

Sunday December 3, 2023 The 1st Sunday of Advent

"MARY'S SONG"

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.

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

Sunday Information

- Nursery + Children's Ministry: Check-in available at both 17th and Sansom Street entrances.
 - Nursery for children 6-30 months: Available for the duration of the service.
 - Sunday School for ages 30 months through 5th grade: Children are dismissed to class just before the sermon; K-5th graders return in time for communion.
 - For nursing mothers seeking privacy, there's a room behind the SE exit from the Sanctuary where the service can be watched.
- Accessibility: A street level entrance is available on Sansom Street, and an elevator providing access to all other levels can be accessed there. Assistive listening devices are available; to request one, please see one of the greeters.
- **Restrooms**: Men's and Women's restrooms are on the lower level; two single-user restrooms open to anyone are available on the 2nd floor.
- **Coffee Hou**r: After the service, located in the Community room, behind the front of the Sanctuary. All are welcome!
- **Parking/Transportation**: Free parking for worship is available at the Liberty Place Garage. Get a timed ticket when you enter the garage, and a chaser ticket (validation ticket) at church. Limited bike and stroller parking at the Sansom lobby, as well as single journey SEPTA passes.

Reflection

In a very real sense, the Christian community lives in Advent all the time. It can well be called the Time Between, because the people of God live in *the time between* the first coming of Christ, incognito in the stable in Bethlehem, and his second coming, in glory, to judge the living and the dead.... Advent contains within itself the crucial balance of the now and the not-yet that our faith requires.

-Fleming Rutledge, Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ

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

NW Philly community group

Reading: Isaiah 52:9

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory forever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Savior of all.

All Blessed be God forever.

Opening Song Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, Rowland Pritchard



Opening of Worship

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

All And also with you.

Responsive Reading

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

All with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

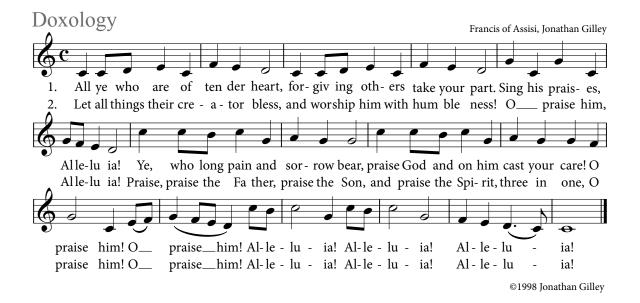
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to my servant David:

'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

from Psalm 89

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving



Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives. Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Silence is kept.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May almighty God forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will, and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

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.

Song of Praise and Adoration

Mary's Song Wendell Kimbrough 1. My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord; re - joi - ces in_ God! my spi - rit the hum-ble and 2. He scat-ters the proud and rich; he lifts up weak. 3. From now to the end of time, the na-tions will know me as_ blest My vior has__ sa seen his ser - vant in_ The kings of the__ casts from their earth, he for God has made his pro - mise of____ new 1. things he need, and be - hold the great has done: wel-comes to thrones, and the hun gry he feast. love and_ mer cy through A - bra - ham's seed. -2.,3. Oh, be - hold, my sa - vior has come! And my soul will tell of his praise for he who is strong has come to the weak and, at of he will last, reign as our king peace. ©2014 Wendell Kimbrough

Installation of Elders

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

Minister (to the candidates):

Brothers, 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?

Candidates: Yes, truly, with all my heart.

Minister (to the congregation):

Let us all stand with these brothers, 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?

Candidates: 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 salvation, rejecting all contrary beliefs?

Candidates: 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?

Candidates: 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?

Candidates: 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?

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

Minister:

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?

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

The minister gives the pastoral charge.

Minister (to the congregation):

Members of Resurrection, please rise to affirm your covenant with the elders whom God has given us.

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

Congregation: We do.

Minister:

Do you promise to respect them for the sake of the office 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 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 are duly installed elders in this church.

All Thanks be to 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.

Pre-school children are invited to go to their classes at this time. Elementary children through grade 5 are invited to Children's Church and will return during the Song of Response, following the Reflection.

The Word of God

Old Testament reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-11

¹Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. ²"There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world. ⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. ¹⁰The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."

¹¹Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, while the boy remained to minister to the Lord, in the presence of the priest Eli.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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. Gospel reading: Luke 1:39-56

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection "Mary's Song" – Rev. Chris Currie

Offertory Behold the Lamb of God - Andrew Peterson © New Spring Publishing Inc.

We who walk in darkness deep Now see the light of morning The Mighty God, the Prince of Peace A child to us is born

Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away our sin Behold the Lamb of God The life and light of men Behold the Lamb of God Who died and rose again Behold the Lamb of God who comes To take away our sin

Wanderers in the wilderness O hear a voice is crying Prepare the way, make straight the path Your King has come to die

Son of God (Emmanuel) Son of Man (We praise you) Behold (Behold) the Lamb The hope (the hope) of man

When encouraging the early church toward generosity, the Apostle Paul pointed to Jesus' giving of himself:

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich" - 2 Corinthians 8:8-9

If you'd like to contribute to the work of our church, you can do so by scanning the QR code at the left or text any amount to the number 84321. The offering is part of our worship together, an opportunity to participate in the ministry of Resurrection. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to give— we're grateful simply for your presence here today.



resurrectionphl.org/give

Communion

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

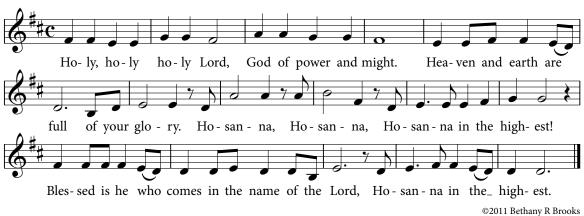
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For in the coming of the Lord Jesus the day of our deliverance has dawned, and through him you will make all things new as he comes in power and triumph to judge the world. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and singing:



Sanctus

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.

Prayers for Reflection

Prayer for those searching | Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer of belief | Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weak and sinful, but through you, I am loved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death in order to offer me forgiveness and renewal. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord.

Prayer for those struggling | Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and faithfully follow you in life.

Communion Song

Take It Easy Paul Zach, Kate Bluett, Matt Maher, Isaac Wardell Take it God al-read-y loves you com-plete - ly. eas у, eas y. Fine Take it rest in the shade of his wings. eas eas _ у, у, Lay down your bur- dens and rest for a while. The Shep-herd who seeks you is 1. Lay down the scales where you weigh out your life. The mea sures are emp - ty, just 2. Lay down the ar - mor you brought to the fight. Lay down your weap-ons and 3. and kind. There's no-thing to pay___ for and gen - tle no - thing to earn and leave them be - hind. The dis-tance be-tween his two hands are e-nough to God's on your side_ and he won't let you go;_ lav down vour strife. he 1.2. 3. D.C. al Fine no-thing you have_ to be - come._ won't ask you to be_some-thing more. tell you the depths of his love.___ al - read - y loves who you are, ©2023 The Porter's Gate

Prayer after Communion

All Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith. Amen.

Blessing and Sending My Savior's Love Endures

Jennie Lee Riddle, JJ and Dave Heller



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Benediction

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness; 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.

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)

After the service, ministers and elders of the church will be stationed at the front of the sanctuary to offer healing prayer and anointing with oil for those seeking God's healing in any aspect of life: physical, relational, emotional, psychological, or spiritual. If you come for healing prayer, you will not be asked any personal questions about your situation, only for your consent to be anointed with oil on your forehead. Receiving healing prayer and anointing with oil only takes a few seconds, but the practice can be a powerful way to experience God's help in our weakness. Musicians Christopher McDonald: piano, voice Rachel Allison: voice John Taylor-Baranik: guitar, voice Jaron Olevsky: keyboards Liturgist Arlene Navarro

Scripture Reading Philip Kuhl

Celebrant Rev. Scott Jennings

Resurrection Philadelphia CCLI License #2772464. Scriptures quoted from the NRSV bible © 1989 NCCCUSA.

CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS gather across the city and region on varying frequencies (weekly/bi-weekly), with the intent of taking up basic practices of fellowship, prayer, and study of the Scriptures. Groups range in size from 10-15 people.

CONNECTION GROUPS provide connection to the life of the church and to one another via shared interests or other affinity (such as mens or womens groups, study groups, prayer groups, service groups, etc.).

To see current groups, visit **resurrectionphl.org/groups** or scan the QR code at right.

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. Contact Terri Taylor, terri@resurrectionphl.org
- **Resurrection Youth.** Students Grades 6-12 and Volunteer Leaders gather regularly to hang out, play games, and explore questions of faith and belonging to Christ. Youth Group meets most Sundays from 4-6 pm at the Center City building. For more info, contact Paul Burkhart at paul@ resurrectionphl.org.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS During

the academic year, our university ministry hosts speaker series and dinner discussion groups on campus. Both undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate. We also host regular Sunday brunches for graduate students. 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



Announcements

Do You Get Resurrection News?

If not, sign up using the form at the bottom of resurrectionphl. org, or by filling out the welcome form at the end of this bulletin.

Bring a Friend to Lessons & Carols!

In lieu of our morning service next Sunday, we'll have one 5 pm service of Lessons & Carols in Center City. This service features traditional and lesser-known Christmas music arranged and performed by musicians from Philly's jazz, classical, and indie scenes, as well as readings that retell the story of Jesus's birth. This service is a Christmas tradition that traces its roots to England in 1880. Childcare for children 3 years and younger will be available.

Gathering at Woodland today at 4:30 pm

All are welcome for a time of fellowship, singing, and communion, followed by a potluck dinner, at Woodland's Kirk Hall (42nd/Pine) today at 4:30 pm.

Cookies & Carols at Woodland on December 17

All are welcome to Cocoa, Cookies & Carols at the Woodland Annex on Sunday, December 17 at 3:30 pm. Weather permitting, we'll have a fire pit going! There will be a train set up for kids to enjoy, we'll provide cocoa, and you can bring some cookies from home to round out the table!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

3: Woodland Gathering

- 7: Toddler Free Play
- 10: Lessons & Carols Service, 5 pm (no AM service)
- 17: Cookies & Carols at Woodland Annex
- 24: No AM service; 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service

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 Prayer	
Please contact me about:	
Community Groups	
Neighborhood Service Opportunities	
□ Volunteering on Sundays	
□ Children's & Youth Ministries	
Meeting with a Pastor	PRIVACY, FLOWCODE.COM
Other:	

Prayer Requests

Our staff prays weekly on Tuesdays, and our deacons pray monthly on 4th Sundays. Fill out your name above if you'd like to be prayed for by name.

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



resurrectionphl.org