





MEDITATIONS

“Ever since the child was born, there have been people who have gotten drunk on him no less than a man can get drunk on hard liquor. Or if that metaphor seems crude, all the way down the twenty centuries since that child was born, there have been countless different kinds of people who in spirit, who have been grasped by him, caught up into his life, who have found themselves in deep and private ways healed and transformed by their relationships with him, so much so that they simply have no choice but to go on proclaiming what the writers of the Gospels first proclaimed: that he was indeed the long expected one, the Christ, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – all these curious and forbidding terms that Christians keep on using in their attempt to express in language one thing and one thing only. That in this child, in the man he grew up to be, there is the power of God to bring light into our darkness, to make us whole, to give a new kind of life to anybody who turns toward him in faith, even to such as you and me.”

- Frederick Buechner – The Hungering Dark

“Come all ye faithful, and all ye who would like to be faithful if only you could, all ye who walk in darkness and hunger for light”

- Frederick Buechner

Readings for the coming week

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, December 2nd	Psalm 90	Numbers 17:1-11	2 Peter 3:1-18
Tuesday, the 3rd	Psalm 90	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Revelation 22:12-16
Wednesday, the 4th	Psalm 90	Isaiah 1:24-31	Luke 11:29-32
Thursday, the 5th	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:5-12	Philippians 1:12-18a
Friday, the 6th	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:13-18	Philippians 1:18b-26
Saturday, the 7th	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 4:1-6	Luke 9:1-6

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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. This week's lesson is *Advent*.

Please note that our services are live-streamed.



LITURGY OF PREPARATION

Words of Welcome

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world;
the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by the paths they have not known
I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do and I will not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16

Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Call to Worship

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.

Isaiah 40:3

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his Word I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

based on Psalm 130:5-7

Surely the Lord is coming soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

Gathering Hymn - *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Dayspring from on high, appear
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing, news, glad tidings of a birth
Go to him, your praises bringing, Christ the Lord has come to earth

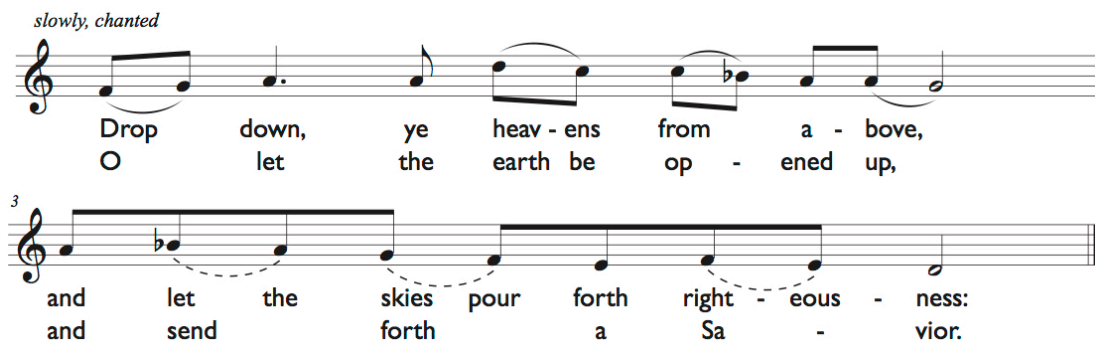
Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne

We are waiting
We are waiting
We are waiting for You
[4x]

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

We are waiting
We are waiting
We are waiting for You
We are waiting
We are waiting
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Confession Hymn - Advent Prose



Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Lord Christ, you have called us to be holy as you are holy, to be light as you are light, yet we often pursue our own ways and the ways of darkness. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to follow you as we should, to imitate your beauty, your goodness, your holiness.

Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness & Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

- Luke 1:78-79

People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our peace. In Christ, we are made right with God.

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 Come, Messiah Come

O come! O come Messiah!
O come! Our Alleluia!
O sing! O sing Hosanna!
O come! Messiah come!

O come! O come Messiah!
O come! Our Alleluia!
O sing! O sing Hosanna!
O come! Messiah come!

Comfort and joy
Alpha, Omega He
Sorrow and toil
No longer rulers be

O come! O come Messiah!
O come! Our Alleluia!
O sing! O sing Hosanna!
O come! Messiah come!

Comfort and joy
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Sorrow and toil
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O sing! O sing Hosanna!
O come! Messiah come!
O come! Messiah come!
O come! Messiah come!

Come Light Our Hearts

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

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 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

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

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
Truly our hope is in You



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Living Our Faith

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).

Matthew 1:23

Psalm Reading

Psalm 25:1-4; page 541

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

Genesis 8:1-9:17; page 7

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 1:15-17; page 1168

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

Matthew 1:1-6; page 959

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

Sermon

Rev. Peter Rowan - *Committed to Creation*

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

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Ruler of the nations, monarch for whom the people long, you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Immanuel, our sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing, to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. **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, God of Jesse, for the branch of our salvation is rooted in you. To Abraham you promised to raise up a people bound to you in love, and though the household of David you brought life great than our imagining in a child of grace, Jesus our Lord. Though we deny your love for ourselves and seek to limit the reach of your mercy to others, you beckon us to repentance, open our eyes to new life, and embrace us to join your family of faith. In your Son's death we see the depth of our sin; yet in his resurrection we see the extent of your grace. You bless us beyond reckoning, for you welcome us into the company of prophets and apostles and saints on earth and in heaven, with whom forever we sing your praise.

Sanctus

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Praise for Christ's Sacrifice

We show forth your death, O Lord, and con-fess your re-sur-rec-tion.

³
'Till you come, 'till you come a - gain.

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

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast!

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

**Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Benediction

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - Nunc Dimittis

Lord bid your servant go in peace
Your word is now fulfilled
My eyes have seen salvation's dawn
Your promise long foretold
Oh Jesus, You are our one true Light
Your name is lifted up
We glorify God's true Son
And go forth in your light
[Repeat]

Dismissal

As we await our coming Savior,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen



ATTRIBUTIONS

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Words by Charles Wesley (1744)

Music by Rowland H. Prichard (1811)

Advent Prose

RORATE CAELI, Based on Isaiah 45:8

O Come, Messiah Come

Words and Music by Isaac Wardell

Arrangement by Isaac Wardell and Mason Neely

Arrangement by Bifrost Arts

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Come Light Our Hearts

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken

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Paper News Publishing

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Sanctus

Gloria in Excelsis

He Comes

Words and Music by Kate Bluett and Paul Zach

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Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: English Folk Tune

Arr. By Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1972-1958

CCLI License #11245570



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary Decorating Today After Church

We are decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas today after worship. If you can, please help us prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas! We will enjoy some pizza while we work.

Christmas Choir Practices Begin This Wednesday, December 4

Weekly choir practices will begin this Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. in the Sanctuary. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

If you haven't signed up yet but are interested in joining the choir, it's not too late. Please contact Jess Reapsome (jess@secondcitychurch.org) and Greysen Kemper (greysenkemper@gmail.com) as soon as you can.

Memorial Service for Barb Koller This Friday, December 6

We grieve the loss of Barb Koller, our sister in Christ who died earlier this month. A memorial service has been scheduled for 11 am on December 6 at the church.

There will be a lunch after the memorial service. Contact Dot Fisher at daf2nd@msn.com if you'd like to help set up before lunch or clean up afterwards.

Children's Christmas Program and Cookie Reception December 15

There will be a children's Christmas program at the church on Sunday, December 15, at 6 pm. Come see our kids tell the story of the birth of Jesus!

There will be a cookie reception after the program. If you can contribute cookies to the reception, please sign up on the sheet outside the Social Hall.



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Changes in Rehearsal Times for Children's Christmas Program

Please note the following changes to the schedule for practices:

Sunday, December 1, 11:45-12:45pm

Sunday, December 8, 9:00-9:50am

Sunday, December 15, 11:45-12:45pm

Sunday, December 15, Christmas Program 6:00pm- arrive in costume at 5:15

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again the church will be selling poinsettias during the Advent season for \$8 per plant. Order forms will be available shortly, or contact Sylvia Olimpi at the church office.

Christmas Eve Worship Service at 6 pm

Join us for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service at 6 pm on December 24. Feel free to invite your family, friends, and neighbors!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Requests

New Request

Please pray for Shara Herbert, daughter of Tony and Cindy Russo. Shara will be having a complete shoulder replacement on Tuesday, December 3rd. Please pray that the surgery goes well, that there aren't any complications or surprises, that the pain is manageable, and that she makes a swift and complete recovery.

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Family and friends of Barb Koller

Darwin Leshner

Gail Pennay

Virginia Anderson

Sophia James, USAF

Dottie Roden

Nevin White



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