

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

COMMUNION
JANUARY 7, 2018

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.

January 7, 2018

Epiphany Sunday

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Solemn Prelude on *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Larry Visser

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

ADESTE FIDELES

*Call to Worship

Leader: Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

**People: And God saw that the light was good;
and God separated the light from the darkness.**

Leader: You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid, Lord.

**People: No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.**

Leader: In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**People: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

*Hymn 46: *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

PERSONENT HODIE

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come, yet we often choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives. Illumined by your Word and sacrament, may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory. 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 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

Gospel Choir: *Revelation 19*

Jeffrey LaValley

Hallelujah, salvation and glory, honor and power unto the Lord our God. For the Lord our God is mighty, yes the Lord our God is omnipotent. The Lord our God, he is wonderful. All praises be to the King of Kings and the Lord our God, he is wonderful.

Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

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Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **"CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!"**

The Reverend Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed*

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We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *Christ Is the Morning Star*

John Rutter

Christ is the morning star, the light of God that shines from afar; the Son of God in human form revealed, the wound of Adam's sin forever healed. For God, who formed mankind of clay will bring forth our salvation that day, when he, who made all things since time began, will send his Son, to live on earth as man. And when he comes, a child on earth, the sun and stars will shine at his birth, to light a world that long in darkness lay: the light of God, the gift of Christmas Day. And when he comes again as King, then heav'n and all creation shall sing; with saints in glory seated round his throne, we'll see his face, and know as we are known.

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Table

*Communion Hymn 62: *Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love*

EPIPHANY SONG

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the
choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and
place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Congregational Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Richard Proulx

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord. God of pow-er and might.

6
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the

11
high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the

16
name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-

20
san-na in the high-est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith.



Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine ...

... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, now and forever.

Congregational Response: *The Great Amen*

Proulx



The Lord's Prayer (traditional version)

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The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(We will come to the table to receive the elements of bread and wine/juice. Come forward using the center aisle, partake of the elements as you receive them, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Remember that the cups on the outside ring of the tray hold grape juice and the cups within the outside ring contain wine.)

Communion Meditation: *What Child Is This?*

Joel Raney

Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, piano

Prayer After Communion

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 420: *God of Grace, and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

*Charge and Benediction

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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: *Carillon* on a Ukrainian Bell Carol

Gerald Near

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.

THE MUSIC: On this Epiphany Sunday, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi bearing gifts for the Christ Child of Bethlehem. The organ prelude calls us to consider the message of a stirring Christmas carol (hymn no. 36). The poetry of this carol is filled with vivid imagery, which is captured in the reflective and dramatic arrangement by Larry Visser. The carol text was written by Christina Rossetti and set to music by Gustav Holst (probably best known for *The Planets*) more than a century ago. Yet, still, it speaks to us on this Epiphany Sunday today: "What can I give him, poor as I am? . . . What I can I give him, give my heart." This week: The Oratorio Choir will begin rehearsals for the Brahms *Requiem* on Tuesday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals for the Children's, Handbell, and Gospel Choirs continue on Thursday evenings. The Chancel Choir meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. and rehearses after the service in the Choir Room from 11:30-12:30. Now is a great time to find a home for your heart in one of our church choirs. For more information or to participate, call 212-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Pastor Nominating Committee. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to the Rachel Circle for providing the munchies last week.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: To save the church the cost of mailing your 2018 offering envelopes, please pick them up during the coffee hour today. If envelopes are not there and you wish to have them, please inform the church office.

SUNDAY MEMORIAL FLOWERS: Please remember to contact Joan Harris to order your Sunday Memorial Flowers for 2018.

WE NOTE WITH SADNESS the sudden passing of Harry Watkins, a former sexton at our church. A memorial service was held on Friday January 5 here at First Church.

THE SESSION HAS CALLED A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for Sunday, January 21, after worship, for the purpose of approving financing and cash flow for the Youth Lounge Renovations. Further information will be distributed prior to the meeting for your review.

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR on Sunday, January 28 for the dedication of our newly renovated Youth Lounge. Please join us.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE AT FPCG: Please join us on Monday, January 15 from 9 a.m. to noon for our second annual meal packing event in support of *Rise Against Hunger* (formerly *Stop Hunger Now*). Each meal we pack consists of rice, soy, vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and minerals, and costs \$.29 cents. A donation of \$10 provides 34 meals! Last year we raised over \$7,200, which allowed us to pack more than 26,000 meals. We are still short of our goal to match or exceed last year's results, so we would be grateful for any last minute donations. We are also requesting, in addition to meal-packing volunteers of all ages, 10 to 15 helpers to arrive at 7:30 a.m. to assist in unloading supplies. If you cannot work the entire 9 to noon shift, any amount of time you can volunteer is much appreciated. A light lunch will be served. Contact Chris Scott or Gloria Bethea if you have any questions.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Searching for a different Sunday School experience? *Animate* might be just what you are looking for! This seven week series is designed to be a unique way of digging into some of the questions we all have about faith and spirituality: Is God real? Can we be spiritual without being religious? What is salvation? Why read the Bible? What was Jesus up to? What really happened on the cross? What does it mean to be the church? We begin the journey on February 4th.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

after worship today

for the purpose of acting on the

Report of the Pastor Nominating Committee

and

the Terms of Call

Please plan to attend this meeting.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, January 7

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship with Communion, The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
11:15 AM Congregational Meeting
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
11:30 AM Sunday School

Monday, January 8

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

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, January 11

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, January 12

5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
6:30 PM Middle School Youth Group

Saturday, January 13

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir

Sunday, January 14

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship, The Rev. Dale Williams preaching
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
11:30 AM Sunday School

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

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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
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Cindy Osborne
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