



Do You Hear What I Hear?
December 28, 2025
The First Sunday of Christmas



MEDITATION

“For our God hath blessed creation,
Calling it good. I know
What spirit with whom you blindly bank
Hath blessed destruction with his hand;
Yes, by God’s death the stars shall stand
And the small apples grow.”
And the King, with harp on shoulder,
Stood up and ceased his song.

- G. K. Chesterton

God is an intruder. He encroaches, presumes, invades, and infringes. He crashes the party. Tears aside curtains. Throws open locked doors. Hits the light switch in a dark room. God pulls the fire alarm in stuffy, sacrosanct hallways... God intruded the womb of a virgin. He stormed Satan’s kingdom on a Christmas night in Bethlehem... God is a glorious intruder in my life, my thoughts, my pain, sorrow, and brokenness.

- Joni Erickson Tada, *Glorious Intruder*

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 age 8 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

Animals came to prepare your bed.

Come, lord Jesus, Come!

Shepherds stood guard, marveled and said:

Come, lord Jesus, Come!

Angels sang to calm your cries.

Come, lord Jesus, Come!

And all the world gave one great sigh:

Ah, lord Jesus, you have come!

We are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the holy Spirit.

Amen!

Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

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.

Isaiah 52:9-10

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gathering Hymn - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Confession Hymn-O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verse 4)

*Oh holy child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**God of love, all year long we pursue power and money,
yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great
material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting.
Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of
grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our
lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake
our lives, that we may bear witness to your transforming love.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:4-7

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

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christian men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say
Jesus Christ is born today
Earth and heav'n before Him bow
And He is in the manger now
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye hear of endless bliss
Jesus Christ was born for this
He hath opened heaven's door
And man is blessed evermore
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Now ye need not fear the grave
Jesus Christ was born to save
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

Glo - - - - - ri - a
In ex - cel - sis De - o
Glo - - - - - ri - a
In ex - cel - sis De - o

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Glo - - - - - ri - a
In ex - cel - sis De - o
Glo - - - - - ri - a
In ex - cel - sis De - o

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King

Glo - - - - - ri - a
In ex - cel - sis De - o
Glo - - - - - ri - a
In ex - cel - sis De - o



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

Blessing the 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.

December Memory Verse

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Psalm Reading

Psalm 147:13-21; page 623

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 62:1-2; page 738

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Galatians 4:4-7; page 1156

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you, O Lord!

Luke 1:5-25; page 1016

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon - Peter Rowan - *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

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

Offering of Prayers of the People

With the angels we sing and glorify your name, thankful for all that you have given us.

We are grateful for your presence in the world; for our nation; for our community and its leaders; and for the witness of your church celebrating around the world.

But today we are especially grateful for the gift of your Son, who gave up his heavenly home for a manger and a cross so that we might experience redemption, a gift that neither spoils nor fades.

With the angels we also desire peace on earth, a peace that is broader and deeper than the end of war. We pray for the restoration of this world, for the growth of your kingdom, for reconciliation, healing, and renewal. We bring before you our prayers.

For the nations of the world, especially [...]

For our nation and those in authority [...]

For our community and those who govern it [...]

For the church universal, its mission, and those who minister [...]

For those with particular needs on this holy day, especially [...]

Make your incarnate presence known in each situation, and may we as your servants be vessels of your peace.

We pray this in the name of the one who became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offering of Gifts

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
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

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. So we come with the shepherds and we sing with the Angels the song of your unending praise.

Sanctus

Glo - - - - ri - a

In ex - cel - sis De - o

Glo - - - - ri - a

In ex - cel - sis De - o

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Calling on the Holy Spirit and Lord's Prayer

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

For unto us a child is born,

Unto us a Son is given.

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

Lord, you have now set your servants free to go in peace as you have promised; for these eyes of ours have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Benediction

Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst.
May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.
O Lord, give us peace!

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.
May his birth among us renew your hope.
O Lord, give us hope!

Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.
O Lord, give us joy!

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - *Joy To The World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far, as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.



2025 SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS

The sanctuary poinsettias are presented by the following people:

In memory of his beloved wife, Juana "Jenny" Aguilar-Thomas, by Robert Thomas.

In memory of Edward A. Camp, Jr. by Edward A. Camp, Sr.

In memory of his loving wife Anna by Edward A. Camp, Sr.

In loving memory of Christopher Bagley, Chuck's brother, by Chuck and Michelle Bagley and by Kris, Jessi, Nora, and August Gazsi.

In loving memory of Bill Orner by his wife and his grandson, Eleanor Orner and Joseph Ayers.

In loving memory of Chantel Orner by her mother and her son, Eleanor Orner and Joseph Ayers.

For Aunt Bertha A. Corl by Dottie, Keith, Beth, and Brian and Skylar Roden.

For Esther and Harry Hamaker by their daughter, Dottie Roden; and grandson, wife and great-grandson and wife, Keith, Beth, and Brian and Skylar Roden.

For Ira Roden by his wife, Dottie; and son, daughter-in-law, and grandson and wife, Keith, Beth, and Brian and Skylar Roden.

For Mr. and Mrs. Clifford S. Roden by their daughter-in-law, Dottie Roden; and grandson, wife, and great-grandson and wife, Keith, Beth, and Brian and Skylar Roden.

For Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Yingst by their granddaughter, Dottie Roden; and great-grandson, his wife and great-great-grandson and wife, Keith, Beth, and Brian and Skylar Roden.



ATTRIBUTIONS

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Words and Music by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius

Translators: H.W. Baker and J. M. Neale

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739;

Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words by Phillips Brooks (1868)

Music by Lewis H. Redner (1868)

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Author Unknown, 1300s

Translated by John Mason Neale

Angels We Have Heard On High

Traditional French carol, 18th cent.

What Child is This

Words by William Chatterton Dix (1865)

Tune: GREENSLEEVES

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words by Phillips Brooks (1868)

Music by Lewis H. Redner (1868)

Joy to the World

Words by Isaac Watts

Music by G. F. Handel

Adapted by Lowell Mason, 1742

CCLI License #11245570

Bulletin Cover Artwork

Nativity

Bruce Herman



ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Children's Worship Today

Unlike most Sundays, during today's worship service, there will be no Children's Worship class, so our children will remain with us in the Sanctuary for the entire service. Children's bulletins and crayons are available in the Narthex (at the entrance to the Sanctuary).

Tax Reminder: Deadline for 2025 Cash and Check Contributions is Today, December 28, 2025

Please note that final tax year 2025 cash and check contributions will be counted in early January 2026. If you plan to claim any additional 2025 cash or check donations on your 2025 tax return, please submit them to the church no later than today, December 28. Online donations, however, can be submitted through December 31, 2025. Thank you for your faithful support of Second City Church.

Senior Saints Lunch Scheduled for January 21

The Senior Saints will meet in the Social Hall at 12:15 on Wednesday, January 21 for a time of fellowship and worship. We hope to see you there!

Weekly Sunday Parking

If you are able, as an act of kindness to those among us who have difficulty with mobility or are first-time visitors, would you consider parking on the street along Green or Verbeke? This is a practical way we can serve one another and be more welcoming and accessible to those visiting our church.

New Church Directory

If you haven't already, please remember to update your information by filling out the back page of a church bulletin or by emailing your contact information to office@secondcitychurch.org. Thank you!

Benevolence Team Reminder

The Benevolence Team exists to help meet needs inside and outside of our church community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the team if you need help with groceries or other needs.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Virginia Anderson
Darwin Leshner
Sophia James, USAF
Elizabeth James
Dottie Roden
Christine Zubrod Perrin
Jon Yawger
Greg Nies
Chuck Bagley and Bagley/Gazsi families

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.seconddcitychurch.org

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

Pastor
Peter Rowan
peter@seconddcitychurch.org

Music Coordinator
Jess Reapsome
jess@seconddcitychurch.org

Children's Ministry Director
Hannah Hollander
hannah@seconddcitychurch.org

Administrator
Sylvia Olimpi
office@seconddcitychurch.org

Elders
Dan James
Jonathan Hendrickson (Clerk)
Dave Tanis
Bruce Weatherly