

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

AUGUST 20, 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.

August 20 2017

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Two Spirituals Charles Callahan
Steal Away to Jesus
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship (from Psalm 133)

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

**People: It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

People: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

†*Hymn 259: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BURG

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

†*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

Krista Hoekema Boerman, Reader

The First Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15

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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!

Solo: *Make a Rainbow*

Portia Nelson

Red and white and black and yellow, tan and brown and tearful blue. These are the colors of children everywhere, just like me and you. Orange ice and meadows of marigold, pink balloons and teddy-bear brown, these are the colors that children everywhere love to have around. Make a rainbow, let the colors dance and shine, make a rainbow ‘til rainbow is a beautiful design of red and white and black and yellow. All so different, yet, the same. Rainbows will sparkle when children everywhere answer to one name. Make a rainbow ‘til the skies are clear above, and we know that the colors of children everywhere shine in a world of love. Red and white and black and yellow like the rainbow high above. Let us make the colors of children everywhere shine in a world of love.

Soloist: Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

The Second Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 386: *O for a World*

AZMON

Sermon: **FOREVER GIFTS**

The Reverend Randal L. Bremer

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*Confession of Faith: (*Apostles Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Reverend Kevin L. Porter

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: *May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*

Jonathan Veenker

May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do and say. May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only through his power. May the peace of God, my Father, rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort those of sick and sorrowing. May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea; him exalting, self abasing, all of this is victory. May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus as I onward go. May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win, and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.

*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 563: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

LIFT EVERY VOICE

*Charge and Benediction

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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: *O for a World*

Frederick Swann

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: Youth Group. Next week's host: Open.

TODAY'S MUSIC: Our soloist today is Margaret Mezzacappa, alto section leader in our Chancel Choir. A native of Ohio, Margaret rose to prominence in the opera world as the Grand Prize Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2012 and later performed Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College and Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts. Recent solo engagements include Verdi's *Requiem* with the Columbus Symphony, Handel's *Messiah* with the Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra, and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Phoenix Symphony.

AUGUST CHALLENGE OFFERING: ATHLETES IN ACTION. Athletes in Action (AIA) is a sports ministry Campus Crusade for Christ International. Their goal is to teach athletes for Christ how to share their faith with others. Carl and Noreen Dambman have been with AIA for over 40 years. They also have a special relationship with First Church as Carl's late parents were active long-time members. Carl and Noreen are currently in South Africa serving this year's students at the International Sports Leadership School in the role of shepherds. More information can be found on the bulletin board or at <https://give.cru.org/0007991>. Please help to ensure this important work continues with your generous contribution.

FPCG'S MONTHLY COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF COMBATTING HUNGER is next Sunday. As most of you know, your donation can either support the Centsibility Offering of the Presbytery or GACM's Food Cupboard. Many thanks in advance.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The church office will be closed the last week of August, August 28 through September 1, to give our volunteers a short vacation. Joan Harris will be available to take messages and work with Reverend Randy to handle any emergency issues. Joan's extension is 13, her email is joan.fpcg@gmail.com and her office hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

YOUTH LOUNGE UPDATE: Construction began this week with the old walls being torn down. As the Youth Lounge is currently a worksite, we are unable to allow visitors, but we are very excited and will continue to provide updates.

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

FPCG COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT FUNDRAISER: Purchase tickets for \$5 apiece and receive a 25%-off shopping pass, good to use at any Boscov's department store 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.

First Church Music Update

Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir directed by Evelyn Santiago, will play again during worship next Sunday. We welcome new ringers (high school through adult) interested in joining the group. The ability to read music and good rhythmic skills are helpful. The handbell choir will rehearse on Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. in the Choir Room, beginning in September.

A new Children's Choir is being formed and will be led by Evelyn Santiago. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. For information or to participate, please e-mail escoqui@msn.com or speak with Evelyn during Coffee Hour.

The Gospel Choir, under the direction of Sara Carter-Blanford, rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and sings during worship on the first Sunday of each month. For more information or to participate, e-mail ladycarter78@hotmail.com.

The Chancel Choir will resume singing during Sunday services on September 10. The choir meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. to warm up and rehearses following worship from 11:30-12:30 each week. The opening rehearsal of the season will be on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 1-3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or speak with Tony during Coffee Hour.

The Germantown Oratorio Choir, our community concert choir, will rehearse on Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7:30-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 31. The first concert will be Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 3, at 4 p.m. A second concert, the Brahms *Requiem*, is planned for Sunday, March 18. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or speak with Tony during Coffee Hour.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, August 20

9:00 AM Handbell Choir—Choir Room
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

Monday, August 21

5:00 PM Adult Education—Finney Room
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room

Tuesday, August 22

1:00 PM Commonwealth Youthchoirs Staff Meeting—Primary Room
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 23

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

Thursday, August 24

Friday, August 25

6:30 PM Middle/High School Youth Group

Saturday, August 26

9:00 AM Readers' Choice
10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, August 27

9:00 AM Handbell Choir—Choir Room
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

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	Taneyia Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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