

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

AUGUST 27, 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 27, 2017

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Voluntary in C Major*

Henry Purcell

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

(from Psalm 124)

Leader: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side-
let Israel now say-if it had not been the Lord
who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,

**People: then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away.**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

**People: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

†*Hymn 416: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

God of love and justice, we long for peace within and without. We long for harmony in our families, for serenity in the midst of struggle. We long for the day when our homes will be a dwelling place for your love. Yet we confess that we are often anxious, we do not trust each other, and we harbor violence. We are not willing to take the risks and make the sacrifices that love requires. Look upon us with kindness and grace. Rule in our homes and in all the world; show us how to walk in your paths, through the mercy of our Savior. Amen.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

†*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 worshippers, 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

Kristina Ohemeng, Reader

The First Lesson: Exodus 1:8-2:10

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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!

Voices in Bronze: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*
Trumpet Voluntary

Spiritual
Purcell

Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 375: *Lord of All Good*

TOULON

Sermon: **METAMORPHOSIS**

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: *Bell Symphony*

Purcell

*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 379: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

*Charge and Benediction

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

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: *Promenade in G Major*

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: Madeline Valentine. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to the Youth Group for supplying the munchies last Sunday.

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.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU from Delores Solomon for your many thoughts and prayers during her recovery.

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.

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.

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.

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.

First Church Music Update

The Gospel Choir, under the direction of Sara Carter-Blanford, will sing during worship next Sunday. The group 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.

Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir directed by Evelyn Santiago, will rehearse on Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. in the Choir Room, beginning in September. 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 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.

On August 14 four leaders of the PCUSA issued the following statement as a response to the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. Those leaders are: Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly; Tony De La Rosa, Interim Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency; Rev. T. Denise Anderson & Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016).

In the aftermath of the events of August 11 and 12 in Charlottesville, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaffirms its condemnation of white supremacy and racism, names them as sin, and renews its commitment to disrupting them and working for justice and equity.

We give thanks for the presence and faithful witness of church members who stand against white supremacy and racism. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, stood against hate in Charlottesville. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, works to disrupt racism and to build racial equity in places across the country. We grieve for Heather Heyer, who was killed while standing witness; we grieve for state police officers H. Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, who died in a helicopter crash while monitoring events in Charlottesville; we pray for the recovery of all who were injured.

We acknowledge that Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism. However, we proclaim that the Bible's message presents a far more consistent and insistent witness to God's love for diversity and justice. This may be observed in God's delight in the varied creation; heard in the words of prophets who reject oppression and commend justice as true worship; seen in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, who values all persons regardless of any aspect of their identity; and experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit, who consistently blows through all the divisions we create, to reveal God's love for all humanity.

White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God's intention for humanity. They reject part of the human family and are utterly contrary to God's Word made incarnate in Jesus. They are idolatries that elevate human-created hierarchies over God's freely given grace and love. They are lies about the human family, for they seek to say that some people are less than other people. They are lies about God because they falsely claim that God favors some people over the entirety of creation.

But as we give thanks, we acknowledge the church's complicity in the creation of white supremacy and racism. We confess the church's failure in challenging and disrupting white supremacy and racism. Too often we have accepted the status quo. Too often we have stood silent in the face of injustice and oppression.

By God's grace may we remember the events in Charlottesville; repent of our acquiescence and failures; and renew our commitment to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ. May that commitment lead us to stand against, speak against and work against racism and white supremacy, this day and every day.

May it be so. Amen.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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

Monday, August 28

- 5:00 PM Adult Education

Tuesday, August 29

- 1:00 PM Commonwealth Youth Choirs Staff Meeting—Primary Room

Wednesday, August 30

- 3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Auditions—Choir Room

Thursday, August 31

- 6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary

Friday, September 1

- 3:30 PM Drop-in Center
- 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group

Saturday, September 2

- 9:00 AM Congregational Development and Fellowship—Finney Room
- 10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, September 3

- 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	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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