

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, OCTOBER 8, 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 8, 2017

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Prelude in G Major*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

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

Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Leader: Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**People: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

**All: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

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

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

Wondrous God, who sets suns and moons above us, mountains and valleys below us, and friends and strangers among us; how often we have tried to hide from your presence, how seldom we have looked for your creating face and your fashioning hand! Lord, have mercy upon us.

Wondrous God, who took upon yourself flesh of our flesh in Jesus our brother, and being found in human form made the ultimate disclosure of yourself in the face of Jesus Christ; how often we have forgotten you, how seldom have we really loved and followed you! Christ, have mercy upon us.

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Wondrous God, who pours out freely the Holy Spirit; how often have we ignored your promptings, how seldom have we asked for your help or accepted your gifts! Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.”)

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sheila Heyer-Rivera, Reader

The First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-20

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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: *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand*

arr. Margaret Bonds

Evelyn Santiago, soprano

The Second Lesson: Matthew 21:33-46

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 467: *How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

Sermon: **WISDOM FROM ABOVE**

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 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: *The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune*

Vaughan Williams

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; him serve with fear, his praise forth tell; come ye before him and rejoice. Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make; we are his flock, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take. O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto; praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do. For why? The Lord our God is good: his mercy is for ever sure; his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God who heaven and earth adore, from men and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

*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

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart.

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: *Trumpet Tune in G Major*

David German

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 hosts: Gloria and Charles Bethea.

OCTOBER CHALLENGE OFFERING: 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 RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting at 11:00AM in the Jennings Room on Monday, October 16. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. Please bring your sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

COMPANY IS HERE! Today begins our second week of hosting IHN guests. We remain in need of volunteers to support all areas of the program. Can you provide two hours of service as a dinner provider or evening host? Can you provide juice boxes or snacks for the children? Or, consider spending the night as an overnight host. No problem if you need to go to work. Families leave the building at 7AM. Arrangements can be made if you need to leave before then. To volunteer or have your questions answered, see Eileen Jones or Delores Solomon during coffee hour. Many thanks to our Northwest neighbor and NPIHN buddy congregation, St. Raymond's Catholic Church. They provided all the food and volunteers needed last week.

FIND A HOME FOR YOUR HEART IN ONE OF OUR CHURCH CHOIRS! Weekly rehearsals provide opportunities for fellowship as well as spiritual and musical growth. Rehearsal days and times are as follows: Gospel Choir, led by Sara Carter Blandford, 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 at 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.

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.

A GRAND VISION: VIOLET OAKLEY AND THE AMERICAN RENAISSANCE. This fall the Woodmere Art Museum will present a large-scale exhibition of the work of Violet Oakley (1874–1961), the first in more than three decades. The exhibition will focus on the artist's public commissions, which are rarely seen because of their fixed locations in civic buildings, churches, schools, and private residences. Studies for commissions that span Oakley's fifty-year career will include her work at the Pennsylvania State Capitol and the *Great Women of the Bible* series here at First Church. Join art historians and guests from Woodmere on Wednesday, Nov. 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.

Upcoming at First Church

Monday, October 9

Columbus Day, Church Closed

Tuesday, October 31

*Germantown Oratorio Choir Opening Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, November 1

*Woodmere Art Museum, Violet Oakley Mural Viewing
2 p.m. in the Jennings Room*

Friday, November 10

Veterans Day, Church Closed

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day, Church Closed

Friday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday, Church Closed

Sunday, December 3

*Messiah Concert
4 p.m.*

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, October 8

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 Adult Education—Finney Room
11:30 AM Pastor Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office

Monday, October 9

5:00 PM **Columbus Day—Church Closed**
Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, October 10

12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room

Wednesday, October 11

12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
3:00 PM Staff 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, October 12

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, October 13

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

Saturday, October 14

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir

Sunday, October 15

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 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
Director of Adult Education and Community Life
Director of Urban Ministry
Director of Music
Director of the Gospel Choir
Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs
Director of Christian Education
Parish Visitor
Building Manager
Administrative Assistant
Bookkeeper
Sextons

Randal L. Bremer
Kevin L. Porter
Eileen Jones
F. Anthony Thurman
Sara Carter-Blanford
Evelyn Santiago
Christian Heyer-Rivera
Heidi Mercado-Littles
Terry Boyer
Joan Harris
Cindy Osborne
Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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