

Sunday December 11, 2022 The 3rd Sunday of Advent

A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

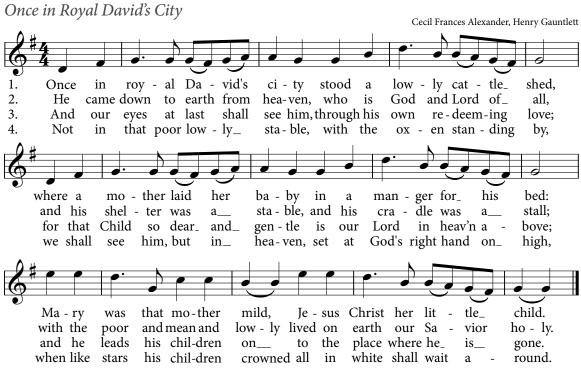
Reflection

The Advent season should come as a reminder to us that we can never be, and should not be, adjusted to the world. We are here to proclaim the reality and the imminence of a wholly other world, a world in which different powers rule and different standards operate. We are here to make it possible for ordinary men and women really to believe this, and therefore to live in hope and readiness.

-Lesslie Newbigin, The Good Shepherd

Preparation

Opening Song (please stand)



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Opening Prayer

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his offspring will strike the serpent's head.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

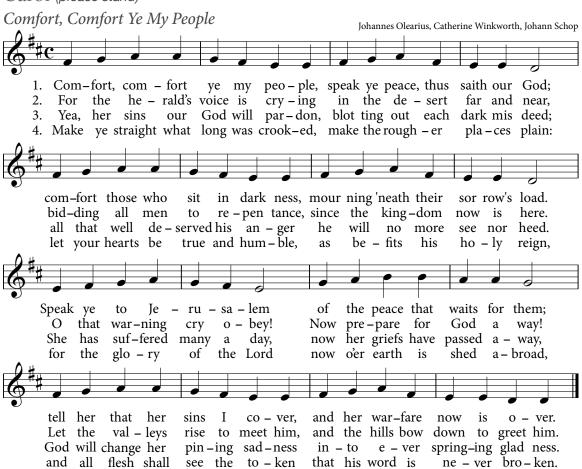
⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel…"

¹⁷And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Carol (please stand)



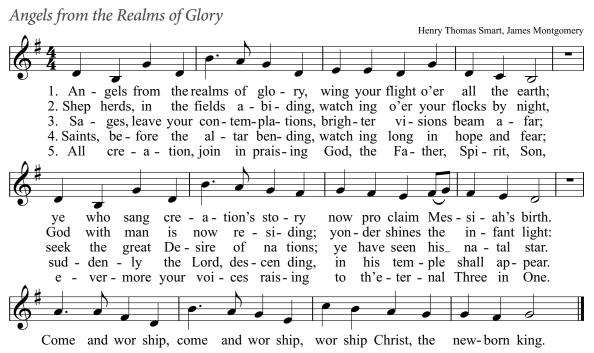
Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to bless the earth through Abraham's offspring.

¹⁵The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."





Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

⁶For a shild has been born for us

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol (please stand)

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Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.

The 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.

Musical Response (please remain seated)

The Lamb - text by William Blake, music by John Tavener, arr. Christopher McDonald

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee, Little Lamb I'll tell thee! He is called by thy name, For he calls himself a Lamb: He is meek & he is mild, He became a little child: I a child & thou a lamb, We are called by his name. Little Lamb God bless thee. Little Lamb God bless thee.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel greets Mary.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God..."

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol (please stand)

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Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁶And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol (please stand)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain



Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men seek Jesus.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

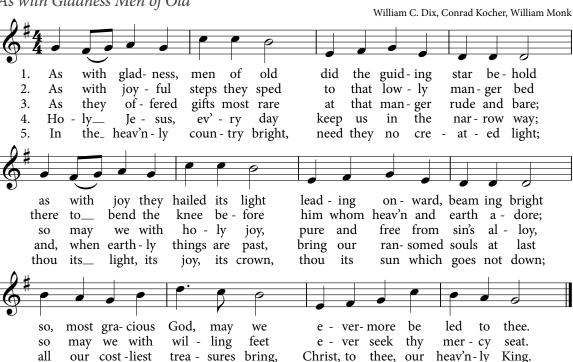
⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol (please stand)

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Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection

Rev. Chris Currie

Musical Response (please remain seated)

shimmer of another river - Joshua Stamper

O Oriens - Malcolm Guite

First light and then first lines along the east
To touch and brush a sheen of light on water,
As though behind the sky itself they traced
The shift and shimmer of another river
Flowing unbidden from its hidden source;
The Day-Spring, the eternal Prima Vera.
Blake saw it too. Dante and Beatrice
Are bathing in it now, away upstream . . .
So every trace of light begins a grace
In me, a beckoning. The smallest gleam
Is somehow a beginning and a calling:
'Sleeper awake, the darkness was a dream
For you will see the Dayspring at your waking,
Beyond your long last line the dawn is breaking.'

Sending Carol (Please stand)



Benediction

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

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

All Thanks be to God.

Musicians

Christopher McDonald: piano, voice

Sarah Long: voice

Peace Ike: voice, percussion

Bethany Danel Brooks: keyboards, voice

Tyler Bussey: guitar, banjo

Joshua Stamper: guitar Alec Spiegelman: winds

Koofreh Umoren: trumpet, flugelhorn

Matt Scarano: drums Jeremy McDonald: bass

Choir: Kim Dengler, Mary Thompson, Abigail Sparrow, Allison Sparrow, Mekenzie Williams, Ted Voboril, Kari Sexauer, Sarah Kleinschmidt, Elisa Chodan, Emily Evilsizor

Arrangements by Christopher McDonald, Joshua Stamper, and Bethany Danel Brooks, with additional contributions from Alec Spiegelman

Bulletin cover art by Janelle Delia

Sanctuary Art Installation: Coming by Kately Towsley

Coming is an Advent-themed textile installation work that features nine hanging cloths. Each cloth is covered in handwritten text that corresponds with the nine scriptures read at our service this evening. The words on the cloth are tangible, paralleling our celebration of the Word's incarnation in Christ's first coming. The cloth is also hung in a way that could be interpreted as ascending or descending, just as the Word has been given to us from heaven and yet is lifted up again through our contemplation and worship.

The painted abstract on cloth at the front of the sanctuary above the baptistery is inspired by the poem, 'O Oriens' (see page 20).

May these works and words enrich our consideration, remembrance, and adoration of our Lord Jesus who has come— and will surely come again.

CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS Gathering missionally throughout the week for times of service, fellowship, prayer, and deeper study of the Scriptures. Groups range in size from 10-15 people, and most meet weekly. If you are looking for a way to connect with and care for the people around you, join the group nearest you! Go to www.resurrectionphl.org/communitygroups to see more details and to reach out to a group leader for one of the groups below.

West Philly

- · 45th & Larchwood, Sundays 9am
- · 48th & Larchwood, Thursdays 7:00pm
- · 48th & Walton, every other Sunday 4pm
- · 48th & Baltimore, every other Thursday 6:45pm
- · Spruce Hill Area, Tuesdays 7pm

Western Burbs

 Western Burbs (Zoom), every other Thursday, 8pm

Center-City

· Old City, Wednesdays 6:45p

Fairmount

- · Fairmount #1, weekly, Sundays 4pm
- Fairmount #2, 1st & 3rd Sundays 5pm at Common Table

South Philly

- Passyunk Square, various meeting times during the month
- · Italian Market, Wednesdays, 7pm
- · Point Breeze, Tuesdays, 7pm

FAMILY MINISTRIES come alongside families as they disciple their children, seeking to help them cultivate friendships, connect with the wider church community, and grow into maturity as people of faith.

- Children's Ministry. Our Sunday morning children's classes use a gospel-centered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to help children find their place in God's big story. Children leave the service at the Passing of the Peace. Elementary age children return during the hymn of response. The "Ends of the Earth" Sunday evening program runs on nights we have Common Table and invites kids to explore what it means to be a global disciple of Christ through music, games, and age-group classes. Contact Terri Taylor, terri@resurrectionphl.org
- Resurrection Youth, Sundays 5-7 pm. Students and Volunteer Leaders gather at the Center City building to hang out, play games, and explore questions of faith and belonging to Christ. Contact Elizabeth Bassett, youthleader@resurrectionphl.org

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Resurrection hosts a weekly group for undergrads that meets on Penn's campus at 7pm each Wednesday. Both undergraduate and graduate students are also invited to participate in a student fellowship that will meet during Resurrection's Common Table gathering that happens on 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings. Reach out to Ryan McCormick (ryan@resurrectionphl. org) for more information about these events.

GROW

Resurrection is a community committed to growing in our life of joy and peace through communion with God in Christ. God uses many means to form his children into his likeness. As a church family, Resurrection seeks to become more like Jesus by engaging spiritual practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Join "Resurrection Rhythms" to foster spiritual growth through practices resurrectionphl.org/practices
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox resurrectionphl.org/daily-prayer to help you get started.

GIVE

The intentional financial participation of those who consider Resurrection Philadelphia their church home is vital. If you are not already tithing regularly, please prayerfully consider doing so. Our desire in giving is not only to meet our own needs but to be able to serve others in our city and neighborhoods. Here are a few ways that you can contribute financially to Resurrection Philadelphia:

- · Give online | resurrectionphl.org/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select Resurrection Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: Resurrection Philadelphia, 123 S 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

SERVE

We seek to be a church that demonstrates the love of Christ to our city. This year, our deacons have cultivated partnerships with several local organizations. To view current opportunities to serve, please visit https://www.resurrectionphl.org/serve-city



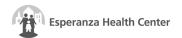






REDEMPTION HOUSING









ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cookies, Cocoa & Carols at Woodland Annex, Sunday, Dec. 18 at 4 pm All are welcome to come to the Annex (42nd + Pine) for Christmas caroling, cookies & cocoa. If the weather is good, we'll have a firepit going — if inclement, we'll move inside to Kirk Hall.

Serve Breakfast with Emmanuel on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve Emmanuel ministry, which provides meals for neighbors experiencing food insecurity, is looking for volunteers to help on Saturday, December 24 and Saturday, December 31. Sign up at resurrectionphl.org/emmanuel if you can help!

Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm All are welcome to a familyfriendly Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24 at 5 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

- **18** Cookies, Cocoa & Carols @ Woodland, 4 pm
- **24** Christmas Eve Service @ CC, 5 pm
- 25 Worship Service @ CC, 10:30 am

January

- 1 Worship Service @ WCHS, 10:30am
- 22 Faith + Work Common Table @ CC, 5 pm

Help us welcome you.

Children & their ages: If undergrad or grad student, school & year: Address:	
Phone number(s): Email(s):	
Please send me: Weekly Newsletter Morning & Evening Prayer Please contact me about: Community Groups Neighborhood Service Opportunities Volunteering on Sundays Children's & Youth Ministries Meeting with a Pastor Other:	ARVACY, FLOWCODE CON
Prayer Requests Our staff prays weekly on Tuesdays, and our deacons pray monthly of Fill out your name above if you'd like to be prayed for by name.	on 4th Sundays.

Please tear off this back page and place in the box by the welcome table.



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