



Sunday, December 8, 2019

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

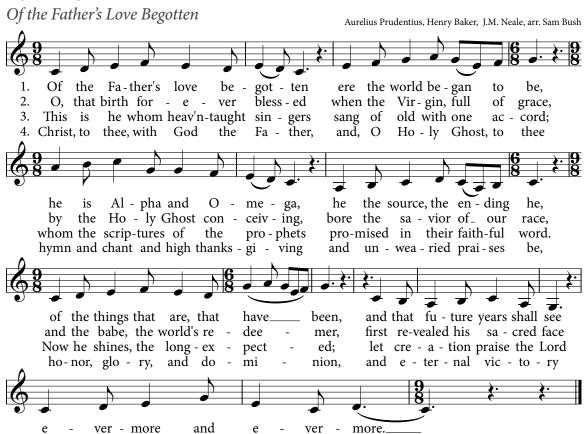
Reflection

That is the Gospel, this meeting of darkness and light and the final victory of light. That is the fairy tale of the Gospel with, of course, the one crucial difference from all other fairy tales, which is that the claim made for it is that it is true, that it not only happened once upon a time but has kept on happening ever since and is happening still.

- Frederick Buechner, Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy, and Fairy Tale

Preparation

Opening Carol (Please stand)



ver

Opening Prayer

Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever 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.

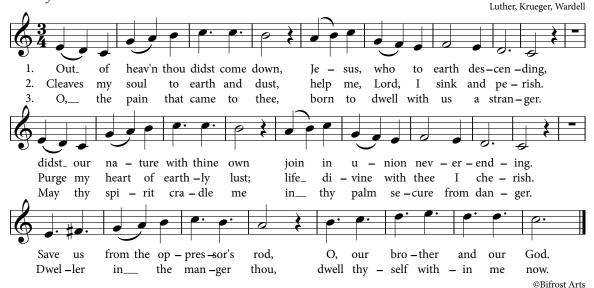
⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

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."

Out of Heaven



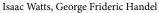
Second Lesson

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."

Joy to the World





Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

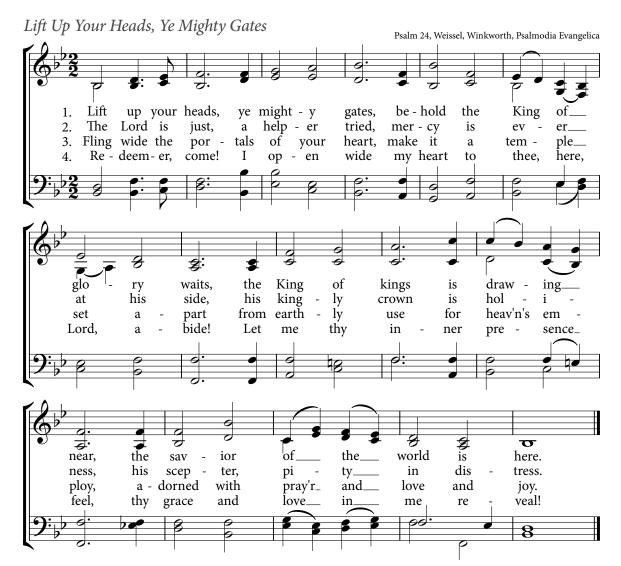
The Prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

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 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.



Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 The 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.
 His 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;

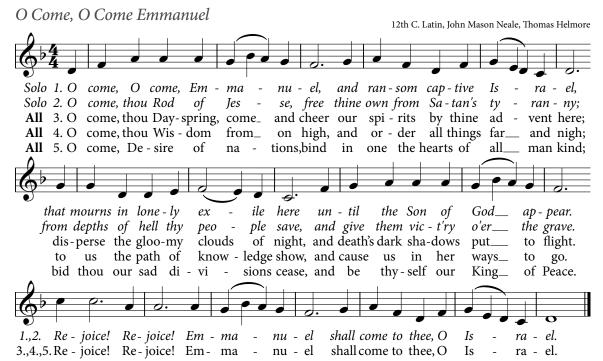
4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

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.
7The 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.

Carol (Please remain seated until verse 3)



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.

Musical Response (Please remain seated)

Salvation Is Created - Pavel Chesnokov

Salvation is created in the midst of us.
Alleluia

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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem



Seventh Lesson

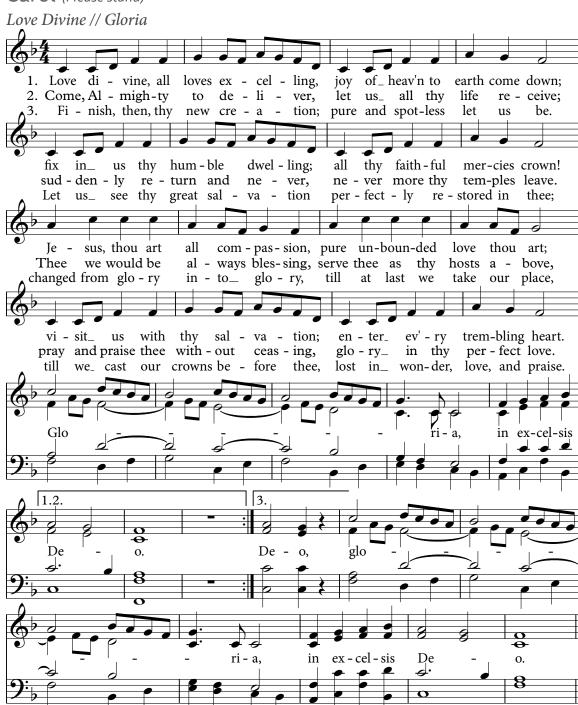
Luke 2:8-16

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.



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."

⁷Then 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.

How Shall I Fitly Meet Thee



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.

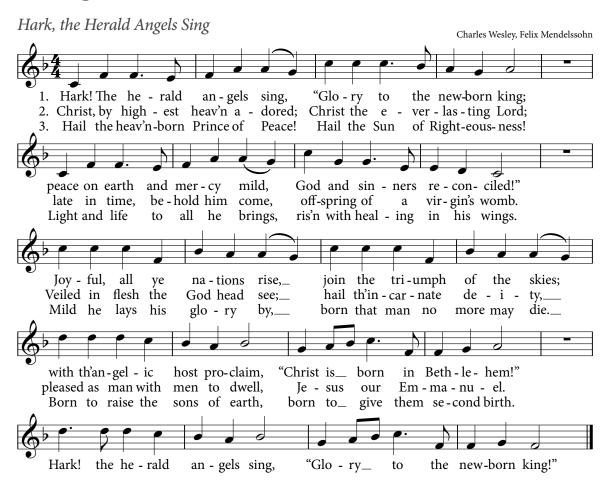
Reflection

The Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

Musical Response (Please remain seated)

O Magnum Mysterium - Morten Lauridsen

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

Mark Allen: woodwinds

Bethany Danel Brooks: piano, voice

Adam Hershberger: trumpet

Tom Kraines: cello

Christopher McDonald: keyboards, voice

Jaron Olevsky: keyboards, bass

Chuck Staab: drums

Guest vocalists: Becca Booth, Natalie Harvey

Arrangements by Bethany Danel Brooks, Christopher McDonald, Jaron Olevsky, and Joshua Stamper

Art installation by Isaac Lin and Melissa Choi

CONNECT

COMMUNITY GROUPS range in size from 10-15 people and meet weekly in the home of a group member for spiritual formation and friendship. We encourage you to visit multiple groups to see which one might be a good fit. Contact a leader if you plan to visit. Contact Jonathan Davis, jonathan@citychurchphilly.com if you have questions.

West Philly

- 50th & Springfield, Tuesdays 7_{PM} Jessie Taylor, jessie.f.taylor@gmail.com
- 52nd & Larchwood, Tuesdays 7_{PM} Jade Avelis, jade.avelis@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Linda's, Wed 6:30_{PM} Janet Nygren, janetnygren@gmail.com
- 49th & Baltimore, Thursdays 6_{PM} Vieen Leung, vieenleung@gmail.com
- 48th & Baltimore at Dick's, Thursdays 6:30_{PM} Joel Bassett, jbassett4@gmail.com

Fairmount

- Ringgold & Poplar, Wednesdays 7_{PM}
 Su Jin Kim, splujin@gmail.com
- 22nd & Poplar, Sundays 4_{PM} Bonnie Currie, bonnie.currie@gmail.com

South Philly

 12th & Wharton, Wednesdays 7:30_{PM} Kirstin Peth, kirstin.peth@gmail.com

Roxborough

Tuesdays 6:30_{PM}
 Cale Weatherly, cale.weatherly@gmail.com

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 children's classes use a gospel-centered curriculum with scripture, stories, and activities to allow them opportunities to form spiritual friendships with their peers and teachers. See page 2 for details. Contact Amy Lee, amy@citychurchphilly. com.
- City Church Youth, Sundays 12:30-2:30pm. Students and Volunteer Leaders gather at a Woodland Presbyterian Church (42 & Pine) for fellowship, bible study, and prayer. Lunch is provided each week. Contact Eric Burrows-Stone, eric@citychurchphilly.com

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS The Gathering is an intentional

Gathering is an intentional Community Group for college students from any university in West Philly that meets once a week for a (FREE) meal and topical discussion. Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm in Houston Hall 225. Contact Natalie Harvey, natalie@citychurchphilly.com.

55+ is a group of older people attending City Church who gather monthly after Sunday services for a shared meal and shared prayer. Contact Miriam Wattenbarger, mwattenb@hotmail.com.

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BOOK STUDY Tuesdays 9:30AM, Childcare available. Contact Eeva, eevaduddleston@gmail.com.

GROW

City Church 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, City Church focuses on eight practices that Christians historically have embraced for their growth. At right are a few links to help you get started.

- Read about our approach to Spiritual Formation | citychurchphilly.com/spiritualformation
- Sign up to receive Daily Prayer in your inbox citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer
- Check out current and upcoming Adult Ed classes | citychurchphilly.com/adult-ed

GIVE

The intentional financial participation of those who consider City Church 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 City Church:

- Place cash or check in the offering basket on Sundays
- Give online | citychurchphilly.com/give
- Text any amount to 84321, follow the link, and select City Church Philadelphia
- Checks may be mailed or arranged through Electronic Bill Pay to be sent to: City Church, PO Box 30902, Philadelphia, PA 19104

SERVE

We seek to be a church that demonstrates the love of Christ to our city. Over the years, our deacons have cultivated partnerships with several local organizations. To view current opportunities to serve, please visit citychurchphilly.org/serve-city.















REDEMPTION HOUSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seekers' Group Meets Wednesday, December 18 Looking for a safe place to wrestle with "unsafe" questions about the Christian faith? The Seekers' Group is a community of believers, nonbelievers, skeptics, and seekers, walking together as friends and fellow travelers on an open-ended journey of faith, doubt, and wonder. We'll meet at the Turners' home, 2214 Wallace St., from 7:30 to 9 pm. Contact Chris at Chris@citychurchphilly.com to join the conversation.

Advent Prayer Guide Join us in the practice of waiting and longing this Advent season through an Advent Prayer Guide. We'll also be sending these daily readings out each day via our regular morning & evening prayer emails (one reading per day). If you aren't a regular prayer email subscriber but want to join for Advent, you can sign up for advent emails at citychurchphilly.com/daily-prayer. If you'd like a print copy of this resource, please contact Jonathan at jonathan@citychurchphilly.com

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm Join us for candlelight Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24 at 5 pm at West Catholic. This service is a warm, family-friendly time of celebrating the birth of Christ. Please join us! We will also have regular worship services on 12/22 and 12/29.

Fireside Chats with Tuck, and More! Jan Term is Coming...

During the January term, we break from our regularly scheduled community group meetings to make space for special classes and seminars. For information on this year's offerings, visit citychurchphilly.com/jan-term

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

- 18 Seekers' Group
- **24** Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm

December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Advent begins	Officer nominations end	3	4	5	6	7
8 Lessons & Carols, 5 pm	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	Seekers' Group	19	20	21
22	23	Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Staff

Tuck Bartholomew

Senior Pastor tuck@citychurchphilly.com

Eric Burrows-Stone

Youth Ministry eric@citychurchphilly.com

Dan Cason

Sunday Volunteers dan@citychurchphilly.com

Chris Currie

Site Pastor, Fairmount chris@citychurchphilly.com

Bethany Danel Brooks

Worship Director bethany@citychurchphilly.com

Jonathan Davis

Assistant Pastor jonathan@citychurchphilly.com

Natalie Harvey

University Ministry natalie@citychurchphilly.com

Amy Lee

Children's Program Administrator amy@citychurchphilly.com

Anne Smith

Children's Lead Teacher anne@citychurchphilly.com

Liz Voboril

Communications Coordinator liz@citychurchphilly.com

Instagram @citychurchphilly Twitter @citychurchphl Facebook @city.church.philadelphia

Help us welcome you.

nme(s):
ildren & their ages:
undergrad or grad student, school & year:
dress:
one number(s):
nail(s):
ease send me: Weekly Newsletter Morning & Evening Prayer
ease contact me about:
☐ Community Groups
☐ Neighborhood Service Opportunities
☐ Volunteering on Sundays
☐ Children's & Youth Ministries
☐ Meeting with a Pastor
□ 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 offering basket.

