

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

COMMUNION
FEBRUARY 18, 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 18, 2018

First Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Sonata No. II in C Minor (Grave—Adagio)*

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

John Carter

*Call to Worship

Psalm 25

Leader: In life and death, baptism and flood . . .

People: come to be washed in the waters of God.

Leader: From hunger and torment, demons and wild beasts . . .

People: leave the wilderness of your lives.

Leader: A rainbow of grace paints the sky.

People: We worship a God of steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: The bright ribbon of color serves to remind us . . .

People: We worship a God of steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: With grace and mercy, forgiveness and compassion . . .

People: prepare to meet the one who loves us.

*Hymn 83: *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

DEO GRACIAS

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on your church, O God, for we forget the covenant into which you call us. We muddle along in our self-serving schemes rather than waiting on your word. We follow the path of least resistance without seeking your higher way. We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness. We turn from the vision of heaven to the treacherous hell of competing egos. O God, we turn to you to lead us to a new day. According to your steadfast love, forgive us, we pray. Amen.

Silent Meditation

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.

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

* 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.")

A Time for Children

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Anthem: *Lonesome Valley*

Gilbert Martin

Jesus walked his lonesome valley, he had to walk it for himself; nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it for himself. Jesus went to stand his trial. He had to stand it for himself; nobody else could stand it for him, he had to stand it for himself. I must walk my lonesome valley, I have to walk it for myself; nobody else can walk it for me. I have to walk it for myself.

Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **POWER, PROMISE, PROOF**

The Reverend Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith: *Apostles Creed*

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I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Table

*Communion Hymn 384: *O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

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: O God, you formed us in your image to love and serve you, but when we forgot your promises and abandoned your commandments, you did not reject us but still claimed us as your own. You made a covenantal promise, symbolized by a bow in the clouds, and have led us through the waters ever since: the waters of the Red Sea, the waters of the Jordan, through which Jesus Christ was proclaimed your Son, and the waters of our own baptisms through which we are claimed as your own. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Congregational Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

F. Anthony Thurman

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly

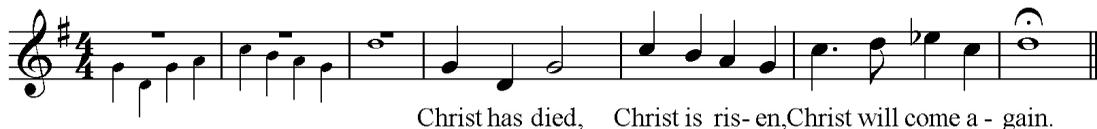
Lord, God of pow-er and might. Hea-ven and earth are filled with your

glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Bles - sed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est; Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Leader: We enter into this Lenten season, remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection, mindful that in his dying and rising, you gave birth to this, your church, you delivered us from sin and death, making with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim his redemptive love. Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may nurture us and strengthen us as the body of Christ. As we enter the Lenten wilderness, may we never forget your covenantal love, shared in this meal, binding us to you and one another. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, now and forever.



A - men, A - men, A - men! _____

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.)

O come everyone that thirsteth, O come to the waters: come unto him. O hear, and your souls shall live for ever!

Prayer After Supper

God of the covenant, as the forty days of the flood washed away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness, in the waters of our baptisms and the tasting of this meal we are washed clean and can begin anew. Strengthen us in these days ahead, that we may more fully become the people you imagine us to be, sharing your gift of new life with all we meet. Grant this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 85: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

*Charge and Benediction

*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.

THE LITURGY: Pastor Rebecca loves to develop worship that is thematically cohesive, and has been writing Communion liturgy for years with that purpose in mind. She will be sharing her gifts in this arena each time we as a community share the Lord's Supper. The words we hear and say will continue to follow the traditional patterns, but are prayerfully designed to more clearly and succinctly consecrate eating the bread and drinking the cup.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON: A time with the children is being added into worship on a weekly basis, encouraging their participation, appreciating their gifts, and celebrating their presence in our family of faith.

THE MUSIC: On this First Sunday in Lent, Communion Sunday, we are excited to introduce new music for the Lord's Supper (Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen) composed by First Church's music director and dedicated "To the Glory of God and in honor of the Rev. Rebecca Segers, pastor, and all my good friends at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa." Each response is thematically related to form a cohesive set. Choral arrangements of Lenten hymns arranged by Gilbert Martin are shared by the Chancel Choir. First Church has enjoyed a long relationship with Martin, a distinguished composer and graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, through his association with First Church's previous music director, Robert Carwithen.

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE OFFERING: The Deacons Fund. This fund assists the Deacons in their mission: "to minister to those who are in need, to the sick and to any who may be in distress in the community of faith. Please give generously to support this mission of our congregation.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Diane Filter. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to John Orandosh 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.

PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA CONCERT TODAY: The talented young musicians of the Philadelphia Sinfonia Orchestra, under the direction of Music Director Gary White, will perform this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Philadelphia Sinfonia is one of the premier youth orchestras in the tri-state area. The orchestra's gifted musicians range in age from 11 to 22 and many go on to study at prestigious conservatories such as The Curtis Institute of Music and The Julliard School. The Sinfonia plays regularly at FPCG and their performances are always inspired. The program will include works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and others. Admission is free; no tickets needed. Free-will donations to support Sinfonia are graciously accepted. More information about the concert and Sinfonia can be found at <http://www.philadelphiasinfonia.com>.

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 tomorrow, February 19. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, February 18

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Rebecca Segers preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM *Animate* Series—Finney Room
- 1:00 PM Puerto Rico Summer Work Trip Meeting—Longstreth Auditorium
- 3:00 PM Philadelphia Sinfonia Concert—Sanctuary

Monday, February 19

- 11:00 AM Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
- 5:00 PM *Animate* Series—Finney Room

Tuesday, February 20

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:30 PM “Sunday” Suppers—Longstreth Auditorium
- 6:30 PM Personnel Committee—Offsite
- 7:30 PM Germantown Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 21

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting
- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Property Committee—Finney Room

Thursday, February 22

- 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 23

- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room

Saturday, February 24

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:00 AM Readers’ Choice—offsite

Sunday, February 25

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Reverend Rebecca Segers 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	The Reverend 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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