

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

FEBRUARY 4, 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.

February 4, 2018

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: <i>On Eagle's Wings</i>	Joncas/arr. Janet Linker
Welcome and Announcements	Chaplain Arlene Grace
Minute for Mission	Ruth Cato
Introit: <i>Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty</i>	John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Leader: Have you heard? God heals the broken and blesses the wounded.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God forgives, and the past is over and done.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God lifts up the downcast and gives peace to the troubled.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God smooths out rough paths and makes a way for us.

People: Sing praise to God!

Leader: Have you heard? God gives power to the weak and renews our strength.
Sing praise to God.

All: We come to worship the Eternal God.

*Hymn 411: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Great God, we confess our weariness. We grow faint with our busyness. We have no energy to help the powerless. We look for strength and find exhaustion. We do not wait for you. Merciful God, forgive us, and lead us back to you, for in you our strength is renewed. Fill our voices with your praise, that all might hear! Amen.

Silent Meditation

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Assurance of Pardon

†*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 in grades five and younger may now leave for their classes.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Stuart Ditzen, Reader

The First Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

Page 182 NT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Choir: *Even Me*

Patrick Lundy and the Ministers of Music

Lord I hear of show'rs of blessings. Thou are scatt'ring full and free. Show'rs the thirsty souls refreshing, let some drops now fall on me. Even me Lord, even me. Let some drops now fall on me.

The Second Lesson: Nehemiah 2:18

Page 411 OT

Leader: God we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

*Hymn 387: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

Sermon: **THE CALL TO BUILD—YET AGAIN**

The Reverend Ruth Faith Santana-Grace

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Confession of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the body of one Christ, the Church. The same spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray

without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People

Arlene Grace

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: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Spiritual/arr. William Dawson

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

Stuart Jasper, tenor

*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 482: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *On Eagle's Wings*

Joncas/arr. Charles Callahan

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: Two arrangements of “On Eagle’s Wings” serve as bookends to our worship service today. The hymn by Michael Joncas, *You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord*, became popular in the Catholic Church during the 1980s for its refrain, “On Eagle’s Wings.” The hymn is based on Psalm 91 and the appointed Old Testament reading in today’s Lectionary: see Isaiah 40:31—somewhat of a *double entendre* in light of a certain non-liturgical event happening later!

OUR PREACHER THIS MORNING: We are grateful to have the Reverend Ruth Faith Santana-Grace as our preacher today. Rev. Ruth is the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. She is the first woman installed in that position in the 300-year history of the Presbytery. Before receiving her Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Ruth received a Masters in Public Administration and used her gifts as a “bridge builder” for more than 15 years – serving in Washington, DC and Rome, Italy.

COFFEE HOUR: This week’s host: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Next week’s host: Open. Thank you to the Youth Group and Lois Nafziger-Betha for supplying the munchies last week.

USHERS: The ministry of ushers on Sunday morning play a vital role in hospitality and welcoming people to First Church. Perhaps you are looking for a way to become more active in the life of First Church or want to meet new people, but are unsure about how to go about it. Ushering may be exactly what you are looking for. It’s a once-a-month commitment that requires you to be helpful and have the spirit of hospitality. If this is you, then you need to speak to Mary Lundy and learn more about this ministry at First Church. You can speak to her today or by email(nastylady13@aol.com) or phone([215-927-4648](tel:215-927-4648)) or call the church.

SPRING CONCERT: The Germantown Oratorio Choir will perform the Brahms *Requiem* and *Alto Rhapsody* on Sunday, March 18, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or call 215-843-8811.

ORGAN REPAIRS: What is that? You may ask, when, during worship, a pitch or collection of notes continue to sound in the organ when the organ is not being played. Organ “ciphers” have become a common occurrence this winter as low humidity levels have caused many of the old-aged leathers in our organ to fail. Our organ curators are working as quickly as possible to repair small problems like these as we address larger, more complicated repairs and restoration of the organ. At present, we are undergoing a complete restoration of the East Chancel Organ. These pipes were removed last fall so that interior plaster walls could be repaired and repainted following a roof leak. This month, the wind chest actions in this part of the organ were removed for restoration. We expect all pipes and two-thirds of the actions in the East Chancel Organ to be fully operational again by Easter. The McLean Memorial Pipe Organ will reach its centenary of service to our church and community in 2019.

UPCOMING SUBMISSION DEADLINES: For **February 11 bulletin**, the deadline is **Tuesday, February 6**; for **March WINDOWS**, the deadline is **Friday, February 16**. Thank you.

SUNDAY SUPPERS: *Sunday Suppers* is an organization focused on strengthening the health and well-being of families through the transformative power of family meals. Beginning on Tuesday, February 6, *Sunday Suppers*, in partnership with the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry and the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, will present a five-month program at First Church that centers around a family meal of fresh, local and healthy ingredients that are familiar, affordable and accessible. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a healthy snack, followed by an educational, age-appropriate program or activity. Depending on the week, the activity could be a talk about nutrition, where and how to find healthy food that is affordable or an actual cooking class. A full meal will follow that includes an appetizer and side dishes prepared by participants. **Tuesday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. are open houses**, where people can experience a typical supper and decide if they want to sign-up for the entire five-month program. **The program is free.** Please contact Jackie at Jackie@sundaysuppersphilly.org or 215-203-6364 to sign up, volunteer or for more information.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, February 4

Animate Series begins

Tuesday, February 6

“Sunday” Suppers begins

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Service with Summit Presbyterian, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 18

Philadelphia Sinfonia Concert, 3 p.m.

March 17-24

University of Maryland Service Group

Sunday, March 18

Germantown Oratorio Choir presents

Brahms Requiem, 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday Service at Summit Presbyterian, 7 p.m.

Commonwealth Youthchoirs

Saturday, March 3

Benefit Concert with Bratislava Boys’ Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Asher’s Legacy—CY Remembers Jack

At this concert held on Jack Asher’s birthday, Commonwealth Youthchoirs will rename its scholarship fund the “Jack Asher Scholarship Fund.” All proceeds will support singer scholarships. For more information please visit www.cychoirs.org or call 215-842-1769.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, February 4

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Ruth Faith Santana-Grace preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM *Animate* Series—Finney Room

Monday, February 5

Tuesday, February 6

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:30 PM “Sunday” Suppers Open House—Longstreth Auditorium
- 7:30 PM Germantown Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 7

- 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 Session—Finney Room

Thursday, February 8

- 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, February 9

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

Saturday, February 10

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir

Sunday, February 11

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—Christian Heyer-Rivera preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM *Animate* Series—Finney Room

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

Pastor-Elect	Rebecca Segers
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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