




SECOND CITY
C H U R C H

The Baptism of Our Lord
January 12, 2025
First Sunday of Epiphany



MEDITATION

Whether Christianity is true or not, it is the most *unnatural* religion in the world. . . .

Religious seeking is almost always about these two universal desires: to get help and to avert trouble. But in Christianity it is God who comes to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10); it is God who reckons with His own wrath, himself making propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). The standard - or rather the obsessive - practices of homo religiosus have no place here. In Jesus Christ, the Christian gospel says, God has done it all.

- Alan Jacobs

Since total skepticism about ultimate beliefs is strictly impossible, in that no belief can be doubted except on the basis of some other belief, indifference is always in danger of giving place to some sort of fanaticism that can be as intolerant as any religion has ever been.

- Leslie Newbigin

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. Use them along with your worship guide as resources for readings, prayers and hymns. Set in the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a schedule of daily Bible readings in accord with the Church year, these scripture readings are designed around a three-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently.

	Psalm	Old Testament	New Testament
Monday, January 13th	Psalm 106:1-12	Judges 4:1-16	Ephesians 6:10-17
Tuesday the 14th	Psalm 106:1-12	Judges 5:12-21	1 John 5:13-21
Wednesday the 15th	Psalm 106:1-12	Numbers 27:1-11	Luke 11:33-36
Thursday the 16th	Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 3:1-5	Acts 8:18-24
Friday the 17th	Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 3:19-25	1 Corinthians 7:1-7
Saturday the 18th	Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 4:1-4	Luke 11:14-23

Lectionary selections are reprinted from Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings copyright © 2005. Consultation on Common Texts, Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Reproduced by permission.

WELCOME

Second City Church is a community that exists to worship the Triune God and to celebrate, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Harrisburg.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We hope this guide will help you participate in our service. If you have any questions about our worship, faith, or how you can be a part of our mission to serve God and neighbor in Harrisburg, be sure to talk to our pastor. If you would like to indicate your presence to us, please fill out the form on the back page of this bulletin and place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter.

For Parents:

Children of all ages are welcome to remain with us as we worship. We like the noise; it helps us remember we are alive. The following services are available for you and your children to get the most out of your time of worship:

Infant & Toddler Care

Infant and toddler care is available on the first floor of the east wing of our building. Ask one of our greeters if you need help locating this room. Nursery staff are well-trained, have undergone required background checks, and will maintain a safe environment for your child(ren). Ask the nursery workers for a copy of our policies for more information.

Children & Worship

Children & Worship is for children ages preschool through 2nd grade and meets in a worship space below the sanctuary during the sermon. This time is designed to prepare them for more fully participating in our liturgy when they are older. They are dismissed during the announcements and return during the offertory. New families are welcome to tour the space before or after a service if desired.

Please note that our services are live-streamed.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Christ manifested in the flesh, Christ revealed in the Spirit.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.

Christ contemplated by the angels, Christ worshiped by the Magi.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.

Christ believed in the world, Christ exalted in glory.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.

- based on 1 Timothy 3:16

The Lord has shown forth his glory

O Come, let us adore him!

Gathering Hymn-As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So most gracious Lord may we
Ever more be led to Thee

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heav'n and earth adore
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare
So may we with holy joy
Pure and free from sin's alloy
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ to Thee, our heav'nly King

Holy Jesus ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way
And when earthly things are past
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide
Where no clouds Thy glory hide

Confession Hymn - Trisagion

Ho - ly God Ho - ly and might - y Ho - ly Im-
mor - tal One have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

God of the Bethlehem star, everyone is searching for your light shining in the face of Christ. The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him. But Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger. We confess that our motives in seeking Jesus are not pure. We do not come simply to worship: we come to Christ, asking his benefits of reassurance, health, wealth; asking him to fulfill the hundred petitions for requests that we heap before him. But the Magi sought first the kingdom.

Help us, God, to follow their example, putting our own need in perspective, worshiping the Christ in love, content to be in your presence, and laying our gifts before you.

Then may we journey, trusting that your goodness and light will accompany us all the days of our life. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:9, 12

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

[Invitation for congregation to share a sign of peace with one another]

Hymns of Praise and Adoration

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

O Splendor of God's glory bright
from Light eternal bringing light
O Light of light, light's living Spring
true Day, all days illumining

Come, very Sun of heaven's love
in lasting radiance from above
and pour the Holy Spirit's ray
on all we think or do today

Teach us to love with all our might
Drive envy out, remove all spite
Turn to the good each troubling care
And give us grace your name to bear

All glory be to God Most High
To God the Son let praises rise
Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore

Thou Lovely Source of True Delight

Thou lovely source of true delight
Whom I unseen adore
Unveil Thy beauties to my sight
That I might love Thee more
Oh that I might love Thee more

Thy glory o'er creation shines
But in Thy sacred Word
I read in fairer, brighter lines
My bleeding, dying Lord
See my bleeding, dying Lord

'Tis here, where'er my comforts droop
And sin and sorrow rise
Thy love with cheering beams of hope
My fainting heart supplies
My fainting heart's supplied

But ah! Too soon the pleasing scene
Is clouded o'er with pain
My gloomy fears rise dark between
And I again complain
Oh and I again complain

Jesus, my Lord, my life, my light
Oh come with blissful ray
Break radiant through the shades of night
And chase my fears away
Won't You chase my fears away

Then shall my soul with rapture trace
The wonders of Thy love
But the full glories of Thy face
Are only known above
They are only known above



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

Blessing our Children

Jesus called the children to him and said,

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,

for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

January Memory Verse

Matthew 4:10 - "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Psalm Reading

Psalm 89:20-29; page 586

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9; page 715

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Acts 10:34-38; page 1092

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark:
Glory to you, O Lord!

Mark 1:1-11; page 994

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Rev. Peter Rowan - *The Baptism of our Lord*

Creed

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**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 into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended to heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed of

Offering of Prayers of the People

O Jesus, light of the world, come into the dark places of this earth.
You bring a light from God that only you can shed.
Light eternal, your light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

We bring to you the darkness of our world in war, starvation, cruelty, and exploitation.

We bring to you the darkness of our earth, damaged and defaced by pollution.

We bring to you the darkness of our nation,
beset with conflict of race and class, religion and politics.

We bring to you the darkness of our relationships,
people not looking, not speaking, not listening, not forgiving.

We bring to you the darkness of our own souls,
hidden closets we have not visited or cleaned out for years.

O Jesus, light of the world, be a morning star above for us, a radiance within, the shining all around that lets us live in love. Only then shall we be reflectors of your brightness and give glory to God in heaven. **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

Friends and members of Second City Church support the extension of God's Kingdom with gifts of bread, wine, talents and resources. Guests are not expected to contribute. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates, boxes on the wall as you leave, or can be made electronically. Instructions for setting up online giving are available at the donation boxes.



Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Praise God for His Mighty Acts

We thank you, God, for sending a star to guide the wise ones to the Christ child.

But, even more, we praise you for signs and witnesses in every generation that lead us to Christ. We thank you for the covenant made first with Israel—promising to be Israel's light and salvation. You made Israel your people and promised that through them all the peoples of the world would be blessed. We thank you for prophets who declared your Word, for priests who made sacrifices for the sins of many, and for kings and rulers who ruled with justice, lifted up the poor and needy, and defended the people from their enemies. With the apostles, prophets, and martyrs; with all those through the ages who have loved the Lord Jesus Christ; and with all who strive to serve him on earth here and now, we join our voices in offering praise to the God of loving power and powerful love.

Sanctus

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

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament.

Great is the mystery of our faith:

Acclamation



Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, Ris - ing you re - stored our life,
5
Come, Lord Je - sus come, in glor - y.

Calling on the Holy Spirit

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in his final victory and we feast in the heavenly banquet.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us:

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, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Table

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you
and feed on him by faith, with thanksgiving.

Sharing Holy Communion

Second City Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ in a Christian church to join us in this sacrament. Non-communicants can come forward and ask for a blessing. If you need to receive communion in your seat, ask a fellow worshiper to let the communion servers know. If you are unable to receive wine, you will find a chalice containing non-alcoholic grape juice at the station the pastor is serving. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Closing Prayer

Eternal Father, at the baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son, and your Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove: Grant that we, who are born again by water and the Spirit, may be faithful as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Benediction

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts, transform our lives, and brighten the world. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rest upon you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - We Are Walking In The Light of God

We are walking in the light of God
We are walking in the light of God
[Repeat]

We are walking, walking
We are walking, o-oh!
We are walking in the light of God
[Repeat]

We are living in the love of God
We are living in the love of God
[Repeat]

We are living, living
We are living, o-oh!
We are living in the love of God
[Repeat]

We are moving in the power of God
We are moving in the power of God
[Repeat]

We are moving, moving
We are moving, o-oh!
We are moving in the power of God
[Repeat]

We are walking in the light of God
We are walking in the light of God
[Repeat]

We are walking, walking
We are walking, o-oh!
We are walking in the light of God
[Repeat]

Dismissal

May you be a light for the nations,
That God's salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Amen!



ATTRIBUTIONS

As With Gladness

Words by William C. Dix (1837-1898)

Music by Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

Trisagion

Armenian; English; Spanish

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Words by Ambrose of Milan, 4th Century

Music, PUER NOBIS, 15th Century

Thou Lovely Source of True Delight

Words by Anne Steele (alt. Kevin Twit)

Music by Kevin Twit

©1998 Kevin Twit Music

Used by Permission

Sanctus

Words: Traditional

Music by Patrick Schlabs,

Music © 2012 Patrick Schlabs

Used by Permission

Our Song in the Night

Words and Music by Michael Van Patter

© 2016 Bifrost Arts Music

Used by Permission

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Words by Andres Van Tonder

Music: South African Traditional

CCLI License #11245570



ALTAR FLOWERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers

Today's altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Bill Orner, who passed away on January 10, 2023. The flowers are presented by his wife, Eleanor Orner, and his grandson, Joseph Ayers.

Children's Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday school classes have started again! There are two classes: ages 3 - 7 and ages 8 - 13. These groups meet at 9 am in the same upstairs Logos classrooms where they met during the fall session. Classes will continue through February 9.

Congregational Meeting

Our quarterly congregational meeting will be after church on January 19th. At the meeting we will give an update on our church finances and other general church updates. Please put this on your calendars and plan to attend. As a reminder, we have moved to having congregational meetings quarterly on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.

Announcements Continued:

Weather-Related Delays or Cancelations

In the case of weather-related changes to worship services or other scheduled events, the church will send group messages by email and text, providing any updated information. Please help us make sure you don't miss any important messages:

- If you're not sure the church office has your current email address or cell phone number, please send your contact info to office@secondcitychurch.org as well as to solimpi@hotmail.com.
- If you don't have a cell phone or an email address, please call the church office at 717-232-0604 ASAP to request a personal phone call concerning future delays or cancelations. Thank you!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Dottie Roden
Darwin Leshar
Gail Pennay
Virginia Anderson

Nevin White
Sophia James, USAF
Amy Kemper



SOCIAL MEDIA

Please consider liking, following and subscribing to our social media! Also, when you see, read or watch something you like, share it with your friends. It's a helpful way to let others know we are here!

Facebook



Instagram



YouTube



Your contact information

If you are our guest and would like to indicate your presence with us, or if you'd like to make us aware of a change in your contact information, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate.

_____ Visitor
_____ Regular Attendee
_____ Member

Name(s):

Address (please include city and zip):

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Prayer

Requests: _____

Contact us

(717) 232-0604
251 Verbeke St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
www.secondcitychurch.org

Office hours:

Tues. & Thurs., 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Pastor

Peter Rowan
peter@secondcitychurch.org

Music Coordinator

Jess Reapsome
jess@secondcitychurch.org

Children's Ministry Director

Hannah Hollander
hannah@secondcitychurch.org

Administrator

Sylvia Olimpi
office@secondcitychurch.org

Elders

Dan James
Jonathan Hendrickson (Clerk)
Dave Tanis
Bruce Weatherly