

Sunday December 31, 2023 The First Sunday of Christmas

"SIMEON'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 Hour: 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

Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited.

-Thomas Merton, Raids on the Unspeakable

### Church Calendar

ADVENT CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

**EASTER** 

PENTECOST

**ORDINARY TIME** 

Christmas celebrates God's incarnation, which means "in the flesh." Christmas is all about the amazing truth that God took on our flesh, our bones, and our human life. The task of the Christmas liturgy is to recall us, amid all the joyful customs and celebrations of Christmas, to this central truth of the Word made flesh for our salvation.

### Welcome

# Opening Song



# 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.

## Responsive Reading

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

All Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted:

his glory is above earth and heaven.

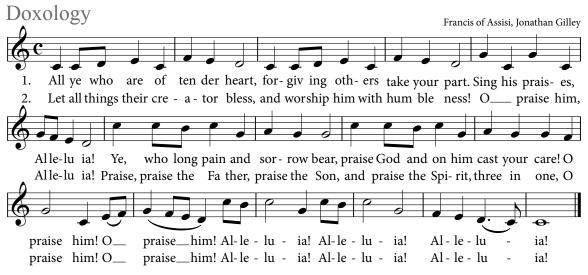
He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful.

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

from Psalm 148

# Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving



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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

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Silence is kept.

### Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

# Song of Praise and Adoration



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.

### 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.

### The Word of God

Old Testament reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

- <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name
- and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- <sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 2:21-35

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

### Reflection

"Simeon's Song" - Paul Burkhart

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.

### Offertory

### Of the Father's Love Begotten

Prudentius, Baker, Neale, Bush

Of the Father's love begotten ere the world began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face evermore and evermore.

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord; whom the scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word. Now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise the Lord evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; all dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be, honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore.

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

#### 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.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. Jesus, Savior,

All hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. Jesus, Savior,

All hear our prayer.

Christ, worshiped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. Jesus, Savior,

All 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.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. Jesus, Savior,

#### All hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. Jesus, Savior,

#### All hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

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

Jesus, Savior,

#### All 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.

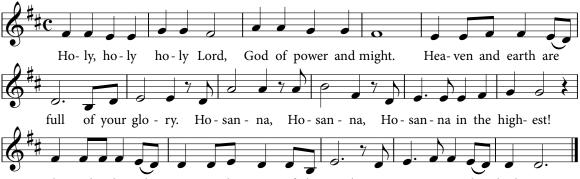
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

### The Eucharistic Prayer

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 mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. 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.

©2011 Bethany R Brooks

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.

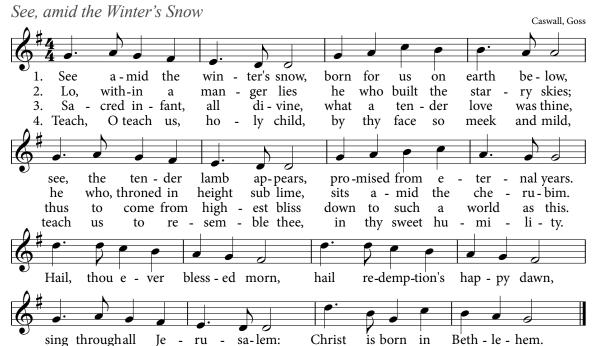
### **Prayers for Reflection**

**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



# Prayer after Communion

All Praise to you,
almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,
now and forever.
Amen.

# Blessing and Sending

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts, George Frideric Handel



### Benediction

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; 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

Sarah Long: guitar, voice Michael Brinley: guitar, voice

Charlie Muench: bass Matt Scarano: drums

### Liturgist

Jennifer Cho

#### **Scripture Reading**

Laurel Garver

#### Celebrant

Rev. Chris Currie

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### 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





REDEMPTION HOUSING















#### **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.

#### **Year-end Giving to Resurrection**

If you would like to make a year-end gift to Resurrection, you can find information on how to give online and by several other means at resurrectionphl.org/give.

#### Centering Discipleship Seminar on Saturday, Jan 13

How can we renew the intentional practice of being disciples who live into Jesus' Great Commission and make disciples of others? Join us for an interactive seminar with Dr. Eun Strawser, who will share insights from her book *Centering Discipleship* and help us think through how we can not only become more attentive to our own journey towards closeness to God, but also feel equipped to invite others along the journey. Register at resurrectionphl.org/upcoming-events.

#### **Sherpa Training on Saturday, February 3**

The digital world you encountered as a child differs vastly from the one your child must navigate. How will you help them through it? What safety skills will you teach them? How will you help them learn to make wise choices? As a parent, how do you match developmental maturity with appropriate internet access? What can you do to preserve trust? Join us for a morning with Julie Lowe, licensed professional counselor and author of *Safeguards* and *Childproof: Parenting by Faith, Not Formula*. The morning will include a Q & A with Julie as well as lunch with parents-of-peers groupings to discuss developing shared frameworks and practices. Sign up at resurrectionphl.org/upcoming-events.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### **January**

13: Centering Discipleship

#### **February**

3: Parenting & Technology

# 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 r""'ılılı
Please contact me about:	
☐ Community Groups	
☐ Neighborhood Service Opportunities	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
<ul><li>□ Volunteering on Sundays</li><li>□ Children's &amp; Youth Ministries</li></ul>	
☐ Meeting with a Pastor	PRIVACY, FLOWCODE, COM
☐ Other:	
Prayer Requests	
Our staff prays weekly on Tuesdays, and our deacons pray monthly Fill out your name above if you'd like to be prayed for by name.	y on 4th Sundays.

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



resurrectionphl.org