

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

FEBRUARY 19, 2017

CELEBRATING

& SERVING

THE

LIVING LORD!

In preparation for worship please take the opportunity to speak silently to God.

At the close of the service let us greet one another with cheerfulness.

Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

February 19, 2017

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling*

Dale Wood

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God, Almighty*

Arr. John Carter

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God, Almighty. Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee; Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Call to Worship

From Psalm 119

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

**People: Give me understanding,
that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Leader: Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it. Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.

**People: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.**

Leader: Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.

**People: Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good. See, I have longed
for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.**

Hymn 361: *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you are a God who keeps promises. In our prayers and songs we say that we want to be Christians, but then we forget our promises. Our actions do not match up with our words. We say mean things to other people, we hurt their feelings, we think of ourselves first and, worst of all, we ignore you. Lord, forgive us and hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response 579: *Gloria Patri*

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(As worshipers, we come from diverse experiences and points of view. We have different racial, educational, and economic backgrounds. Yet we are all one in Christ. We symbolize this as we exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation such as, “The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.”)

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Jim Thompson, Reader

The First Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

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The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.’”

Leader: God’s Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: *What Is the World Like*

Adam Tice/Sally Ann Morris

What is the world like when God’s will is done? Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive: roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun. This is how God moves us each to believe. What is the world like when God’s will is done? Witness the wandering child coming home; watch as the parent breaks into a run. This is how God longs for us when we roam. What is the world like when God’s will is done? No more is neighbor just ally or friend; peace thrives in places where once there was none. This is how God works when rivalries end. What is the world like when God’s will is done? Ready for feasting, we watch through the night, tending our lamps till the new day’s begun. This is how God readies us for the light. These are the stories that Jesus imparts, filled with the Spirit who joins us as one. Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts, this is a new world where God’s will is done.

You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, “Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.” You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 440: *In Christ There Is No East or West*

MC KEE

Sermon: **HOLY LIKE GOD**

The Reverend Randal L. Bremer

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Confession of Faith: from *The Confession of 1967*

We acknowledge that God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. We ascribe to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But in Jesus Christ God reveals love by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ transforms the world and discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

Prayers of the People

The Reverend Kevin L. Porter

The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Wood

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, the head and cornerstone; chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one; holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone. To this temple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of hosts, today; with thy wonted loving-kindness hear thy servants as they pray; and thy fullest benediction shed within its walls always. Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son, Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one: one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 442: *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

*Charge and Benediction

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *How Firm a Foundation*

Wilbur Held

WELCOME: If you are visiting with us today, please sign the Fellowship Pad at the end of your pew. We pray the hour will be meaningful to you and you will come and worship with us again. Everyone is cordially invited to a time of fellowship in the Longstreth Auditorium following the worship service.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Next week's host: Open. The CDFC thanks the Property Committee for supplying the munchies last week.

PARISH VISITOR HEIDI MERCADO-LITTLES will be in Chile from January 17 until March 18, 2017. If you have any pastoral concerns, please call the Church or your Deacon.

BREAD AND SOUP SALE: During Coffee Hour on February 26, the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee will hold a Bread and Soup sale to raise funds for *Bread and Cup*. We are looking for chefs and bakers to donate items for the sale. Please speak to Delores Solomon or anyone on the Committee for more details. The Committee will supply the pint containers for the sale.

PICTURE DIRECTORY: We are excited to report that we are working on a picture directory. We will have some sample pages to show you during coffee hour. **During coffee hour, Jason Greene and Mathew Reisse will be available to take your picture.** You can also send a selfie or a picture in jpg form to fpcg.germantown@gmail.com. Family pictures are welcome. Please be sure to have your picture taken and note that the picture directory is not a beauty contest! It is for fun and for getting better acquainted. We very much look forward to getting everybody's picture and sending out this directory.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RACHEL CIRCLE has been moved to Monday, February 27 since the church will be closed on Monday, February 20 for Presidents Day.

CHANGE IN FEBRUARY 26, 2017 BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the deadline for next week's bulletin is Wednesday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m. Thank you.

REMINDER: NEXT SUNDAY IS CELEBRATION SUNDAY! There will be a children's sermon and a performance by the Children's Choir.

Assistance with Tax Preparation

If you would like assistance with tax preparation,
please contact one of the following:

- **Campaign for Working Families:** <https://www.cwfphilly.org>
- **CareerLink Northwest:** 5847 Germantown Ave., Phila. 19144
Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 4pm to 8pm
Saturdays: 10am to 2pm
Free Tax Preparation (income requirements)
- **Martin Luther King High School:** 6100 Stenton Ave., Phila. 19138
(entrance on Haines Street side)
Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3pm to 5:30pm
Saturdays: 10am to 2pm

Trip to the
*National Museum of
African American History & Culture*

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Admission: FREE of charge.
Transportation to Washington, D.C.:
\$45.00 per person

Bus leaves 7:00 a.m. SHARP



**FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION,
CONTACT: GLORIA BETHEA
215-473-1672 OR gloriabethea36@yahoo.com**

*First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
35 West Cheltenham Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144*

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, February 19

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
11:10 AM Coffee Hour
11:30 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Adult Education—Reverend Bremer—Finney Room
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Jennings Room
1:45 PM Practice—Disciples Basketball Team

Monday, February 20

Presidents Day—Church Closed

4:30 PM Adult Education—Reverend Bremer—Finney Room

Tuesday, February 21

1:00 PM CY Choirs Staff Meeting—Primary Room

Wednesday, February 22

3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir
6:30 PM Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings Room

Thursday, February 23

6:00 PM Practice—Disciples Basketball Team
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir
6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary

Friday, February 24

3:30 PM Drop-in Center
5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir

Saturday, February 25

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
9:00 AM Readers' Choice
10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, February 26

Celebration Sunday

9:00 AM Chancel Choir —Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
11:10 AM Coffee Hour
11:30 AM Sunday School
11:30 AM Adult Education—Reverend Bremer—Finney Room
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Jennings Room
1:45 PM Practice—Disciples Basketball Team
3:00 PM Philadelphia Sinfonia Concert

Church Officers

Elders

2017

Andrew Hood
Christopher Scott
Gloria Bethea

2018

Ted Walkenhorst
Carolyn Ballard-Freeman
Robert Seed

2019

Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon
Deborah Thompson

Clerk of Session:
Madeline Valentine

Deacons

2017

Randy Clever
Linda Farlow
Susan Mills Farrington

2018

Don Carlin
Vera Harrison
Dani Howard

2019

Ruth Cato
Diane Filter
Dick Liberty

First Church Staff

Interim Pastor
Director of Adult Education and Community Life
Director of Urban Ministry
Director of Music
Director of the Gospel Choir
Director of Christian Education
Parish Visitor
Building Manager
Administrative Assistant
Bookkeeper
Sextons

Randal L. Bremer
Kevin L. Porter
Eileen Jones
F. Anthony Thurman
Sara Carter-Blanford
Christian Heyer-Rivera
Heidi Mercado-Littles
Terry Boyer
Joan Harris
Cindy Osborne
Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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