

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 25, 2018

ALIVE,
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 25, 2018

Palm Sunday

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*

Sigfried Karg-Elert

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Hosanna Filio David*

Thurman

†*Call to Worship

Siena Williams: Wow, this is great!

Emery Hood: Yeah, I love a parade.

Siena: Look, everyone is throwing their cloaks on the ground.

Emery: I'm so excited, I just can't hold it in.

Both: Blessed be the one who is coming in God's name!

All: Hosanna!

Fanfare

Hans-André Stamm

Emery: Now that's how to make an entrance.

Siena: Let's go see what happens next.

*Hymn 89: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (from Luke 22-23)

God of righteousness, we would rather sing hosannas with a cheering crowd, than stand up for our convictions in the face of an angry mob; we would rather dine at your table with those we call friends, than admit we are no different from those we consider enemies. We would rather view ourselves as your champions, than admit how easily we might betray you with a kiss. Forgive our fickle faith, and strengthen our resolve to be your disciples.

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

Siena Williams, Reader

The First Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

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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

Anthem: *Hosannas Everywhere*

Robert Hobby

Hosanna, Hosannas ev’ry where; a King comes riding into town, excitement fills the air. Hosanna, Hosannas, voices raise; the Prince of Peace has come today, we lift our voice in praise. Who is this King who comes to us? Is he the chosen one? Will he deliver us from pain? Is he the promised Son? We have these questions in our mind, are we to be set free? Our spirits soar with hopeful thought; we’ll watch and look and see. His face reflects the pain he feels; concern is in his eyes. He sees the fate of all the world; he hears their bitter cries. A cross looms further down the road; our King has come to save. Our Savior plods on toward a hill; dark night, sharp thorns, a grave. – Mark Lawson

The Children’s and Chancel Choirs

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

The Second Lesson: Mark 11:1-11

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **BEFORE THE PARADE PASSES BY**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 344: *Christ of the Upward Way*

SURSUM CORDA

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.

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: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Arr. Gilbert 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. Amen! – Isaac Watts

*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 151: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Cortège*

Stamm

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Ora M. Kaylor.

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: We welcome instrumentalists from the Curtis Institute of Music and give thanks for the talents they offer in worship today: Justin Bernardi and Sarah Jessen, trumpet and Zubin Hathi, timpani and percussion. The combined Children's and Chancel Choirs join to raise their voices and offer Hosannas on this Palm Sunday in an anthem by Robert Hobby that celebrates not only Jesus' joyful arrival in Jerusalem, but also foreshadows the events of Holy Week yet to unfold. The 18th century English minister and hymn writer, Isaac Watts, composed more than 750 hymn texts and is probably best known for his Christmas carol, "Joy to the World." At the offertory, we hear his stirring Lenten text sung in an arrangement by Gilbert Martin, a graduate of Westminster Choir College and a well-known composer here at First Church. Next week: On Easter Sunday, the combined Gospel and Chancel choirs will present the world premiere of a new anthem by Jesse Padgett, "I Have Seen the Lord." Instrumental prelude music will begin at 10:45 a.m.

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Men's Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. Next week's host: open. Thank you to Andrea Overton, Liz Drum and Marc DiNardo 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 Mary today or via phone ([215-927-4648](tel:215-927-4648)) or call the church.

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.

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 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the Primary Room. We will be brainstorming ways 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 the deadline for listings is today.

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 this evening. Please call the church office (215-843-8811) to reserve a spot! While tonight's and April dinners are filled, you can reserve now for any future date in 2018 starting in May. 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

Thursday, March 29

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

The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching

Friday, March 30

Good Friday Service at Oxford Presbyterian Church, 12 to 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 31

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

including games, interactive worship with Rev. Segers and an Easter egg hunt

Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday

April 8-May 6

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Families at FPCG

Sunday, April 29

Installation Service for Rev. Segers, 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 6

Keystone State Boychoir Spring Concerts, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 13

Philadelphia Sinfonia Concert, 3 p.m.

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day, Church Closed

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, March 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
12:30 PM Praise and Evangelism Team—Primary Room

Palm Sunday**Monday, March 26**

1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium
6:00 PM Germantown United—Longstreth Auditorium

Tuesday, March 27

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

Wednesday, March 28

8:30 AM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
12:00 PM Commonwealth Youthchoirs Program Meeting—Primary Room
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room

Thursday, March 29

8:00 AM Rev. Segers at Uncle Bobbie's (8 to 10 a.m.)
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Primary Room, Longstreth Auditorium
6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
6:30 PM Children's Choir—Choir Room
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at Summit Presbyterian Church,
The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
7:45 PM Handbell Choir—Choir Room

Maundy Thursday**Friday, March 30**

12:00 PM Good Friday Service at Oxford Presbyterian Church,
among others, The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room

Good Friday**Saturday, March 31**

9:00 AM Readers' Choice—Offsite
11:00 AM Easter Festival
2:00 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary

Sunday, April 1

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching

Easter Sunday

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

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