

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

CELEBRATING

& SERVING

THE

LIVING LORD!

*The mission of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
is to reflect the loving presence of Christ
as we serve others faithfully, worship God joyfully and share life together
in a diverse and generous community.*

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.

September 10, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Dan Miller

Ted W. Barr, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Come to Zion* (Shaker melody)

Barr

Come to Zion sin sick souls in sorrow bound. Lay your cares upon the altar where true healing may be found. Shout Alleluia, alleluia! Praise resounds o'er land and sea. All who will may come and share the glories of this jubilee.

†*Call to Worship

(from Psalm 149)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

**People: Let Israel be glad in its maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**

Leader: Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

**People: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory.**

†*Hymn 264: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

ENGELBERG

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Silent Meditation

†*Congregational Response 579: *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.

†*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

Daniel Conner, Reader

The First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *Thou Art Holy*

Craig Courtney

Holy, holy, holy, thou art holy, thou alone art holy. 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! Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert and art and evermore shalt be. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see; only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 18:15-20

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 504: *Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

Sermon: **RISKING RECONCILIATION**

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *How Can I Keep from Singing?*

Barr

Singing, how can I keep from singing? I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails the new creation. Above the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing. It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word! What more can he say than to you he hath said? How can I keep from singing? Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, how can I keep from singing?

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 358: *Help Us Accept Each Other*

BARONITA

*Charge and Benediction

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

ROBINSON

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: Daniel Conner. The CDFC thanks John Orandosh for supplying the munchies for coffee hour last week.

A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ to honor the memory of Jack Asher will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 PM. Because of this service, our church picnic has been moved to Sunday, September 24.

SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING will help support the Presbyterian Church USA Disaster Relief effort to aid those who have suffered so much from the hurricanes. We have all been moved by the magnitude of the flooding and the level of damage that these storms have caused. This is a time to give generously to show that we care and that we are committed to making a difference when people are hurting.

FPCG's RACHEL CIRCLE, part of the Presbyterian Women's Association of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, September 18 at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All are welcome and invited to join us as we look forward to a wonderful year of Bible Study, prayer and service.

JAZZ CONCERT AT OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Oxford Presbyterian Church, 8501 Stenton Avenue, will present Rayburn Wright's JaszLab in concert on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 12 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$20.

FPCG COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT FUNDRAISER: Purchase tickets for \$5 apiece and receive a 25%-off shopping pass, good to use at any Boscov's on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The money received for the tickets will go towards hiring a shredding truck for a free shredding event at First Church, the date of which will be announced shortly. Stop by the table in the Longstreth Auditorium during Coffee Hour for tickets.

MEAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE LAGUNSAD FAMILY: We praise God for the birth of Matthew Jacob Lagunsad! We are calling all persons willing to prepare a dinner for Martin, Jerelyn and Chloe to help them in this time of transition. Contact Christian Heyer-Rivera, 267-972-5662 or christianaheyer@yahoo.com.

CD's OF REVEREND RANDY'S SERMONS are available at no cost after worship every Sunday. CD's can be picked up at the table in the Longstreth Auditorium.

Upcoming at First Church

Monday, September 11

GACM Reopens

Thursday, September 14

*Handbell Choir & Children's Choir
Opening Rehearsals*

Sunday, September 24

Church Picnic

Monday, October 9

Columbus Day, Church Closed

Tuesday, October 31

Germantown Oratorio Choir Opening Rehearsal

Keystone State Boychoir

Bring a Friend Open Houses

Thursdays, September 21 & 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
3rd & 4th grades

Saturdays, September 23 & 30, 9-10 a.m. **or** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
5th to 8th grades (unchanged voices)
12 to 2:30 p.m.—8th to 12th grades (changing or changed voices)

Upcoming Concerts at First Church

Sunday, September 17 at 4 p.m.

Joint Concert with Pennsylvania Girlchoir

Wednesday, September 27 at 6 p.m.

Joint Concert with Niños Cantores Chilean Choir

Contact: Julie Donahue at jdonahue@keystonestateboychoir.org

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, September 10

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Adult Education—Finney Room
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 2:00 PM Funeral Service for Jack Asher

Monday, September 11

- 5:00 PM Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, September 12

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room

Wednesday, September 13

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Programs Meeting—Finney Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
- 5:30 PM GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
- 6:30 PM Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office

Thursday, September 14

- 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Primary Room, Longstreth Auditorium
- 6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Children's Choir—Choir Room
- 7:45 PM Handbell Choir—Choir Room

Friday, September 15

- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group

Saturday, September 16

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 10:00 AM Open Gym
- 4:00 PM Maine trip participant/family barbecue at the Heyer-Rivera home

Sunday, September 17

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Kevin L. Porter preaching
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir/Pennsylvania Girlchoir concert

Church Officers

Elders

2018

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Ted Walkenhorst

2019

Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon
Deborah Thompson

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

Clerk of Session:
Madeline Valentine

Deacons

2018

Don Carlin
Vera Harrison
Dani Howard

2019

Ruth Cato
Diane Filter
Dick Liberty

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

First Church Staff

Interim Pastor	Randal L. Bremer
Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry	Eileen Jones
Director of Music	F. Anthony Thurman
Director of the Gospel Choir	Sara Carter-Blanford
Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs	Evelyn Santiago
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Parish Visitor	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Building Manager	Terry Boyer
Administrative Assistant	Joan Harris
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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