

JANUARY 15, 2012

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 YOUR CELL PHONE IS TURNED OFF DURING WORSHIP.

January 15, 2012

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Organ Prelude: *Three Hymn Preludes*

Peter Pindar Stearns

Rock of Ages
I Love to Tell the Story
I Need Thee Every Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit: *Let Us Make a Joyful Noise*

Douglas E. Wagner

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord, Let us make a joyful noise. Praise, O praise the Lord! And a make a joyful noise, evermore!

*Call to Worship

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

People: The Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

Leader: Who comforts us in all our sorrows,

People: So that we can comfort others in their sorrow,

Leader: With the consolation we have received from God.

*Hymn: *When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder*

James M. Black

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not always sought or done your will. We have not lived as your grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and forever.

*congregation standing

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response 276: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness O God My Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is thy Faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

* 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

Eileen Jones, reader

Scripture Lessons

Luke 2:8-16 (KJV)

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Romans 8:18-30, 38-39 (NLB)

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Choir: *Amazing Grace*

Early American Melody

Scripture Lesson

Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27; 22:1-5 (NRSV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word;

People: The story of your grace.

*Hymn 403: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

CONVERSE

Sermon

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Dr. Nancy E. Muth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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: *The Holy City*

Stephan Adams

* 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 *Hark! Hark! My Soul!*

PILGRIMS

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response: *God Be with You till We Meet Again*

GOD BE WITH YOU

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

*Organ Postlude: *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*

William Steffe

IN MEMORIAM

The flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of

Peter Hill

***WELCOME,** at this morning's service we are celebrating the life of Peter Waples Hill, a long time member of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. Peter served as an elder, deacon, member of the Mission and Outreach Committee, coordinator of worship lay readers and so much more at First Church. He died on January 5 and is survived by his wife, Gail Meredith Hill (nee Johnson) and his children Kristin Hollister Hill and Peter Bennett Hill.*

VISITORS: 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.

TODAY'S GREETERS: Jim Thompson, Daniel Conner and Contina Lundy. Next Week's: Larry Elliott, Jean Swenson, Joanne Elliott.

CHALLENGE OFFERING: The Friends of Vernon Park is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the restoration and upkeep of Vernon Park. In recent years their partnership with the Department of Recreation and Philadelphia Green has completely transformed the park from an eyesore to a beautiful oasis that borders our church. This work was made possible by grants from the Horticultural Society, William Penn and Lila Wallace Foundations. None of this grant money can be used for winter maintenance and funds are needed to maintain a part-time worker from October to April. Sales of poinsettias supply some of the money but our help is still needed. Help keep Vernon Park beautiful with a generous donation to the January Challenge Offering. Checks should be made payable to First Church and marked Friends of Vernon Park.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: During the spring of 2011 the Session began a strategic planning process. On November 19, 2011 elders, deacons, staff and concerned congregation members met to review the direction and programs of FPCG with a goal to insure that we continue our mission and use our resources - people, finances and our facility - wisely. As the process moves forward, those elders, deacons, staff and congregation members will join together once more on January 21 beginning at 9:00 am. Even if you did not join the group last November, you are invited to do so on the 21st. Refreshments will be served.

A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE: Please consider signing up for electronic giving. The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Many in our congregation give in this way and find it very helpful. Please contact Kathy Charlesworth in the church office for details (215-843-8811).

CHURCH FINANCIAL SEMINAR: The next seminar on our church's finances will be held **January 22 at 11:30 AM in the Finney Room**. This will be the seventh in a continuing series that was prompted by requests from the 2009 Church Study. One of the study's seven recommendations was that a great need exists for more information and knowledge about finances. At this seminar there will be detailed financial results for 2011 and the outlook for 2012. Additionally other financial information and status will be provided. These are critical times for our church as we strive to match our resources of people, facilities and finances to the mission of the church. The prior seminars provided a foundation for understanding how our resources are managed as well as where they come from, where they are expended, and the operating financial results. This seminar will continue to use some newer presentation methods and will also utilize trend analysis so that we can better view what may happen in the future. With this information we may be able to be better prepared by identifying possible action plans. All of this information should be of interest to all church members and especially all officers. The seminar will last about 45 minutes - this small investment of your time may result in a virtual wealth of information about this vital aspect of mission support. Bring your coffee and snacks to the meeting and encourage a fellow member to come with you on January 22nd. Remember that we briefly review any earlier applicable information so prior attendance is not a requirement!

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Help us to save mailing costs—pick up your 2012 offering envelopes from the table in the Longstreth Auditorium.

STAFF VACATION: Parish Visitor Heidi Mercado Littles is on vacation. Please direct your concerns to your deacon or the Reverend Kevin Porter.

“I have a dream...”

Rediscovering the Beloved Community Through Service, Justice and Faith

NIM (Neighborhood Interfaith Movement) welcomes

Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams

Keynote Speaker

at its

29th Annual Martin Luther King Celebration

3:00 PM, Sunday, January 15 at Janes Memorial Methodist Church

47 E Haines Street, Philadelphia PA

In addition to an address from the DA, the celebration of Dr. King's legacy will feature several local choirs and words from Dr. King's speeches read by local youth. For more information call the NIM office, 215-843-5600, ext. 100.

Martin Luther King Day of Service at First Church

Monday, January 16

On January 16 Americans are encouraged to participate in a Day of Service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is hosting a Day of Service as friends and members are asked to come to the church and help us to spruce up our building that is used by so many in the community. There will be things for everyone to do: cleaning the pews, scrubbing tables, polishing bells, cleaning closets, painting, and so much more. The day will begin with a brief worship service at 9:00 AM and then the work and fellowship begins. There will be a light lunch served at 12 noon. Join the fun and help make our church shine by volunteering to participate in one of the many service opportunities around our church building. There are sign up sheets in Longstreth Auditorium.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, January 15

10:00 AM

Worship Service
Dr. Nancy E. Muth, preaching
Coffee Hour
Children's Choir
Gospel Choir
Sunday School
Confirmation Class
Chancel Choir
15-18 Basketball

11:10 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

12:45 PM

Monday, January 16

9:00 AM

Martin Luther King Day of Service
Worship Service
Service Projects
Lunch

12:00 PM

Tuesday, January 17

3:30 PM

7:30 PM

Anti-Gun Violence Demonstration
Oratorio Choir

Wednesday, January 18

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

6:30 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

Keystone State Boychoir
KSB Parent Meeting (JR)
Worship and Music Committee (PR)
Property Committee (FR)
CCLIC Meeting (WR)

Thursday, January 19

6:00 PM

6:00 PM

7:30 PM

Gospel Choir
Administration Committee
Voices in Bronze

Friday, January 20

3:30 PM

Drop-In-Center

Saturday, January 21

8:15 AM

9:00 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Keystone State Boychoir
Open Gym
Strategic Planning Committee
Communications Committee

Sunday, January 22

8:45 AM

10:00 AM

11:10 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

12:45 PM

Chancel Choir
Worship Service
Dr. Nancy E. Muth, preaching
Coffee Hour
Children's Choir
Gospel Choir
Chancel Choir
Sunday School
Confirmation Class
Financial Seminar
15-18 Basketball

Traces of the Trade

On **Thursday, February 2, from 6:30 - 9:00 PM**, First Church will host a screening and discussion of the award-winning documentary

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North.

The film documents the journey of ten members of a white New England family as they retrace their ancestors' roles in the Triangle Trade (i.e., tobacco, rum, slaves), gaining fresh perspectives on modern-day race relations along the way. Please mark your calendar so that you can participate in what promises to be a meaningful experience that engages our congregation in conversations around our own diversity. Sponsored by NIM, in October 2011 a showing and discussion of this film drew over 100 participants to FPCG. Though few church members were present at that time, we are pleased to again show the film and have its discussion led by Dain and Constance Perry. Dain is a member of the family documented in the film.

Doors open at 6:00 pm. A light supper (suggested donation, \$5) will be provided. The film will begin promptly at 6:30 PM. Childcare will be provided if requested by Tuesday, January 31. To do so, speak to Christian Heyer-Rivera or call the church office at 215-843-8811 and speak to Sally Vaughn.

<i>Pastor</i>	The Reverend Dr. Nancy E. Muth
<i>Director of Adult Education and Community Life</i>	The Reverend Mr. Kevin Porter
<i>Director of Urban Ministry</i>	Eileen Jones
<i>Director of Music</i>	David Daugherty
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Christian Heyer-Rivera
<i>Parish Visitor</i>	Heidi Mercado Littles
<i>Secretaries</i>	Kathleen Charlesworth, Sally Vaughn
<i>Seminarian</i>	Rebecca Crate
<i>Parish Associate</i>	The Reverend Ms Angela Archer
<i>Parish Associate</i>	The Reverend Dr. Shelton Waters
<i>Sextons</i>	Terry Boyer, Harry Watkins, Harold Whaley