



# City Church

PHILADELPHIA

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Sunday January 15, 2017

God Meets Us  
“In Our Unbelief”

## PREPARATION

Gracious God, grant us diligence to seek you and  
patience to wait for you.

*All* Amen.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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.

It is good for me to be near the Lord;

*All* I have made God my refuge, to tell of all his works.

## OPENING SONG

*Immortal, Invisible* - John Roberts, Walter Chalmers Smith

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish – but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

## OPENING RESPONSORIAL

Truly God is good to the upright,  
*All* to those who are pure in heart.  
But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;  
my steps had nearly slipped.  
For I was envious of the arrogant;  
I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
All in vain I have kept my heart clean;  
in vain I washed my hands in innocence.  
But I am continually with you;  
you hold my right hand.  
My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart, my portion forever.

*from Psalm 73*

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

**DOXOLOGY** — Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley

All ye who are of tender heart,  
forgiving others take your part.  
Sing his praises, Alleluia!  
Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on him cast your care!  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit three in one,  
O praise him! O praise him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*All* God our Father,  
you are patient, full of grace and truth;  
you create us from nothing and give us life.  
You do not turn your face from us,  
nor cast us aside.  
We confess that we fail to trust in you,  
and we sin against you and our neighbor.  
We wound your love and mar your image in us.  
Restore us for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* - Robert Robinson,  
Asahel Nettleton

Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God:  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

Give to God your simple praise,  
love and truth are all his ways.  
Grace and joy to God belong;  
sing his mercies in your song.

(repeat)

O my pow'rs of heart and tongue,  
praise my maker in my song.  
Angels, hear the notes I raise:  
prove the song and join the praise.

*Amid a thousand snares I'll stand,  
helped and guarded by your perfect hand.  
Your word my fainting soul revives,  
keeps my dying faith alive,  
keeps my dying faith alive.*

“God,” I cried when troubles rose –  
heard me and subdued my foes,  
all my rising fears controlled,  
strength diffused through all my soul.

(repeat)

As I live, I'll trust his pow'r, in my last departing hour,  
angels trace the airy road, bear me homeward to my God.

## **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.

*Children attending kindergarten and younger are invited to go to their classes at this time. Children in 1st and 2nd grades are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Offering.*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

*Old Testament reading:* Genesis 18:1-15

<sup>1</sup>The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10</sup>Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

<sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” <sup>13</sup>The Lord said to

Continued on back...

Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading: Mark 9:17-24*

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

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

<sup>17</sup>Someone from the crowd called to Jesus, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; <sup>18</sup>and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” <sup>19</sup>He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>20</sup>And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup>It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.” <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

“In Our Unbelief” – The Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

## **OFFERING AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

*The offertory 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're visiting, we are so glad you are worshipping with us, but please do not feel obligated to give.*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Away, My Unbelieving Fear* - Charles Wesley, Jason Pipkin

Away, my unbelieving fear;  
fear shall in me no more have place;  
my savior doth not yet appear;  
he hides the brightness of his face;

*Away, away, away, away...*

But shall I therefore let him go,  
and basely to the tempter yield?  
No, in the strength of Jesus, no!  
I never will give up my shield.

In hope, believing against hope,  
Jesus my Lord and God I claim;  
Jesus my strength shall lift me up,  
salvation is in Jesus' name;

## 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.*

Heavenly Father, nothing is too wonderful for you:  
draw near and grant us grace to trust your promises.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

*All* Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you came among us in our doubts:  
bring life and healing to our faithless generation.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

*All* Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, you are continually with us:  
when we are weak, be our portion and strength.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

*All* Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

*Members of the congregation may add their own intercessions at  
this time, ending with,*

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.

## 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

### *Sanctus*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest!

*The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer and 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.

*We use wine in Communion. Non-alcoholic white grape juice and gluten-free rice cakes are also available if preferred. Please recycle your Communion cup as you leave worship.*

## COMMUNION SONG

*Lord, I Believe* - Howard, Croly, Wardell

Lord, I believe: help thou mine unbelief;  
I see the cross, oh teach my heart to cling;  
hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?  
Spirit, help my unbelief.

Lord, I believe; the hold of sin is strong,  
and stout its heart to pluck me from thy love;  
but stronger is thy grace; oh, raise me up.  
Spirit, help my unbelief.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies;  
I have no constant heart, no kindled faith,  
but take the dimness of my soul away.  
Spirit, help my unbelief.

Lord, I believe, in mercy grant me grace  
to know thee, blesséd Savior, more and more;  
I can do naught without thee; show thy face.  
Spirit, help my unbelief.

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*All* God of truth, we have seen with our eyes  
and touched with our hands the bread of life:  
strengthen our faith  
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## BLESSING AND SENDING

*Wondrous King, All Glorious* — Joachim Neander,  
tr. William J. Schaefer

Wondrous king, all glorious,  
sovereign Lord victorious,  
O, receive our praise with favor!  
From thee welled God's kindness  
though we in our blindness  
strayed from thee, our blessed savior.  
Strengthen thou, help us now;  
let our tongues be singing,  
thee our praises bringing.

Heavens, spread the story  
of our maker's glory,  
all the pomp of earth obscuring.  
Sun, thy rays be sending,  
thy bright beams expending,  
light to all the earth assuring.  
Moon and star, praise afar  
him who glorious made you;  
the vast heavens aid you.

O, my soul, rejoicing,  
sing, thy praises voicing,  
sing, with hymns of faith adore him!  
All who here have being,  
shout, your voices freeing,  
bow down in the dust before him.  
He is God Sabaoth;  
Praise alone the savior,  
here and there for ever.

Hallelujahs render  
to the Lord most tender,  
ye who know and love the savior.  
Hallelujahs sing ye,  
ye redeemed, O, bring ye  
hearts that yield him glad behavior.  
Blest are ye endlessly;  
sinless there for ever,  
ye shall laud him ever.

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## BENEDICTION

### DISMISSAL

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Candy Cason: liturgist

Chris Currie: celebrant

Bethany Brooks: piano, voice

Mark Allen: woodwinds

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to our newsletter for more information about  
community life and church events.

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