

Sunday December 19, 2021 The 4th Sunday of Advent

"YET I WILL REJOICE"

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today for worship! We hope you find Resurrection Philadelphia to be a warm, welcoming community--regardless of your background, beliefs, or life situation. To that end, we recognize that certain parts of the service may feel unfamiliar, so we've provided brief explanations throughout the bulletin.

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 website <u>resurrectionphl.org</u> for more information about worship and ways to connect further to this church community. We are glad you are joining us and look forward to meeting you.

The Pastoral Staff
 Chris Currie, Scott Jennings

Reflection

My faith is not a magic charm, like garlic to chase away vampires. It is, instead, what sustains me in the midst of all the normal joys and tragedies of the ordinary human life. It is faith that helps my grief to be creative, not destructive.... It is faith that what happens to me matters to God as well as to me that gives me joy, that promises me that I am eternally the subject of God's compassion, and that assures me that the compassion was manifested most brilliantly when God came to us in a stable in Bethlehem.

-Madeleine L'Engle, The Rock that is Higher

Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST

ORDINARY TIME

Advent is a season of hopeful expectation and preparation, as the Church anticipates the coming of Christ – both at his birth in Bethlehem many years ago, and at his future, final coming to judge the world at the end of time. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Lord, so that when he comes, he may find us watching and waiting.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reading

Isaiah 35:10

And those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

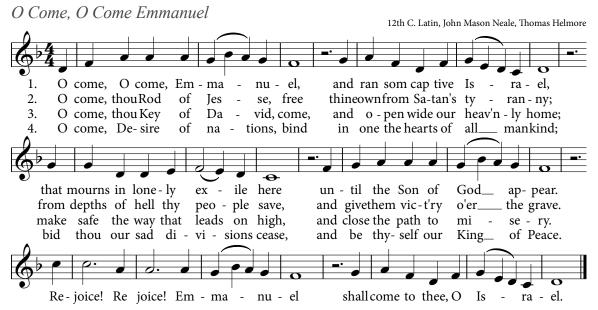
All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

The light shines in the darkness,

All and the darkness has not overcome it.

Opening Song



Opening of Worship

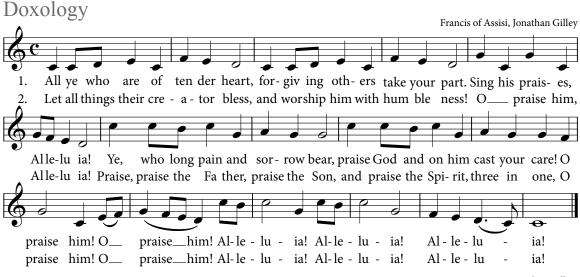
Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

All Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation



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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.

Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Silence is kept.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the Lord enrich you with his grace and nourish you with his blessing; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All Amen.

Song of Praise and Adoration



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 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 Word of God

Old Testament reading: Habakkuk 3:1-6, 16-19

¹A prayer of the prophet Habakkuk according to Shigionoth. ²O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy.

³God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. ⁴The brightness was like the sun; rays came forth from his hand, where his power lay hidden. ⁵Before him went pestilence, and plague followed close behind. ⁶He stopped and shook the earth; he looked and made the nations tremble. The eternal mountains were shattered; along his ancient pathways the everlasting hills sank low.

¹⁶I hear, and I tremble within; my lips quiver at the sound. Rottenness enters into my bones, and my steps tremble beneath me. I wait quietly for the day of calamity to come upon the people who attack us. ¹⁷Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 1:39-45

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the mountains of Judea. ⁴⁰She went to Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the unborn baby inside Elizabeth jumped. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She cried out in a loud voice, "God has blessed you more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby which you will give birth to. ⁴³You are the mother of my Lord, and you have come to me! Why has something so good happened to me? ⁴⁴When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped with joy. ⁴⁵You are blessed because you believed what the Lord said to you would really happen."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

"Yet I Will Rejoice" - Dr. Cyndi Parker

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.

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

God, the mighty God, bend down in love to the world you have made. Visit it with your righteousness and peace. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

God with us, God beside us, we pray for those in sickness, grief, persecution, bondage, fear, and loneliness.

Come to them with your comfort, help, and healing. 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.

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.

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.

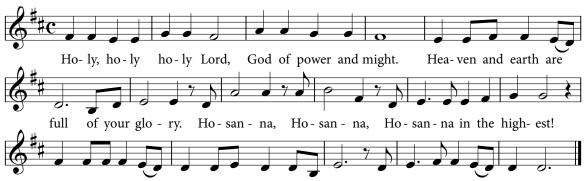
The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and hope.

And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you and singing:

Sanctus



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, forever 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:

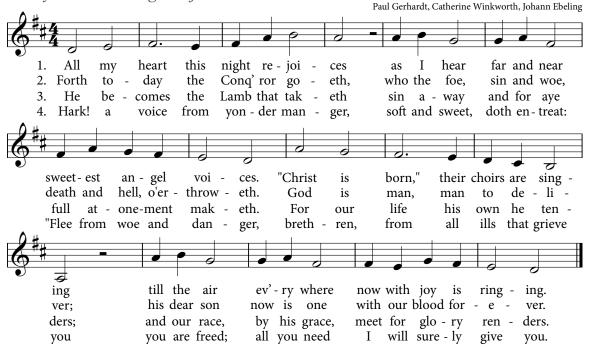
Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Communion Song

All My Heart This Night Rejoices



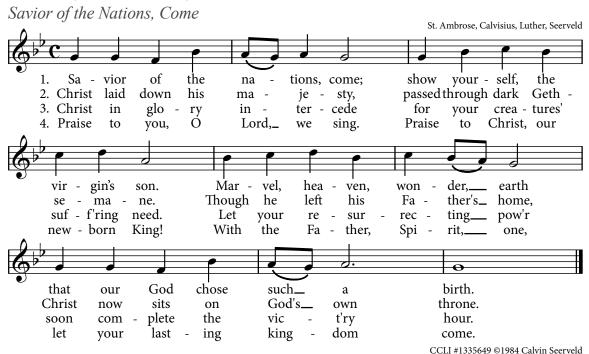
5. Come, then, banish all your sadness, one and all, great and small; come with songs of gladness.

Love him who with love is glowing; hail the star, near and far light and joy bestowing.

Prayer after Communion

All Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised savior:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation.

Blessing and Sending



Benediction

May God the Holy Spirit by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love; 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.

If you'd like to contribute to the work of our church, you can do so at the address below or text any amount to the number 84321. resurrectionphl. org/give

Resurrection Philadelphia office & mailing location: 123 S 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Announcements

Carols, Cocoa + Cookies Today @ 4 pm Join us for a family-friendly time of singing, enjoying cookies and a campfire at the Woodland Lawn today at 4 pm. This is an outdoor event, so dress warmly!

Christmas Eve Service on Friday, December 24 at 5 pm Join us for a candlelight Christmas Eve Service at the Center City building on Friday, December 24 at 5 pm. There is no childcare, but the service is extremely kid-friendly. A reception with cocoa and cookies will follow.

Join us for worship on December 26 and January 2 at 9:30 am in Center City There will be no W Philly 11 am service on these dates, and no Children's Church on December 26. We will have Children's Church in Center City on January 2.

Officer Nominations Now Open! Our Officer Nomination committee is looking for nominations for elder and deacon. Nominations will close Sunday, January 16 at 5 pm. For details on what we're looking for and how to nominate someone, visit resurrectionphl.org/nominations.

Art of Hard Conversations: How Do You Feel About Race? Saturday, January 15 at 10 am. Join us as we talk with a diverse panel about how it feels to walk through spaces like the church, academy, and social media with different colors of skin. How do historical events influence the current experience in place? Do we "think" about race differently than we "feel" about race? Panelists are Ruth Naomi Floyd, Rasool Berry, and Michael Chen. Register at resurrectionphl.org/conversations.

Winter Coat Collection for Emmanuel We're gathering men's and women's gently used winter coats, hats and gloves to distribute to the community members who take part in the Emmanuel meals (served from our Center City building). Please drop items in the box in the entry lobby in Center City. Coats will be distributed on a rolling basis.

Bartholomew Mailing Address Tis the season for Christmas cards! If you'd like to send one to Tuck and Stacy Bartholomew, you can send it to their VA address: 1602 Hardwood Ave, Charlottesville, VA 22903



Please provide us your feedback as we together seek to refine our gathered worship each week.

Musicians

Center City

Sarah Long: guitar, voice

Tom Kraines: cello

West Philly

Joshua Stamper: guitar, voice Mike Cemprola: saxophone

Jaron Olevsky: bass Chuck Staab: drums

Liturgist

Center City

Lindsay Kimball

West Philly

Jennifer Cho

Scripture Reading

Center City

Katie Burrows-Stone

West Philly

Jennifer Cho

Celebrant

Rev. Chris Currie

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Help us welcome you.

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

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



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