





MEDITATIONS

I command you to go forth with closed eyes, . . . until having renounced your country, you will have given yourself wholly to me.

- John Calvin, *Genesis*

There are cover-ups of all sorts. There are families that will not acknowledge the alcoholism that is destroying them. There are people who are making their loved ones miserable but will not go to a therapist. There are secretaries who cover up for bosses, business partners who cover up for each other, colonels for generals, bishops for clergy, parents for children. Advent is the season of the uncovering.

- Fleming Rutledge

Welcome, all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span
Summer in winter. Day in night.
Heaven in earth, and God in man.
Great little one! Whose all-embracing birth
Lifts earth to heaven. Stoops heaven to earth.
-Richard Crashow

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 23rd	Psalm 113	Genesis 25:19-28	Colossians 1:15-20
Tuesday, the 24th	Psalm 96	Isaiah 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
Wednesday, the 25th	Psalm 97	Isaiah 62:6-12	Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
Thursday, the 26th	Psalm 148	2 Chronicles 24:17-24	Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60
Friday, the 27th	Psalm 148	Proverbs 8:32-36	John 21:19b-24
Saturday, the 28th	Psalm 148	Isaiah 54:1-13	Revelation 21:1-7

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 - *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

Confession Hymn - Advent Prose

slowly, chanted

Drop down, ye heav - ens from a - bove,
O let the earth be op - ened up,
and let the skies pour forth right - eous - ness:
and send forth a Sa - vior.

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

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

- Jeremiah 33:14-16

Jesus Christ, our Lord, is our righteousness.

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

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
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!
O come! Messiah come!
O come! Messiah come!

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all
Swiftly winging angels singing, Noels ringing, tidings bringing
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping, vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

Infant holy, infant lowly, Heaven's highest love come down
For the poor you left your glory, and you laid aside your crown
Weak and helpless, ere you slumber, in a stable with your mother
As the shepherds gather 'round, do they know you've left your crown

Infant holy, infant lowly, You who once held Heaven's power
Now you lie here, cold and hungry, in the silent midnight hour
With your parents wrapped in worry, still exhausted from their journey
You were helpless in that hour, yet you set aside your power

Infant holy, infant lowly, King of kings and lord of lords
You have come to us with nothing, as the poorest of the poor
So we come to you in wonder, see you helpless as you slumber
And we lay our gifts before, Christ the Savior, weak and poor



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).

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 11:27-12:9; page 10

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Galatians 3:7-9; page 1155

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; page 959

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

Sermon

Rev. Peter Rowan - *Missionary Faith*

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

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those in the wilderness; that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 12/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

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 - Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon we are going to see the king
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king
Soon and very soon we are going to see the king
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

No more crying there, we are going to see the king
No more crying there we are going to see the king
No more crying there we are going to see the king
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

No more dying there we are going to see the king
No more dying there we are going to see the king
No more dying there we are going to see the king
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are going to see the king

Dismissal

As we await our coming Savior,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen



ATTRIBUTIONS

○ Come, O Come Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel (Chant)

Arranged by Thomas Helmore (1854)

Translated by John Mason Neale (1851)

Advent Prose

RORATE CAELI, Based on Isaiah 45:8

○ Come, Messiah Come

Words and Music by Isaac Wardell

Arrangement by Isaac Wardell and Mason Neely

Arrangement by Bifrost Arts

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Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Words by Piotrowi Skardze, 1536-1612

Paraphrased by Edith M.G. Reed, (1921)

Polish Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Words and Music by Isaac Wardell, Kate Bluett, and Paul Zach

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Kate Bluett Music, Paul Zach Publishing,

PG Songs And Hymns

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Sanctus

Gloria in

○ Radiant Dawn

Words and Music by James MacMillan

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Soon And Very Soon

Words and Music by Andre Crouch

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Worship Service at 6 pm

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

Please Check Out Lost and Found Items Displayed Outside Church Office

Did you know the church has a Lost and Found box? It's located on the lower level of the table outside the office.

Various items have accumulated in the box, so for the next two weeks we will have the contents displayed on top of the table for easy viewing. Please look through the items and take any that belong to you. Items that are not collected will be donated. Contact Sylvia Olimpi at the church office with questions or concerns. Thanks!

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.

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Darwin Leshner

Gail Pennay

Virginia Anderson

Sophia James, USAF

Dottie Roden

Nevin White

Amy Kemper



2024 SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS

The sanctuary poinsettias are presented by the following people:

In memory of Robert and Mary Louise Prescott by Ted and Cathy Prescott.

In memory of Kenneth and Barbara Porter by Ted and Cathy Prescott.

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 memory of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. C.A. White by their son, J. Nevin White.

In loving memory of her parents, Elder Emeritus and Mrs. Franklin H. Anderson, and her brother, Richard F. Anderson, by Virginia I. Anderson.

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.

In memory of her parents, John W. and Eleanora C. Fisher, by Dot Fisher.



POINSETTIAS CONTINUED

In memory of Jenny Thomas by Robert Thomas.

In memory of her husband, Wilson Watts and her son-in-law, John Cover, by Mary Watts.

In memory of her parents, Harry and Estella Auxt, by Mary Watts.

In memory of her sisters: Estella Russell, wife of Ray Russell; Ruth Leitzel, wife of Earl Leitzel; and her sister-in-law Anna Hill, wife of Barney Hill; by Mary Watts.

In memory of her in-laws, Samuel and Rosa Watts, by Mary Watts.



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