



City Church  
PHILADELPHIA

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**LIBERTI**  
A black silhouette of a key. The head of the key is a circle with a cross inside it. The shaft of the key is a simple horizontal line. The bit of the key is a small, square-shaped cross.

Sunday September 13, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers  
“Graves of Desire”

# 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

This is true of every created thing: though it is good, it can be loved well or ill; well when the proper order is observed, and ill when that order is disturbed.

- St. Augustine

## 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. Chris Currie

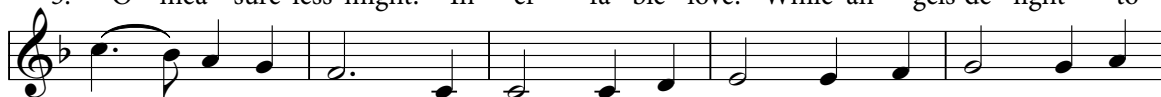
## Opening Song

### *O Worship the King*

Robert Grant, Johann Michael Haydn



1. O wor - ship the king, all glor - ious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly sing his
2. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - migh - ty, thy pow'r hath
3. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the air, it
4. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in thee do we trust, nor
5. O mea - sure - less might! In - ef - fa - ble love! While an - gels de - light to



pow'r and his love; our shield and de - fen - der, the An - cient of  
foun - ded of old; es - ta - blished it fast by a change - less de -  
shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it des - cends to the  
find thee to fail; thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the  
hymn thee a - bove, the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their



Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gir - ded with praise.  
cree, and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
plain and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
end, our ma - ker, de - fen - der, re - dee - mer and friend.  
lays, with true a - do - ra - tion shall lisp to thy praise.

## Opening of Worship

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

**All And also with you.**

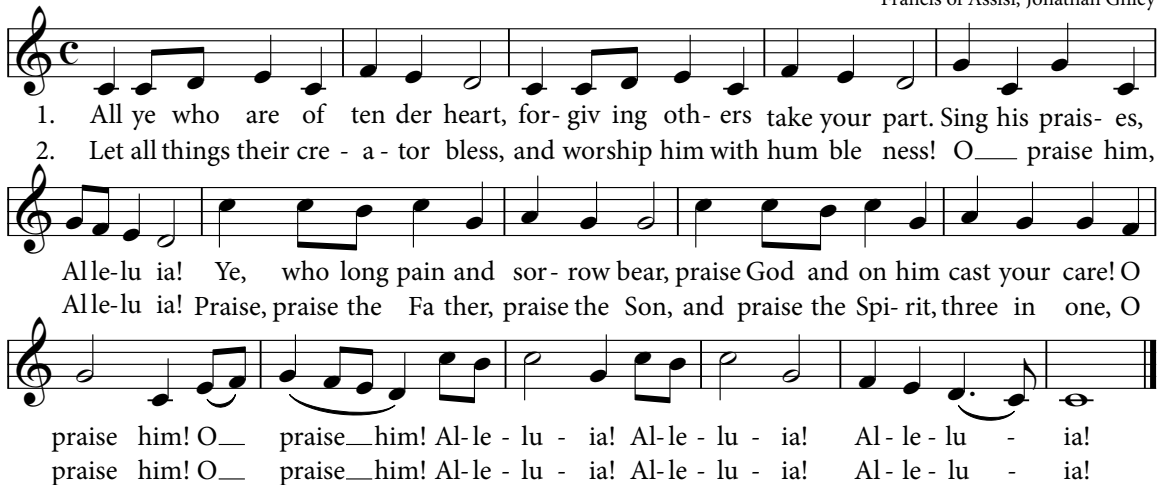
Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
**All incline your ears to my words.**  
Do not forget the works of God,  
**and do not be like your ancestors,**  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
**whose spirit was not faithful to God.**  
They spoke against God, saying,  
**“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”**  
The Lord heard them and he was angry,  
**because they did not trust his saving power.**  
Yet he commanded the skies above,  
**and opened the doors of heaven;**  
he rained down on them manna to eat,  
**and gave them food in abundance.**

*from Psalm 78*

# 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:* Numbers 11:4-10, 31-34

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat!" <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." <sup>7</sup>Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color was like the color of gum resin. <sup>8</sup>The people went around and gathered it, ground it in mills or beat it in mortars, then boiled it in pots and made cakes of it; and the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil. <sup>9</sup>When the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna would fall with it. <sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased.

<sup>31</sup>Then a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quails from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, about two cubits deep on the ground. <sup>32</sup>So the people worked all that day and night and all the next day, gathering the quails; the least anyone gathered was ten homers; and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. <sup>33</sup>But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. <sup>34</sup>So that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had the craving.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading:* John 6:41-44, 47-51

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

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

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Reflection

*"Graves of Desire" – Rev. Chris Currie*

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.*

# Offering and Presentation of Gifts

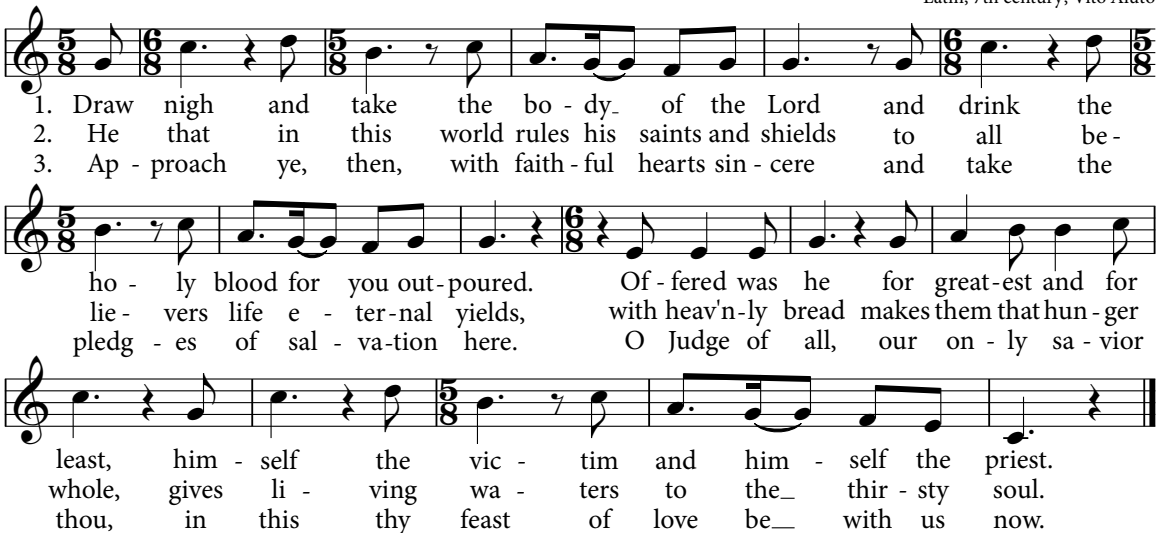
If you'd like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at:

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

## Offertory Song

### *Draw Nigh*

Latin, 7th century; Vito Aiuto



The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a complex, multi-measure rest structure in the first staff, with measures of 6, 8, 5, 6, 8, 6, and 5. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, with the first line containing three numbered verses. The second and third lines continue the lyrics across the two staves.

1. Draw nigh and take the bo - dy\_ of the Lord and drink the  
2. He that in this world rules his saints and shields to all be -  
3. Ap - proach ye, then, with faith - ful hearts sin - cere and take the

ho - ly blood for you out - poured. Of - fered was he for great - est and for  
lie - vers life e - ter - nal yields, with heav'n - ly bread makes them that hun - ger  
pledg - es of sal - va - tion here. O Judge of all, our on - ly sa - vior

least, him - self the vic - tim and him - self the priest.  
whole, gives li - ving wa - ters to the\_ thir - sty soul.  
thou, in this thy feast of love be\_ with us now.

©New Jerusalem Music

*The offering is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at [citychurchphilly.com/give](http://citychurchphilly.com/give). If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give—we're grateful simply for your presence here today.*



# 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

*Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.*

Loving Father, your Son entered a desert of temptation  
yet hungered in prayer and without complaint.  
Though tempted as we are, he did not sin.  
Fill us with your Spirit and strengthen us,  
that we may know your power to save.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you sojourned even to the cross,  
and now the world is yours in all its glory.  
Rescue nations and peoples from the powers of evil,  
from every temptation to violence, greed, and conflict,  
that your provision and peace may be known in all earth.  
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.*

Holy Spirit, you sometimes lead us into wilderness, into trials from sickness, hunger, oppression, and death. Deliver refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger. Relieve the poor and unemployed, free the persecuted, heal the sick, and comfort all who suffer in mind or body. 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 our God, in our sin we avoid your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. We complain against you and do not trust your saving power. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment; and grant us your Spirit; in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silence is kept.*

## Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the God of love  
bring you back to himself,  
forgive you your sins,  
and assure you of his eternal love  
in 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.

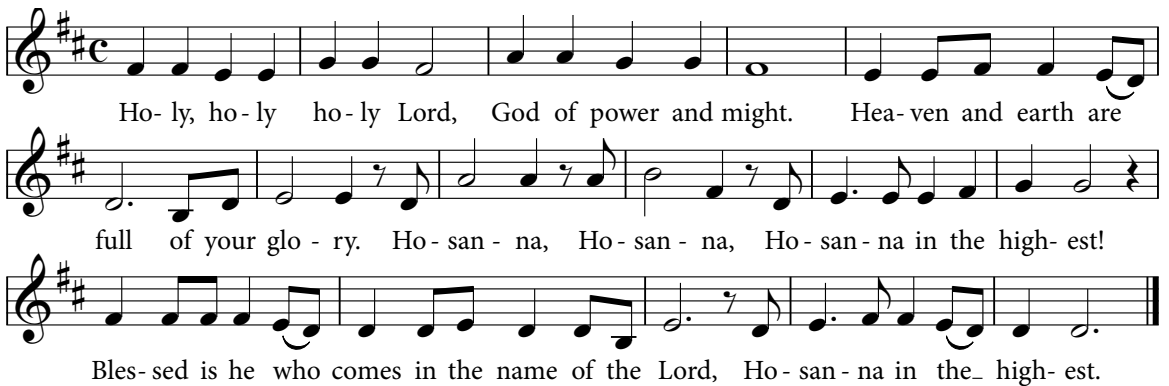
### *GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE*

*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 ("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

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty  
to give thanks to you at all times and in all places,  
O Lord our Creator,  
almighty and everlasting God!  
You created heaven with all its hosts  
and the earth with all its plenty.  
You have given us life and being  
and preserve us by your providence.  
But you have shown us the fullness of your love  
in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ,  
the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation.  
For the precious gift of this mighty Savior  
who has reconciled us to you  
we praise and bless you, O God.  
With your whole Church on earth  
and with all the company of heaven  
we worship and adore your glorious name.  
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,  
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** All praise to you, our God and Father,  
for you have fed us with the bread of heaven  
and quenched our thirst from the true vine.  
Hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ,  
we may grow together in unity  
and feast with him in his kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

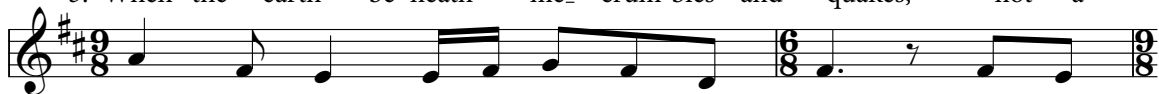
# Blessing and Sending

*In Feast Or Fallow*

Sandra McCracken



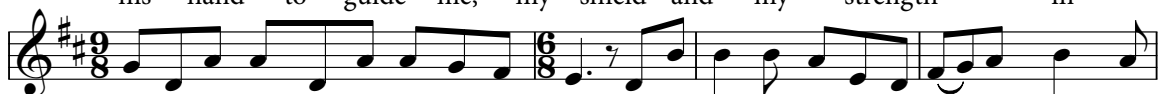
1. When the fields are dry and the win - ter is long, bles - sed  
2. On a cross of wood, his\_ blood was out - poured. He rose  
3. When the earth be - neath me\_ crum - bles and quakes, not a



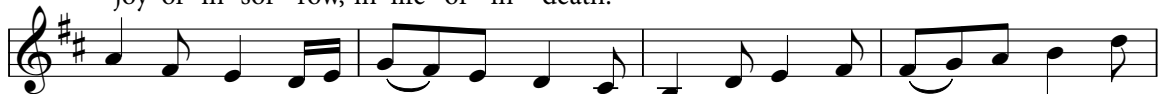
are the meek, the\_ hun - gry, the poor; when my  
from the ground, like a bird to the sky, bring - ing  
spar - row falls, nor a hair from my head with - out



soul is down - cast, and my voice has no song, for  
peace to our vio - lence and cru - shing death's door, our  
his hand to guide me, my shield and my strength in



mer cy, for com fort, I wait on the Lord. In the harvest feast or the fal - low ground, my  
ma ker in - car - nate, our God who pro vides.  
joy or in sor - row, in life or in death.



cer - tain hope is in Je - sus found. My lot, my cup, my por - tion sure, what



e - ver comes, we shall en - dure. What - e - ver comes, we shall en - dure.

CCLI #5759901 ©2010 Drink Your Tea Music

## Benediction

May the Father,  
who fed his children with manna in the wilderness,  
strengthen you in your pilgrimage to the Promised Land;  
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.

Jon Covert: guitar  
Christopher McDonald: piano, vocals  
Cat Ricketts: vocals  
Josh Stamper: bass

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