

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MARCH 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.

March 4, 2018

Third Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Be Thou My Vision* Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

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

†*Call to Worship Psalm 19

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

**People: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.**

Leader: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 87: *The Glory of These Forty Days* ERHALT UNS

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, whose power is made perfect in weakness, whose wisdom appears as foolishness in this world, we thank you for the scandal of the cross. In Jesus Christ, you overturn all our usual ways of behaving and believing. You scatter our false notions of discipleship as easily as coins are spilled from a box. You correct our notions of piety and order with fierce passion. Do not let your church become content or contained as an institution. Raze to ruins what is distorted in us, and raise us to new life as a community so that we may be the body of Christ in and for the world. With fear and joy we ask this in Christ's name.

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

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.

†*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

Leah Hood, Reader

The First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17

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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!

Gospel Choir: *At Calvary*

Wilmington Chester Mass Choir

Years I've spent in vanity and pride, caring not my Lord was crucified. Knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary. Mercy there was great and grace was free. Pardon there was multiplied to me. There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary. And when I think about how he died for me. When I think about how He set me free. When I think about how He pardoned me. I will praise His name forevermore.

A Time For Children

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

The Second Lesson: John 2:13-22

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **CLEANING HOUSE**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 339: *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

*Affirmation 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 Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed

and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. 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. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Rev. 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: *A Lenten Sanctus*

Lee Dengler

Ah, holy Jesus, despised, rejected, a man of sorrows, who bore our shame. Blessed Redeemer, our loving Savior, in praise we magnify your precious, holy name. Holy Jesus, Lord of power, Lord of grace. Holy Savior; heav'n and earth reflect your glory. Heav'n and earth resound with your praise. Therefore, kind Jesus, what can we offer; for all the sorrow, for all the pain? Oh, how you suffered for our salvation. In love we glorify your precious, holy name. (Text by Susan Dengler)

*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 391: *Take My Life*

HENDON

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Trumpet Tune in F 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 MUSIC: Compositions by contemporary American composers compliment our service today. Paul Manz is best remembered for the hymn festivals he organized and led as well as his vast output of organ solos based on hymn tunes. Lee Dengler is a graduate of West Chester University and studied music composition with Alice Parker at Westminster Choir College. The *Lenten Sanctus* will be sung again on Maundy Thursday by the combined choirs of Summit and First Church. David German is a composer and organist working in the greater Nashville, Tenn. region having previously been minister of music at Calvary Church in Charlotte, N.C., famous for its large organ and vast number of solo trumpet stops.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Next week's host: open.

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.

MARCH CHALLENGE OFFERING: This month's challenge offering is for the Keep A Child Alive organization. KCA's mission is to realize the end of AIDS for children and families by combating the physical, social and economic impacts of HIV. Since 2003, Keep A Child Alive has been a resource to grass-root organizations in India, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa, not only providing the medication (ARVs) but also other essentials including food, shelter and genuine love and support. Please visit www.keepachildalive.org for more information.

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.

EASTER MEMORIAL LILIES: The lilies in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday are in memory and honor of our loved ones. As is our custom, these flowers will be delivered on Easter to the sick and shut-in of our congregation. If you would like your family members' or friends' names included in the worship bulletin, please send the names and your check (made payable to FPCG) to the church office. The cost is \$15 per line. Listings will be accepted until Sunday, March 25.

PRAISE AND EVANGELISM TEAM: The Evangelism Committee has a new name and a new focus. The Praise and Evangelism Team is inviting all who are interested in welcoming new worshippers and members into our community of faith to join Pastor Rebecca and Chair Ted Walkenhorst in Bible Study and brainstorming on Sundays, March 11, 18, and 25 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the Finney Room. We will be asking who we are as Christians, Presbyterians and members at First Pres/Germantown and how we can share our faith with people inside and outside our walls. If you have a passion for sharing Christ's love and a creative spirit, please join us!

DINNERS FOR EIGHT: Rev. Segers will host Dinners for Eight at her home at 6 p.m. on the last Sunday of every month, beginning on Sunday, March 25. Please call the church office (215-843-8811) to reserve a spot! You can reserve now for any future date in 2018. Rev. Segers will provide an entrée and participants will provide a side dish, bread or dessert. Please let the office know what you plan to bring when you call to reserve your spot.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: We are in the process of updating our church directory so kindly contact us as soon as possible if there are any changes to your information. Thank you.

BRIGHTEN UP SOMEONE'S DAY: Please consider contributing non-perishable 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 peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce and canned fruits and vegetables. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

Upcoming at First Church

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.

The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching

Saturday, March 31

Easter Festival, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday

April 8-May 6

International Hospitality Network (IHN) Families at FPCG

Sunday, April 29

Installation Service for Pastor Segers

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, March 4

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:30 AM *Animate* Series—Finney Room
- 2:00 PM Disciples Basketball Practice

Monday, March 5

- 1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Youth Lounge
- 5:00 PM *Animate* Series—Finney Room
- 6:30 PM Disciples Basketball Game—Germantown Friends School

Tuesday, March 6

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

Wednesday, March 7

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
- 5:45 PM Disciples Basketball Practice
- 7:00 PM Session—Finney Room

Thursday, March 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, March 9

- 9:00 AM GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Middle/High School Youth Group

Saturday, March 10

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:30 AM Worship, Music and the Arts Committee—Upstairs Office
- 10:00 AM Open Gym
- 3:00 PM Mastery Charter School Football Banquet—Longstreth Auditorium

Sunday, March 11

- 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
- 2:00 PM Disciples Basketball Practice

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

Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Urban Ministry	Kevin L. Porter	Eileen Jones
Director of Music	F. Anthony Thurman	Sara Carter-Blanford
Director of the Gospel Choir	Evelyn Santiago	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs	Heidi Mercado-Littles	Terry Boyer
Director of Christian Education	Joan Harris	Cindy Osborne
Parish Visitor	Tanicya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley	
Building Manager		
Administrative Assistant		
Bookkeeper		
Sextons		

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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