mirth,
when from our sin he set us free,
an - gels and men with joy may sing,
"Glo - ry to God and peace to men,



news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.
all for to gain our li - ber - ty.
all for to see the new - born king.
now and for - e - ver - more. A - men."

Tune © 1919 Stainer & Bell, Ltd., administered by Galaxy Music, Inc.

*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.*

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

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

God for whom we watch and wait,
you promised to set up a safe way among us:
protect your people from ravenous rulers
and from unjust powers,
that your ransomed people may enter your kingdom.

For this O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

God for whom we watch and wait,
your Son, the Messiah, came among us
to heal the sick and raise the lowly:
make us instruments of your healing and peace,
and grant us patience as we await your return in glory.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

God for whom we watch and wait,
you have given your Spirit as a foretaste
of your comforting presence:
hold in your love all who enter this season
under the weight of loneliness and grief.
Give them hope and courage in you.
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

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

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.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May God the Father
speak peace to you, his people,
as you turn your hearts to him;
may he forgive your sins and make you holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

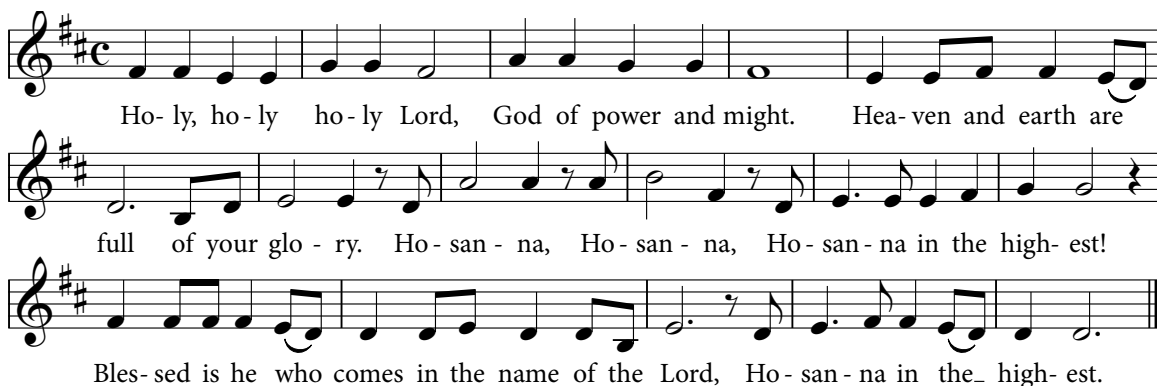
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.
John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.
In his love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
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.

©2011 Bethany R Brooks

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,
forever 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 Lord Jesus, in your coming
the day of our deliverance has dawned;
strengthen us by this meal until the day
when you will come in power and triumph to judge the world
and to make all things new. Amen.

Blessing and Sending

Angels from the Realms of Glory

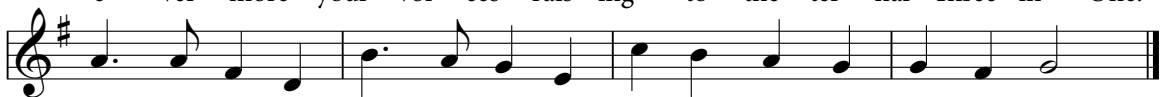
Henry Thomas Smart, James Montgomery



1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bi - ding, watch ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, brigh - ter vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar ben ding, watch ing long in hope and fear;
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son,



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
God with man is now re - si - ding; yon - der shines the in - fant light:
seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star.
sud - den - ly the Lord, des - cen - ding, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
e - ver - more your voi - ces rais - ing to thè - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor ship, come and wor ship, wor ship Christ, the new - born king.

Benediction

May God himself, the God of peace,
make you perfect and holy
and keep you safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body,
as you watch and wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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

- **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
Min-Young Kim: violin
Tom Kraines: cello
Sarah Long: voice
Matt Scarano: drums
Josh Stamper: bass

Liturgist

Lindsay Kimball

Video Prayers

Tara Woodward
Kory Stamper
Jonathan Bassett
Jenna Szoke

LIBERTI



libertichurch.org



citychurchphilly.com