

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MARCH 11, 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 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Andante religioso* John Stainer

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission Chris Scott Jr.

Introit: *Be Thou My Vision* John Carter

†*Call to Worship From Psalm 107 and Ephesians 2

Leader: From the east and the west,

People: from the north and the south,

Leader: we come to dwell in God's steadfast love.

People: God's love heals, forgives and welcomes all!

Leader: We are God's people, gathered from many places,
to give thanks and to proclaim God's steadfast love.

People: This gift of love has no end.

Leader: We receive this gift with open hearts and open hands.

People: We are ready to worship and to serve.

*Hymn 77: *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (1 Samuel 16, Ephesians 5, John 9)

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings and his love. In his holy name, we pray.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Stephanie Garrett, Reader

The First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

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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!**

A Time For Children

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

Anthem: *God So Loved the World* (from *The Crucifixion*)

Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

The Second Lesson: John 3:14-21

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: **The Story of your grace.**

Sermon: **LOOK AND LIVE!**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 340: *Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart*

JACOB

*Affirmation of Faith (*Nicene Creed*)

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.

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: *Wondrous Love*

American Folk Hymn
arr. Eric Thiman

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul. To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am, I will sing, while millions join the theme.

*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 324: *Open My Eyes That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Promenade in G Major*

Robinson

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Margaret E. Parker.

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: Sir John Stainer, a British organist and composer of the Nineteenth Century, was appointed organist at St. Paul's Cathedral in London in 1872. Although he is best remembered for "God So Loved the World" from his oratorio *The Crucifixion* (1887) and his *Sevenfold Amen*, Stainer also authored an important method book on organ playing in 1877 that included five of his own original compositions. We hear one of those today in the organ prelude.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Annie Kotto. 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. For more information, please visit www.keepachildalive.org.

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.

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!

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

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.

REV. SEGERS AT UNCLE BOBBIES every Thursday morning from 8 to 10 a.m. Please stop by for coffee and a chat! No reservation needed.

REV. SEGERS will be taking Tuesdays as her Sabbath and will not be in the office or working on Tuesdays except in the case of pastoral emergencies.

WHEN THE EARTH MATTERS: AN INTERFAITH SEDER TO WELCOME PASSOVER AND HOLY WEEK, will be held at St. Martin-in the Fields, 8000 St. Martin's Lane on Saturday, March 24 from 8 to 10 p.m. Sponsored by Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light, a community of congregations, faith-based organizations, and individuals of faith responding to climate change as an ethical and moral issue, this will be an evening of music, prayer, discussion and symbolic foods. At 8:30 p.m., participants will join people from around the world for "Earth Hour" by turning off electric lights and moving to the softer, greener light of solar lamps. All are welcome; a \$5 donation is suggested. Please contact the Rev. Cheryl Pynch, philadelphia@paip.org, if you have any questions and to reserve a spot.

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 11

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
12:30 PM Praise and Evangelism Team—Finney Room
2:00 PM Disciples Basketball Practice

Monday, March 12

1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Youth Lounge
5:00 PM *Animate* Series—Finney Room

Tuesday, March 13

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 14

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
5:30 PM GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
5:45 PM Disciples Basketball Practice
6:30 PM Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office

Thursday, March 15

6:00 PM Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room
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 16

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

Saturday, March 17

University of Maryland Service Group arrives
10:00 AM Germantown Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, March 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
11:30 AM Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings Room
12:30 PM Praise and Evangelism Team—Finney Room
2:00 PM Disciples Basketball Practice
4:00 PM Germantown Oratorio Choir Spring Concert—Sanctuary

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	Taneya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley	
Building Manager		
Administrative Assistant		
Bookkeeper		
Sextons		

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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