



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Tuesday, December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve

Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today in worship. We hope you find City Church 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 this guide.

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.

On pages 19-22, you'll find information about our community. We hope this helps you get to know us better and that, in turn, we can get to know you better. Help us welcome you by filling out the contact sheet on the back page and placing it in the offering basket or in our hands after the worship service.

All to say, we are glad you are here and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff

Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Jonathan Davis

Reflection

I asked my mother yesterday to tell me why, in our family when I was growing up, we did not decorate our house until Christmas Eve....She surprised me. She said, "I think Christmas should come in a burst." Exactly. Auden writes, "Nothing can save us that is possible." The human race cannot expect to receive any lasting comfort from the world. The comfort we so desperately need must come from somewhere else - in a burst of transcendent power breaking upon our ears from beyond our sphere altogether.

- Fleming Rutledge, "Advent Begins in the Dark"

Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store.

- Dr. Seuss

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.

GOD SUMMONS US
AS HIS PEOPLE

*As we meet together
each week, we
recognize in the
preparation that God,
through his word and
Spirit, gathers us into
his presence and calls
us into his life and
mission.*

Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined...For 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. His 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

from Isaiah 9

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

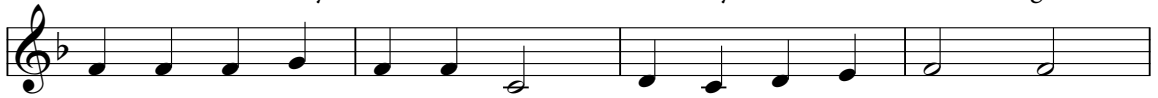
Opening Song

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

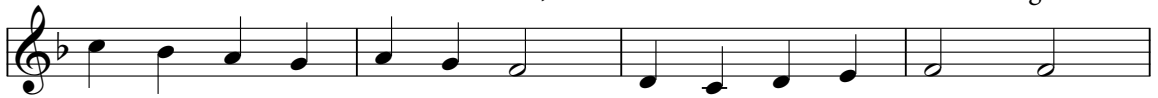
Joseph Simpson Cook, *Piae Cantiones*



1. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
2. An - gels sang a - bout his birth, wise men sought and found him;
3. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;



there he lay, the Un - de - filed, to the world a stran - ger.
hea - ven's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
he is still the Un - de - filed, but no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sa - vior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ring - ing.
praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glo - ry!

Opening of Worship

The glory of the Lord has been revealed
All and all flesh shall see it together.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.
The shepherds kept watch by night,
and your glory shone round about them.
The darkness is not dark to you,
the night is as bright as the day.
Let your light scatter the darkness
and fill your Church with your glory.

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

Opening Prayer

Song

Once in Royal David's City

Cecil Frances Alexander, Henry Gauntlett

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

solo Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle_ shed,
2. He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of_ all,
3. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4. Not in that poor low - ly_ sta - ble, with the ox - en stan - ding by,
where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for_ his bed:
and his shel - ter was a_ sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a_ stall;
for that Child so dear and_ gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him, but in_ hea - ven, set at God's right hand on_ high,
Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle_ child.
with the poor and mean and low - ly lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on_ to the place where he is_ gone.
when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

© Public Domain

Confession of Sin

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

Your Son our Savior
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks
to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our selfishness and failure to believe.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
We have sinned:

All forgive and heal us.

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.

Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be your Savior
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Songs

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Traditional English carol, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

SOLO:



1. On Christ mas night all Chris tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring;
2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - dee - mer made us glad:
3. When sin de - parts be - fore your grace, then life and health come in its place;
4. All out of dark - ness we_ have light which made the an - gels sing this night;

ALL:



on Christ mas night all Chris tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring:
then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - dee - mer made us glad:
when sin de - parts be - fore your grace, then life and health come in its place;
all out of dark ness we_ have light which made the an - gels sing this night:

SOLO:



news of great joy, — news of — great mirth,
when from our sin — he set — us free,
an - gels and men — with joy — may sing,
“Glo - ry to God — and peace — to men,

ALL:



news of our mer - ci - ful — king's birth.
all for to gain our li - ber - ty.
all for to see the new - born king.
now and for - e - ver - more. A - men.”

Tune © 1919 Stainer & Bell, Ltd., administered by Galaxy Music, Inc.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Trad. Polish, Edith Reed, Psalter Hymnal

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new,

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

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: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.⁹ Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 2:1-20

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ Joseph 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.⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷ And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This will be a sign for

you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”¹⁵ When 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.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

The Rev. Chris Currie

Response

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
All **he has come to his people and set them free.**
Light has sprung up for the righteous
and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.
Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.

Song

Angels We Have Heard

Traditional French carol, arr. Edward Barnes

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply e cho back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be which in spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on ben - ded knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Intercessions

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Members of the congregation lead us in prayer.

Father, in this holy night, your Son our Savior
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night, there was no room
for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labor,
brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night,
your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night, the angels sang,
"Peace to God's people on earth."

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
here in Philadelphia, our nation, and in all the world.

Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night,
shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand all those who lost loved ones to death
and comfort them in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

In this holy night,
Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Holy God,

All hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

The leader concludes:

Father, in this holy night
angels and shepherds worshipped
the newborn king enthroned within a manger.
Receive the worship we have offered this night
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Closing Carol and Candlelighting

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr, John F. Young, Franz Gruber

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

'round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child; ho - ly in - fant, so
glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, — sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! — Chris, the Sa - vior, is born!
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, — Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Blessing and Sending

Benediction

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace
to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks, and praise to God.

*GOD SENDS US
INTO THE WORLD*

*We have responded
to God's call, heard
his word, offered
ourselves to his
service, and received
strength at his table.
Now, at the close of
worship, God sends us
out to carry forward
the gospel story.*

Leonardo Le San: piano
Ruth Naomi Floyd: voice
June Bender: violin
Michael Shingo Crawford: violin
Veronica Jurkiewicz: viola
Gozde Tiknaz: cello

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

Fairmount

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

South Philly

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

Roxborough

- Tuesdays 6:30PM
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 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/spiritual-formation
- 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

After Party at Bartholomews', 6:30 – 9 pm Tonight If you don't need to rush somewhere else after this service, please join us at the Bartholomews' house (430 S. 47th St) for an After Party from 6:30 to 9 pm. Bring something to share!

Year-End Giving Update Thank you all for your generous giving to City Church! Our \$80K year-end giving match has been met, leaving a gap of only \$43K left to fully fund our ministry. If you haven't yet participated, there's still time! You can give online at citychurchphilly.com/give.

Jan Term Classes Now Open for Registration During the month of January, we break from our regularly scheduled community group meetings to make space for special classes and seminars. Unless otherwise noted, classes begin Sunday, January 5. To view the full list of options and to register, visit citychurchphilly.com/jan-term.

Weekly classes:

- *Elementary Kids Class: Coming to the Table* | Sundays, 9:30 am
- *Women's Study: Colossians* | Sundays, 9:30 am
- *Fireside Chats with Tuck on Hot Topics* | Sundays, 7 pm
- *Adult Class: "Scripture & The Authority of God"* | Sundays (beginning Jan 12), 9:30 am
- *Book Study: Courage & Calling* | Thursdays, 7 pm

Other Events and Workshops:

- *Seekers' Group* | Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 pm
- *Faith & Finances: Biblical Foundations for Christian Stewardship* | Thursday, January 28, 7:00 pm
- *Meetup: Jazz at the Art Museum ("Color as Time")* | Friday, January 17, performances at 5:45 and 7:15 pm
- *Workshop: Using the Enneagram* | TBD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December

December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Advent begins	2 Officer nominations end	3	4	5	6	7
8 Lessons & Carols, 5 pm	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Seekers' Group	19	20	21
22	23	24 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.

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
- 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.



citychurchphilly.com