

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

OCTOBER 29, 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.

October 29, 2017

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Elegy*

George T. Thalben-Ball

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Introit: *Come to Zion* (Shaker melody)

Ted W. 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 90

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Leader: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

People: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Leader: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

People: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands--O prosper the work of our hands!

†*Hymn 210: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Assurance of Pardon

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.")

Children's Choir

The Servant's Prayer

How're We Goin' to Praise the Lord?

Betsy Henderson/arr. Joe Milton

Natalie Sleeth

Children's Sermon

Sheila Heyer-Rivera

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Andrea Overton, Reader

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

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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!

*Hymn 414: *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*

FOREST GREEN

The Second Lesson: Matthew 22:34-46

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **PRIORITIES**

The Reverend Randal L. Bremer

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Confession of Faith (*Apostles Creed*)

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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: *If Ye Love Me*

Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever: Even the spirit of truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you. —John 14:15-18

*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 260: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

*Charge and Benediction

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

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: *A Mighty Fortress*

Johann C. Kittel

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: Rachel Circle. Next week's host: Deborah Thompson. The CDFC thanks Gayl and Herb Henze for supplying the munchies last week.

OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY go out to Pernell Jackson and his family on the death of his brother, Horrace Jackson.

PETER SMITH AND FAMILY MEMBERS would like to thank each of you for the prayers, calls, visits, cards and love that was shown through our time of bereavement after the loss of my mother, Edith Culbreath Smith. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RACHEL CIRCLE is collecting used prescription and nonprescription glasses and sunglasses for children and adults. The glasses will be cleaned and repaired for distribution to those in developing countries who lack the funds to buy them on their own. You will find a collection box on a table in the hall.

OCTOBER CHALLENGE: THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING supports the peacemaking and reconciliation efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts given to the Offering through a congregation are divided in the following manner: 25% retained by congregations for support of their own peace and reconciliation efforts; 25% retained by mid-councils (12.5% presbytery/12.5% synod) for support of their own peace and reconciliation efforts; and 50% to the Mission Agency to provide assistance and resources for congregations to promote the peace of Christ.

THE MUSIC: Our newly reorganized children's choir, under the leadership of Evelyn Santiago, shares two songs in worship today. The group rehearses each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. Children and youth of all ages are invited to participate in faith-inspired music instruction. Next week: The Gospel Choir, under the leadership of Sara Carter-Blanford, will sing during worship. The Chancel Choir will present the first movement of the Brahms *Requiem* with Gayle Martin and Ted Barr playing the composer's own four-hand piano accompaniment.

YOUTH LOUNGE UPDATE: We are on the last lap! We are hoping to dedicate the space by Thanksgiving. Stayed tuned for those details. Check out the November WINDOWS for some fun facts on the project. Many people stepped up and generously donated funds for the project. We met our initial goal of \$30,000. But if your gift or pledge is lost on your desk, there is still a chance to help out with the "old building" roadblocks that inevitably arose. We are planning a full report and an acknowledgement of the donors in next month's WINDOWS. Our God is so good and our church family is so amazing. Thanks to all.

BRIGHTEN UP SOMEONE'S DAY: Please consider contributing food items to the *Brighten Up Someone's Day* box by the church office. The requested food items will change periodically and all donations will be given to the GACM food pantry. The current request is for canned fruit and vegetables, and non-perishable hot and cold cereal. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION: On Sunday, November 5 at 11:30 a.m., join us for an overview of the Reformation by our guest speaker, Douglas Swank, a second-year student at The Lutheran Seminary in Mt Airy. Rev. Randy has graciously agreed to suspend the adult education class on this Sunday.

FIND A HOME FOR YOUR HEART IN ONE OF OUR CHURCH CHOIRS! Rehearsal days and times are as follows: Gospel Choir, led by Sara Carter Blanford, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary; Children's Choir, led by Evelyn Santiago, Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room; Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir led by Evelyn Santiago, Thursdays at 7:45 in the Choir Room; Chancel Choir, Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary and 11:30 a.m. in the Choir Room; Oratorio Choir, our community concert choir, Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary beginning October 31. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

THE WOODMERE ART MUSEUM is presenting a large-scale exhibition of the work of Violet Oakley (1874–1961), the first in more than three decades. The exhibition focuses on the artist's public commissions, rarely seen because of their fixed locations in civic buildings, churches, schools, and private residences. Studies for commissions will include her work at the Pennsylvania State Capitol and the *Great Women of the Bible* series here at FPCG. Join art historians and guests from Woodmere on Wednesday, November 1 from 2–4 p.m. in the Jennings Room. The exhibition runs September 30, 2017–January 21, 2018. For more information, visit woodmereartmuseum.org or call 215-247-0476. Visit Woodmere for free on Sundays.

EMPTY BOWL DINNER: United Lutheran Seminary, 7301 Germantown Avenue, proudly hosts the 19th Annual Empty Bowl Dinner to benefit Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN) to be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. There will be three seatings: 4-5:30 p.m., 5:30-7 p.m. and 7 to 8:30 p.m. and a special dinner host—Mike McGrath of WHY?Y's *You Bet Your Garden*. Ticket prices are \$25 per adult and \$10 for students and children and can be purchased at www.philashelter.org or by phoning 215-247-4663, ext. 142. Seating is limited.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS will be distributed on November 17th and 20th. The GACM is requesting either financial or food item donations. The cost of each basket is approximately \$35. Food items needed include turkeys, turkey breasts, roasting chickens; canned vegetables including green beans, peas, corn, kale/collard greens and yams/sweet potatoes; mashed potatoes, rice, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, stuffing, cake and cookie mixes and icing. Volunteers are needed for a minimum of two hours to help pack and distribute the baskets. Please contact the GACM office to sign up. Thank you!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

after worship on

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

to elect members of the congregation to the Officer Nominating Committee *and* to hear the report of the Administration & Finance Committee

Please plan to attend this meeting.



Do You or a Loved One Suffer from Depression?

***DO YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS
WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND
MAY BE STRUGGLING?***

If so, please consider signing up for a **free workshop** to be held at First Church on **Saturday, November 18**, conducted by members of the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health. The all-day training will provide you with the skills needed to recognize and effectively respond to signs of depression and other behavior health issues. Participants who complete the workshop will receive a certification in Mental Health First Aid. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served.

Space is limited so please call the church office at 215-843-8811 to register.

Do not miss this opportunity!

This engaging workshop could enable you to assist a co-worker, neighbor or loved one who is in crisis.

The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Jennings Room and is sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Committee and the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, October 29

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Adult Education—Finney Room
- 11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
- 1:30 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary

Monday, October 30

- 5:00 PM Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, October 31

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room
- 7:30 PM Germantown Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 1

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
- 2:00 PM Woodmere Art Museum Violet Oakley Murals Viewing—Jennings Room
- 3:00 PM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Session—Finney Room

Thursday, November 2

- 3:30 PM Orgina Rose Dance Group—Youth Lounge
- 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, November 3

- 9:00 AM GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group

Saturday, November 4

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:00 AM Congregational Development & Fellowship—Finney Room

Sunday, November 5

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Randal L. Bremer preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM Overview on the Protestant Reformation by Douglas Swank
- 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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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