

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

NOVEMBER 12, 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.

November 12, 2017

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Mark McCord-Amasis

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 78

Leader: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**People: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings
from of old, things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.**

Leader: We will not hide them from their children; we will tell
to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord,
and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

**People: He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;**

Leader: That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children.

**People: So that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.**

†*Hymn 267: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Confession of Sin

Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.")

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Carolyn Ballard Freeman, Reader

The First Lesson: Malachi 3:8-12

Page 838 OT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *And Can it Be that I Should Gain?*

Linda R. Lamb

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die for me!

The Second Lesson: Matthew 6:25-34

Page 5 NT

Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 375: *Lord of All Good*

TOULON

Sermon: **TRUST WORTHY**

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: *Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Is Calling* (from *St. Paul*)

Felix Mendelssohn

Sleepers, wake, a voice is calling: It is the Watchman on the walls, thou city of Jerusalem. For lo, the Bridegroom comes! Arise, and take your lamps. Hallelujah! Awake! His kingdom is at hand. Go forth to meet your Lord.

*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 422: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*Charge and Benediction

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

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: *March in D-Flat Major*

Thurman

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: Vera Harrison. Next week's host: Open. The CDFC thanks Deborah Thompson for supplying the munchies last week.

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING will support the ministry of *Rise Against Hunger* (formerly *Stop Hunger Now*). FPCG has scheduled a meal packing event to be held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2018. We have committed to pack at least 10,000 meals to feed the hungry children of the world. To meet this commitment we need to raise \$3,000. Pastor Bremer has personally experienced the value of these meals in feeding the children of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The meals mean the difference between malnutrition and health. Check out www.riseagainsthunger.org to learn more.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS will be distributed November 17 and 20. 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!

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold it's monthly meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room on Monday, November 20th. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

LARGER PRINT COPIES OF SUNDAY SCRIPTURES are available on the literature table.

THE MUSIC: Voices in Bronze, our handbell choir led by Evelyn Santiago, brings the anthem today. The ensemble will play again on December 17 to “ring in” the Christmas season. Space is available for those who still wish to play—high school age and above. Special instructions for beginners will be gladly offered! Handbell rehearsal is on Thursdays at 7:45 in the Choir Room. Next week: Our children’s choir will sing in worship, joining the Chancel Choir in a song of thanksgiving by John Rutter.

THE MESSIAH IS COMING! Germantown Oratorio Choir rehearsals began last week in preparation for our church’s annual performance of Handel’s *Messiah* on Sunday, December 3, at 4 p.m. Save the date! Seats are available in all sections for singers who can read music, sing in tune and in time, and be faithful to the rehearsal schedule: Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m., dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

EMPTY BOWL DINNER: United Lutheran Seminary, 7301 Germantown Ave., will host the 19th Annual Empty Bowl Dinner to benefit Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, 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 WHYY’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.

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE SIGNS OF DEPRESSION at a free workshop at First Church on Saturday, November 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Conducted by the Phila. Dept. of Behavioral Health, learn how to recognize and effectively respond to depression and other behavioral issues. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served. Space is limited. Call the church office at 215-843-8811 to register.

BRIGHTEN UP SOMEONE’S DAY: As Thanksgiving Day approaches, 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.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS TODAY. There will be a congregational meeting after worship. Following this day, pledge material will be mailed to the congregation for the next phase of the campaign – **your participation and commitment**. On Sunday, November 19, please return your pledge commitment to be dedicated as part of the worship service.

Stewardship

Our fall stewardship campaign, *Gifts given and given gladly*, intensifies this month.

What does the Bible say about *Giving to God of My Income?*

... their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part 2 Corinthians 8:2-3

Paul reminds the new believers in Corinth that the Christian community in Macedonia has responded generously out of extreme poverty.

Paul also reminds the Corinthians that *God loves a person who gives with joy and that God is able to bless them abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that they need, they will abound in every good work.* 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Paul invites us to give joyfully and generously. God will make it possible for all to overflow in generosity, whether that means giving two cents or an amount never before considered possible.

As we approach this time of our annual stewardship campaign prayerfully consider how you can answer God’s message by reaffirming your *Gifts given and given gladly*.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

after worship

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.

November Session Highlights

- **Clerk of Session Report:** The 2016 Session minutes have been reviewed by the Presbytery and were passed “without exception.” Well done, Maddy!
- **The Synod of the Trinity** held its meeting in State College in late October. Commissioner Maddy Valentine, the Rev. Kevin Porter and the Rev. Allison Seed were participants. Rev. Kev represented the Philadelphia Presbytery and Allison spoke on behalf of the Board of Pensions.
- **The Presbytery of Philadelphia** will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, November 14. Maddy Valentine and Bob Seed will be commissioners representing FPCG. Reverend Bremer will drive the church bus at 2 p.m. for anyone needing transportation.
- **Administration & Finance:** The 2018 church budget was reviewed and approved by Session and will be presented to the congregation at today’s meeting. *Be sure to speak up if you have questions!*
- **Christian Education:** The dinner and showing of the movie “Luther” were a success. We were joined by Christian’s Friday youth group.
- Bob reminded Session that Douglas Swank will lecture on the Protestant Reformation on Sunday, November 5.
- **Women’s Retreat:** See Bob Seed or Christian Heyer-Rivera if you are interested in a Saturday retreat similar to the well-received event held at FPCG in 2013.
- **Communication:** Deborah Thompson reported that the November Windows is complete.
- Help is needed updating the church website. Do you know of someone?
- **Congregational Development and Fellowship:** The annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 3 following the Messiah concert.
- **Property:** Marc reported that the youth lounge construction is nearing completion and repairs to the basement exit door and stairs will be starting soon. A more capable humidifier is needed. Commercial grade units cost \$1600-\$1700.
- Repairs to the furnace chimney loom on the horizon. A \$47,000 bid has been received. Ouch!
- Marc asks for help monitoring the building for water leaks as well as turning off lights when not in use.
- **Mission & Outreach:** Gloria reminded Session that the November Challenge Offering is to raise funds to purchase meals for the “Rise Against Hunger” event at FPCG on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 15, 2018.
- **Worship & Music:** The organ chamber has been painted and the refurbished organ pipes should be back in place in January.
- The Messiah Concert will be held on Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m.
- Over 40 people participated in the mural and stained glass lecture on October 14 sponsored by the Woodmere Art Museum.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, November 12

9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Randal L. Bremer preaching
11:10 AM	Congregational Meeting
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, November 13

4:15 PM	Keystone State Boychoir/Pennsylvania Girlchoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
5:00 PM	Adult Education—Finney Room

Tuesday, November 14

12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room
2:00 PM	Organ Demonstration/Mural Viewing for Cathedral Village—Sanctuary, Jennings Room
7:30 PM	Germantown Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 15

8:30 AM	GACM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
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
7:00 PM	Property Committee—Finney Room

Thursday, November 16

6:00 PM	Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room
6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Primary Room, Longstreth Auditorium
6:30 PM	Children's Choir—Choir Room
6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
7:45 PM	Handbell Choir—Choir Room

Friday, November 17

5:00 PM	Distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Groups—Choir Room
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Saturday, November 18

8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
8:30 AM	Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health Workshop—Jennings Room

Sunday, November 19

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	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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