



City Church
PHILADELPHIA



Sunday September 20, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers
“The Gift of Leaders”

Reflection

We are not our own. When, at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us to go into all the world, making disciples, baptizing, and teaching, he rescues us from despair by his concluding promise that he is always with us, even to the end of the age. Our obedience is made possible through his presence.

— William Willimon, *Calling & Character*

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.

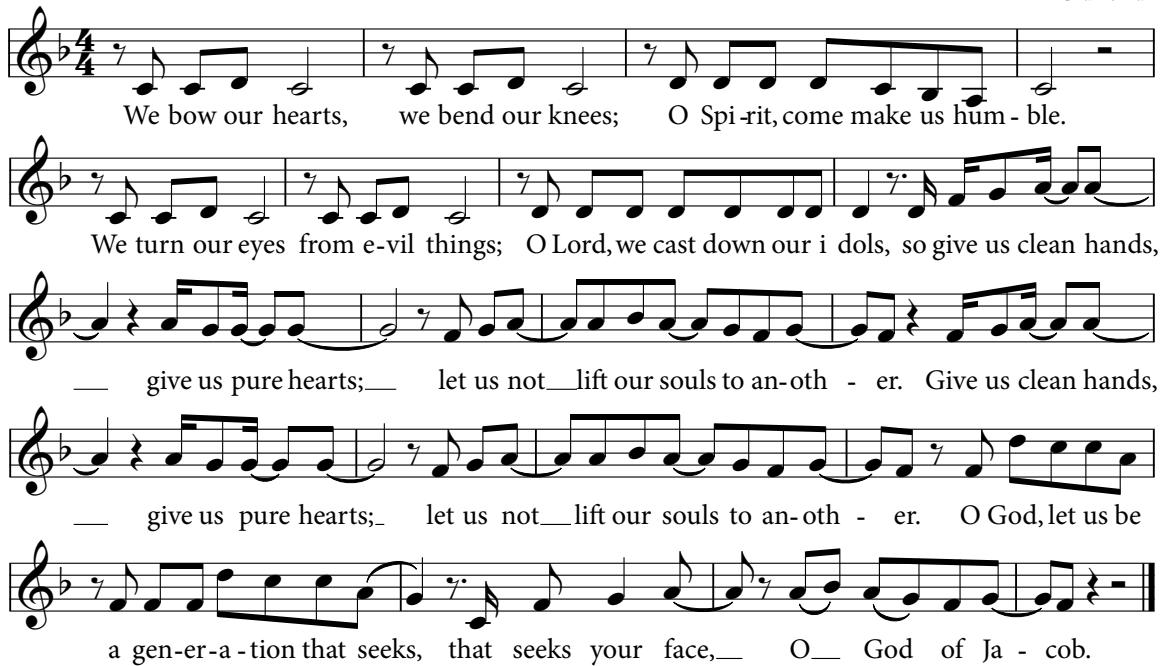
Welcome

- Rev. Chris Currie

Opening Song

Give Us Clean Hands

Charlie Hall



We bow our hearts, we bend our knees; O Spi-rit, come make us hum-ble.

We turn our eyes from e-vil things; O Lord, we cast down our i dols, so give us clean hands,

— give us pure hearts;— let us not lift our souls to an-oth - er. Give us clean hands,

— give us pure hearts;— let us not lift our souls to an-oth - er. O God, let us be

a gen-er-a - tion that seeks, that seeks your face, O God of Ja - cob.

CCLI #2060208 ©2000 worshiptogether.com songs

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.

Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place,
All you and the ark of your might.
Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your faithful shout for joy.
For the sake of your servant David
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
The Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his habitation:
"This is my resting place forever;
here I will reside, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless its provisions;
I will satisfy its poor with bread.
Its priests I will clothe with salvation,
and its faithful will shout for joy."

from Psalm 132

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Doxology

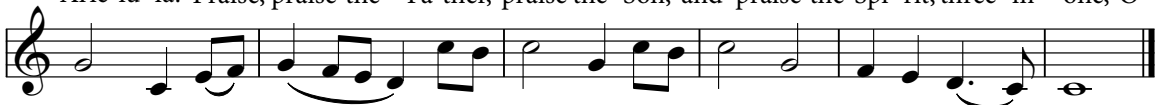
Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



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 11:10-30

¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,’ to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

¹⁶So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take

their place there with you. ¹⁷I will come down and talk with you there; and I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself. ¹⁸And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wailed in the hearing of the Lord, saying, 'If only we had meat to eat! Surely it was better for us in Egypt.' Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹You shall eat not only one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, ²⁰but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you—because you have rejected the Lord who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, 'Why did we ever leave Egypt?'" ²¹But Moses said, "The people I am with number six hundred thousand on foot; and you say, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month!'" ²²Are there enough flocks and herds to slaughter for them? Are there enough fish in the sea to catch for them?" ²³The Lord said to Moses, "Is the Lord's power limited? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not."

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. ²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" ³⁰And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: John 20:19-23

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"The Gift of Leaders" – 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:

citychurchphilly.com/give or libertichurch.org/give

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.

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

Offertory Song

Your Labor Is Not in Vain

Wendell Kimbrough, Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell



1. Your la - bor is not in vain though the ground un - der - neath you is
2. Your la - bor is not un - known, though the rocks they cry out, and the
3. The vine - yards you plant will bear fruit, the fields will sing out and re -
4. The hou - ses you la - bored to build will final - ly with laugh - ter and



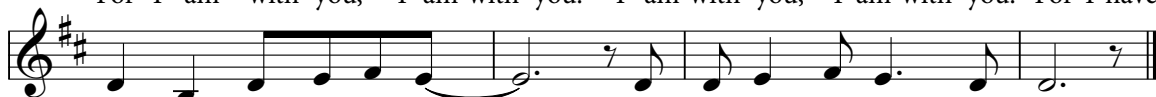
cursed and stained, your plan - ting and reap - ing are
sea it may groan. The place of your toil may not
joice with the truth, for all that is old will at
joy be filled. The ser - pent that hurts and des -



ne - ver the same, but your la - bor is not in vain.
seem like a home, but your la - bor is not un - known.
last be made new: the vi - neyards you plant will bear fruit.
troys shall be killed, and all that is bro - ken be healed.



For I am with you, I am with you. I am with you, I am with you. For I have



called you, called you by name;— your la - bor is not in vain.

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The Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

The minister introduces the candidates, explains the calling of elders and deacons, and then addresses the candidates.

Minister (to the candidates):

Brothers and sisters, before almighty God,
and in the presence of this congregation,
answer sincerely these questions:

Do you confess together with us and the church
throughout the ages
your faith in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Candidate: Yes, truly, with all my heart.

Minister (to the congregation):

Let us all stand with these brothers and sisters,
confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' 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.

The congregation is seated.

Minister (to the candidates):

Do you believe in your heart that you are called by
Christ's church,
and therefore by God, to this office?

Candidate: Yes, truly, with all my heart.

Minister:

Do you believe the books of the Old and New Testaments
to be the Word of God and the perfect doctrine of salva-
tion,
rejecting all contrary beliefs?

Candidate: Yes, truly, with all my heart.

Minister:

Will you be diligent in your study of Holy Scripture
and in your use of the means of grace?
Will you pray for God's people
and lead them by your own example in faithful service
and holy living?

Candidate: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Minister:

Will you accept the church's order and governance,
submitting to ecclesiastical discipline
should you become delinquent in either life or doctrine?

Candidate: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Minister:

Will you be loyal to the witness and work
of the Reformed Church in America,
using all your abilities to further its Christian mission
here and throughout the world?

Candidate: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Minister (to the candidates for the Office of Deacon):

As deacons, will you faithfully, diligently, and cheerfully
manifest Christ's love and care,
gather and distribute the offerings of God's people,
visit and comfort the distressed,
minister to the poor and needy,
and strive to advance God's reign of justice and peace?

Candidate: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Minister (to the candidates for the Office of Elder):

As elders, will you faithfully, diligently, and cheerfully
study God's Word,
oversee the household of faith,
encourage spiritual growth,
maintain loving discipline,
and provide for the proclamation of the gospel
and celebration of the sacraments?

Candidate: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Those to be ordained shall kneel for prayer with the laying on of hands.

The minister gives the declaration of ordination and pastoral charge.

Minister (to the congregation):

Members of City Church,
please rise to affirm your covenant
with the elders and deacons whom God has given us.

Beloved in Jesus Christ,
do you receive in the name of the Lord,
these deacons and elders
as duly elected and ordained servants of Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Minister:

Do you promise to respect them
for the sake of the offices
for which they have been chosen and ordained?

Congregation: We do.

Minister:

Do you promise to encourage and pray for them,
to labor together in obedience to the gospel
for the unity, purity, and peace of the church,
the welfare of the whole world,
and the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Minister:

Beloved people of God,
receive these deacons and elders as Christ's own servants.
Support them in love, that their work may bear fruit.

In the name and by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I declare that these brothers and sisters
are duly installed deacons and elders in this church.

All Thanks be to God.

Prayers

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Almighty and ever loving God,
you taught us to pray for ourselves and for others
and to give thanks for all of life.
May every grace of ministry rest
on these elders and deacons.
Keep them strong and faithful,
that your church may prosper in peace.
Grant them wisdom, courage, discretion,
and benevolence,
that they may fulfill their charge
to the glory of Jesus Christ.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Bestow your grace on this people
that they may support these deacons and elders
with prayer, cooperation, and encouragement,
to guard them from growing weary in doing what is right.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Inspire your whole church
with your Spirit of power, unity, and peace.
Grant that all who trust you
may live together in love.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Lead all nations in the way of justice.
Direct those who govern;
may they be fair, maintain order,
support those in need, and defend the oppressed,
that the whole world may know true peace.
For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

Give grace to all who proclaim the gospel through Word and sacrament and deeds of mercy, that by teaching and example others may come to live for you.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Comfort and deliver, O Lord, all who are in trouble, sorrow, poverty, sickness, and grief. Heal them in body, mind, spirit, or circumstance, working in them, by your grace, wonders beyond their dreams and hopes, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 Father of mercy, you make your resting place among us. You give us every good gift and leaders anointed by your Spirit. Yet we doubt your loving care and fail to heed your calling. Forgive us, for the sake of Christ, and clothe us with salvation.

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.

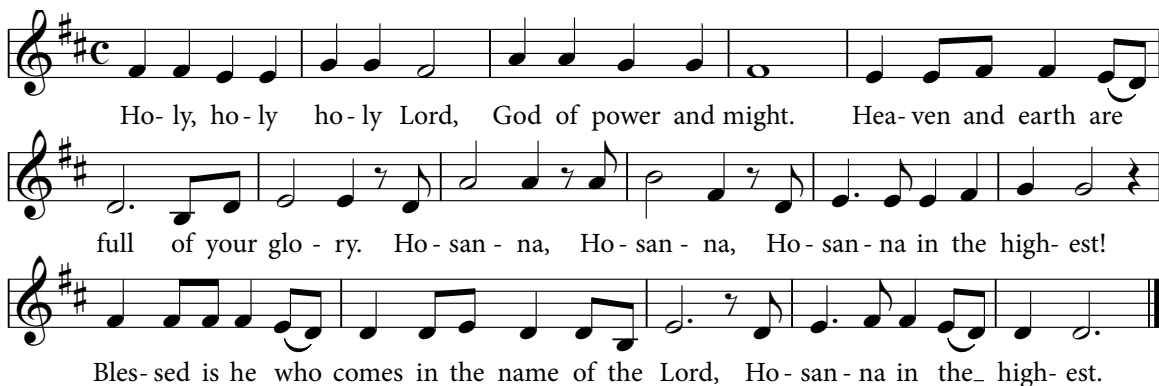
GOD STRENGTHENS US AT HIS TABLE

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.

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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.

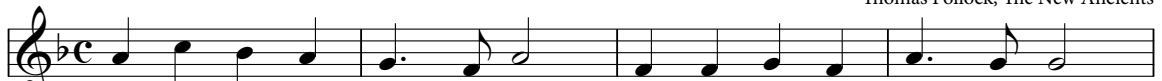
Prayer after Communion

All O God, the provider for all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
by this meal, increase in us your mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing and Sending

We Beseech Thee

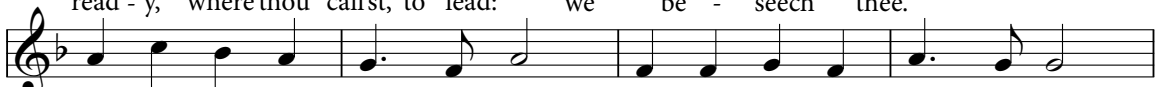
Thomas Pollock, The New Ancients



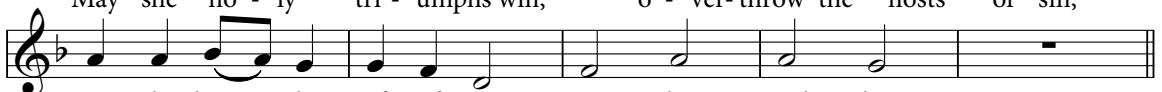
1. Je - sus, with thy church a - bide, be her sa - vior, Lord, and guide,
2. May she one in doc - trine be, one in truth and cha - ri - ty,
3. May her guides thy peo - ple feed, shep herds of the flock in - deed,



while on earth her faith is tried: we be - seech thee.
win ning all_ to faith in thee: we be - seech thee.
read - y, where thou call'st, to lead: we be - seech thee.



All her fet - tered pow'rs re - lease, bid our strife and en - vy cease,
May her lamp of truth be bright, bid her bear a - loft its light
May she ho - ly tri - umphs win, o - ver - throw the hosts of sin,



grant the hea ven - ly gift of peace: we be - seech thee.
through the realms of dark - est night: we be - seech thee.
ga - ther all_ the na tions in, we be - seech thee.



May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost un til she find,



and the bro - ken hear - ted bind: we be - seech thee.

Benediction

May God, the source of truth and love,
keep you faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart;
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 in Rhythms of Renewal, cultivating the habit of faith through the practice of prayer this week: citychurchphilly.com/rhythms or libertichurch.org/rhythms
- Community groups are resuming this week. If you're not yet in one, check out the information under "connect" on either church website.

Jon Covert: guitar

Sarah Long: vocals

Christopher McDonald: piano, vocals

Jeremy McDonald: bass

Matt Scarano: drums

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