



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 August 16, 2020

Praying the Psalms in Christ  
“Living with Affliction”

# 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, Jonathan Davis, Scott Jennings*

## Reflection

My hunch is that there is a way beyond the Psalms of vengeance, but it is a way through them and not around them. And that is so because of what in fact goes on with us. Willy-nilly, we are vengeful creatures. Thus these harsh Psalms must be fully embraced as our own. Our rage and indignation must be fully owned and fully expressed. And then (only then) can our rage and indignation be yielded to the mercy of God. In taking this route through them, we take the route God “himself” has gone. We are not permitted a cheaper, easier, more “enlightened” way.

-Walter Brueggemann, *Praying the Psalms: Engaging Scripture and the Life of the Spirit*

## 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.

# Prelude

## Preparation

May our souls take refuge  
from the crowding turmoil of worldly thought  
and, beneath the shadow of your wings,  
find peace in you, O God.

**All** Amen.

*Silence is kept.*

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

**All** And also with you.

O praise the Lord with me;

**All** let us exalt God's name together.

GOD SUMMONS US  
AS HIS PEOPLE

*As we meet together  
each week, we  
recognize in the  
preparation that God,  
through his word and  
Spirit, gathers us into  
his presence and calls  
us into his life and  
mission.*

# Opening Song

## Psalm 62

Aaron Keyes, Stuart Townend



1. My soul finds rest in God a - lone, my\_ rock and my sal - va - tion, a\_\_  
2. Find rest, my soul, in God a - lone a - mid the world's temp - ta - tions; when  
3. I'll set my gaze on God a - lone, and trust in him com - plete - ly; with



for - tress strong a - gainst my foes, and\_ I will not be sha - ken. Though  
e - vil seeks to take a hold I'll cling to my sal - va - tion. Though  
ev' - ry day pour out my soul, and\_ he will prove his mer - cy. Though



lips may bless and hearts may curse, and\_ lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll  
rich - es come and rich - es go, don't set your heart up - on\_ them; the\_  
life is but a fleet - ing breath, a\_\_ sigh too brief to mea - sure, my\_



fix my heart on right - eous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.  
fields of hope in which I sow are\_ har - ves - ted in hea - ven.  
king has crushed the curse of death, and\_ I am his for - e - ver.



O\_\_ praise him, hal - le - lu - jah, my de - light and my re -



ward; e - ver - las - ting, ne - ver fail - ing, my re - dee - mer, my God.

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# The Opening of Worship

“Often have they attacked me from my youth” —let Israel now say—

All “often have they attacked me from my youth,  
yet they have not prevailed against me.

The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long.”

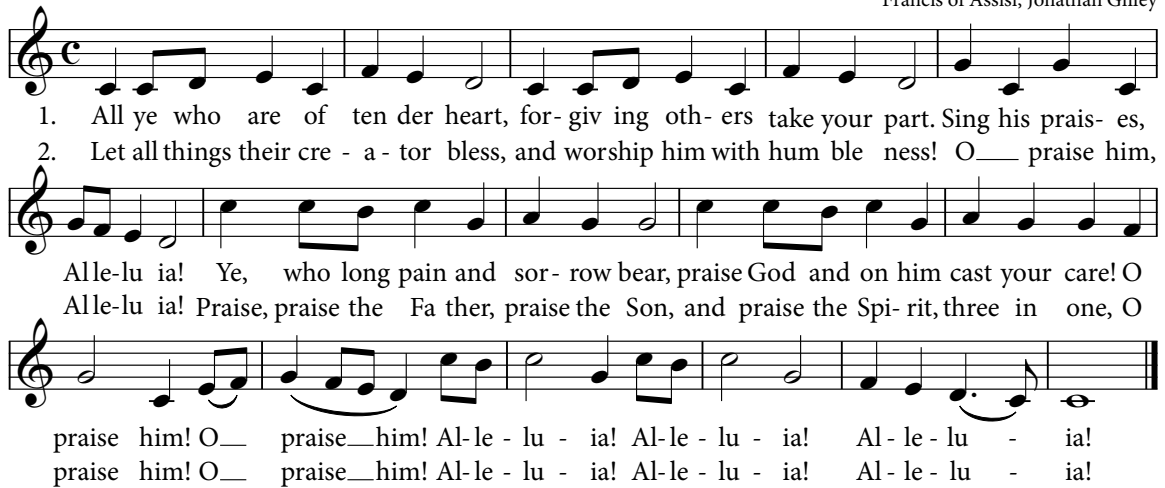
The Lord is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked.

*from Psalm 129*

## 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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## Confession of Sin

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.

*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.*

# Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

## How Long

Isaac Wardell



1. How long will you turn your face a - way? How long?
2. How long 'til your chil - dren find their rest? How long
3. How long 'til your word will still the storm? How long
4. How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race. How long?



Do you hear us when we pray? On and on,  
'til you draw them to your breast? We go on  
'til you bare your mighty arm? How we groan  
Weak our hearts but strong our legs. Look -ing on:



still we walk this pil - grim way, how long?  
hol - ding to your pro - mi - ses; how long?  
'til you snatch us from the thorns; how long?  
great that cloud of wit - nes - ses! How long?



'Til you wipe a-way the tears from ev' - ry eye, 'til we see our home desc-



end-ing from the sky? Do we wait in vain? Je sus\_ give us\_ hope\_ a gain.

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# Man of Sorrows

Philip Bliss



1. Man of sor - rows! what a name for the son of God, who came
2. Bear - ing shame and scof - fing rude, in my place con - demned he stood;
3. Guil - ty, vile, and help - less we; spot - less lamb of God was he;
4. Lif - ted up was he to die; "It is fi - nished!" was his cry;
5. When he comes, our glor - ious king, all his ran - somed home to bring,



ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a sa - vior!  
sealed my par - don with his blood. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a sa - vior!  
full a - tone - ment, can it be? Hal - le - lu - jah! What a sa - vior!  
now in heav'n ex - al - ted high. Hal - le - lu - jah! What a sa - vior!  
then a - new this song we'll sing: Hal - le - lu - jah! What a sa - vior!

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# The Word of God

*Old Testament reading: Psalm 129*

<sup>1</sup>"Often have they attacked me from my youth" —let Israel now say—

<sup>2</sup>"often have they attacked me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.

<sup>3</sup>The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long."

<sup>4</sup>The Lord is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward.

<sup>6</sup>Let them be like the grass on the housetops that withers before it grows up,

<sup>7</sup>with which reapers do not fill their hands or binders of sheaves their arms,

<sup>8</sup>while those who pass by do not say, "The blessing of the Lord be upon you! We bless you in the name of the Lord!"

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: Matthew 5:43-48*

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

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

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup>Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Reflection

*"Living with Affliction"* – 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](http://citychurchphilly.com/give) or [libertichurch.org/give](http://libertichurch.org/give)

# 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

*Prayer is offered.*

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.

## 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.

*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.*

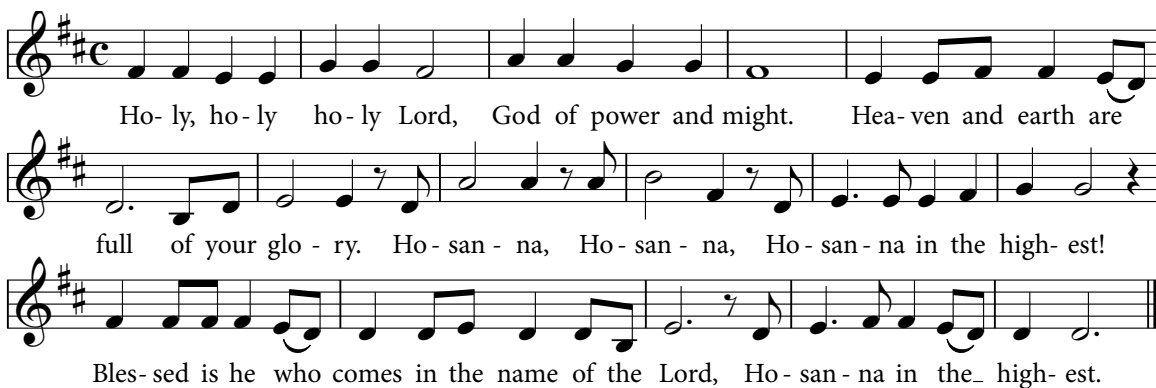
**GOD STRENGTHENS US  
AT HIS TABLE**

*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 ("Prayers  
for Reflection" are  
included below).  
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 truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,  
for Christ has risen from the tomb  
and scattered the darkness of death  
with light that will not fade.  
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,  
unfolds for us your word,  
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.  
And though the night will overtake this day  
you summon us to live in endless light,  
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.  
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** God our Savior,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power.  
Strengthen us by this meal,  
and hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

# Blessing and Sending

Psalm 126

Isaac Wardell

1. Our mouths, they were filled, filled\_ with laugh - ter;  
2. The na - tions will say, "He has done great things!"

our tongues, they were loosed, loosed\_ with joy.  
The na - tions will sing songs of joy.

Re - store us, O Lord! Re - store us, O Lord!

Al - though we are weep - ing, Lord, help us keep sow - ing  
the seeds of your king - dom for the day you will reap\_\_\_\_\_ them.

Your sheaves we will car - ry; Lord, please do not tar - ry.

All those who sow weep-ing will go out with songs of\_\_\_\_\_ joy.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of eight lines of music. The first line includes two numbered verses. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The score ends with a double bar line.

©2011 Isaac Wardell



## Benediction

May the power of God protect you for a salvation  
ready to be revealed in the last time;  
may he cause you to rejoice in this,  
even if now for a little while  
you have to suffer various trials,  
so that the genuineness of your faith —  
more precious than gold —  
may be found to result in praise and glory and honor  
when Jesus Christ is revealed;  
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

- Register [here](#) to join the Children's Ministry's "Beautify Your Park" clean-up and picnic at FDR Park next Friday afternoon.
- Read about ongoing Summer Session classes [here](#).

Jon Covert: guitar, voice  
Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

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