

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MARCH 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.

March 18, 2018

Fifth Sunday in Lent

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Prelude in G Minor*

Clara Schumann

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Be Thou My Vision*

John Carter

†\*Call to Worship

By Maren C. Tirabassi

Leader: This is the season of Lent and we remember Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

**People: We follow him.**

Leader: We follow with our minds the stories of scripture;

**People: we follow with our hearts the passion of Christ  
and the passions of our brothers and sisters;**

Leader: we follow with hands and feet through recommitment  
to justice and reconciliation;

**People: we follow with the wings of the spirit in prayer and meditation.**

Leader: May our minds be open; may our hands be strong;

**People: may our hearts be gentle; may our spirits sing.**

**All: May this worship so transform us that in the week to come we will, indeed, share with others our Jerusalem journeys and follow Jesus in the way of life.**

\*Hymn 81: *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (by The Rev. Margaret Cunningham from *Women's Uncommon Prayers*)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: Awaken us with your Holy Spirit, and preserve us from the temptation to stay comfortably asleep; encourage us to proclaim our authenticity, and preserve us from a false accommodation to the world; breathe into us your breath of life, stir us up into activity, and preserve us from the inertia that leads to**

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\*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

complicity in our own oppression; open our eyes to the promises in creation, open our hearts to the love and example of Jesus, open our ears to the persistent whisperings of the Holy Spirit, and preserve us from a sense-deadened existence; give us the confidence to engage technology and preserve us from regarding it with fear or with too much trust; remind us that we are made in your image, that we, too, are creators, lovers, decision makers; instill in us the pride of our heritage, and preserve us from excessive, crippling humility. Above all, gracious God, give us the grace to hear your word to us and the courage to claim and act on that inner authority; preserve us from the tyranny of the external authority that comes from the world.

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

Jason Williams, Reader

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Page 691 OT

**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.*

Solo: *The Lowest Place*

Paul S. Jones

Give me the lowest place: not that I dare ask for that lowest place, but thou hast died that I might live and share thy glory by thy side. Give me the lowest place: or if for me that lowest place too high, make one more low where I may sit and see my God and love thee so. – Christina Rossetti

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

The Second Lesson: John 12:20-33

Page 100 NT

**Leader:** God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **THE TIME IS NOW**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*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 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 one body of 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. 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: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Raymond Haan

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me; and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess: the wonders of his glorious love and my unworthiness. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory, all the cross. — Elizabeth C. Clephane

\*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 343: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *March in D Major*

Elizabeth Turner

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### IN MEMORIAM

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

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**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:** This week the liturgy is designed in response to Women's History Month in celebration of the gifts of women. The Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession and the hymns were all written by women. The Affirmation of Faith recognizes the gifts of women and men as equally valuable and viable.

**THE MUSIC:** The music and poetry of women from the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries are represented in our vocal, choral, and organ music today. Clara Schumann, the wife of Robert Schumann and close friend of Brahms, was a fine composer and concert pianist in her own right. Although the Schumanns composed very little for the organ, there are several lovely pieces from the pens of each that have been added to the repertoire. A short work by Clara is heard in the organ prelude today. English poet Christina Rossetti is probably best known for her Christmas carols: "In the Bleak Midwinter" and "Love Came Down at Christmas." We hear "The Lowest Place," from a set of three prayers set to music by Paul S. Jones, a former music director at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Center City, a congregation also served by our own Robert Carwithen. Rossetti's personal expression of prayer to God in her poem sung by Margaret Mezzacappa could be held fast by any one of us during our Lenten journey.

**BRAHMS FESTIVAL CONCERT:** The Germantown Oratorio Choir will present the Brahms *Requiem* and *Alto Rhapsody* this afternoon at 4 p.m. The concert will be conducted by F. Anthony Thurman and will feature our own award-winning soloists Evelyn Santiago, Margaret Mezzacappa, and Robert Phillips. Pianists Gayle Martin and Ted Barr will join them at the Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano. A free-will offering is requested.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: Andrea Overton, Liz Drum and Marc DiNardo. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to Annie Kotto 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](mailto:nastylady13@aol.com)) or phone ([215-927-4648](tel:215-927-4648)) or call the church.

**FPCG'S MONTHLY COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF COMBATING HUNGER** is next Sunday. As most of you know, your donation can either support the Centsibility Offering of the Presbytery or GACM's Food Cupboard. Many thanks in advance.

**THE RACHEL CIRCLE**, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold it's monthly meeting tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

**MARCH CHALLENGE OFFERING:** The *Keep A Child Alive* organization, whose mission is to realize the end of AIDS for children and families. Since 2003, *Keep A Child Alive* has been a resource to grass-roots organizations in India, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa, providing not only the medication (ARVs), but also food, shelter, love and support. For more information, please visit [www.keepachildalive.org](http://www.keepachildalive.org).

**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 today and next Sunday from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the Primary 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!

**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-ins of our congregation. To include family members' and friends' names 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 and listings will be accepted through Sunday, March 25.

**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, the evening will include 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@paipl.org, if you have any questions and to reserve a spot.

**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.

**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.

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## WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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### **Sunday, March 18**

- 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
- 11:30 AM Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings Room
- 12:30 PM Praise and Evangelism Team—Primary Room
- 4:00 PM Germantown Oratorio Choir Spring Concert—Sanctuary

### **Monday, March 19**

- 11:00 AM Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
- 1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium
- 5:00 PM *Animate* Series—Finney Room

### **Tuesday, March 20**

- 12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administrative Meeting—Finney Room
- 5:30 PM Sunday Suppers—Longstreth Auditorium

### **Wednesday, March 21**

- 8:30 AM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
- 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
- 7:00 PM Property Committee—Finney Room

### **Thursday, March 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, March 23**

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

### **Saturday, March 24**

- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 1:00 PM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary

### **Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday**

- 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
- 12:30 PM Praise and Evangelism Team—Primary 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

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	Pastor	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

## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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