



City Church

PHILADELPHIA

Sunday December 24, 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Christmas Eve
“Receiving our King”

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is kept.

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

All Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

OPENING SONG

Come Light Our Hearts - Sandra McCracken

*For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,
for you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait,
truly our hope is in you, truly our hope is in you.*

O Lord of life, our only hope,
your radiance shines
on all who look to you in the dark;
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

O Joy above all other loves,
in you we find more than enough.
We come as we are, O heal and restore,
come light our hearts.

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OPENING RESPONSORIAL

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

DOXOLOGY — Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley

All ye who are of tender heart,
forgiving others take your part.
Sing his praises, Alleluia!
Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care!
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit three in one,
O praise him! O praise him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSIOIN OF SIN

All Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.
Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth
in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.
Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary,
that she might become the God-bearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.
Lord, have mercy; forgive us and heal us.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONGS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Comfort, Comfort - Johannes Olearius, Johann Schop

Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
bidding all men to repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him,
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
blotting out each dark misdeed;
all that well deserved his anger
he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many-a day,
now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
into ever-springing gladness.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token,
that his word is never broken.

Mary's Song

Wendell Kimbrough

1. My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord; my spi - rit re-
2. He scat-ters the proud and rich; he lifts up the
3. From now to the end of time, the na-tions will

joi-ces in God! My sa-rior has seen his ser-vant in
humble and weak. The kings of the earth, he casts from their
know me as blest for God has made new his pro mise of

1.
need, and be-hold the great things he has done:
thrones, and the hun - gry he wel comes to feast.
love and mer cy through A -bra ham's seed.

2.,3.
Oh, be-hold, my sa-rior has come! And my soul will
tell of his praise for he who is strong has come to the
weak and, at last, he will reign as our King of Peace.

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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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,

so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house...¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading: Luke 1:26-38

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Receiving Our King" – The Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

OFFERING AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offertory is an opportunity to participate in the ministry of City Church. Online giving is available at citychurchphilly.com/give. If you're visiting, we are so glad you are worshipping with us, but please do not feel obligated to 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.

Heavenly Father, we pray for those
among whom the Christ was born:
the poor, the cold, the hungry, and the homeless;
the victims of poverty, injustice, and oppression;
the sick, the lonely, and those who mourn;
those in despair or in the shadow of death.
Grant them healing and hope in you.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Messiah Jesus, in your mercy,
grant that the leaders of the nations
may work for the establishment
of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of truth, grant that we may bear faithful witness
to the hope of the gospel in a divided world;
bind your church together with peace and unity,
that the whole earth may live to praise your name.

For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

And for what else should we pray?

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

For this, O Lord, we pray.

All Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest!

The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer and 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.

We use wine in Communion. Non-alcoholic white grape juice and gluten-free rice cakes are also available if preferred. Please recycle your Communion cup as you leave worship.

COMMUNION SONG

It Came upon the Midnight Clear - Edmund Sears, Richard Willis

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,
from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

BLESSING AND SENDING

Once in Royal David's City - Cecil Frances Alexander,
Henry Gauntlett

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

December Goal \$215K

\$60K Matching Gift has been met!

\$143,904

\$71,096

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to our newsletter for more information about
community life and church events.

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