

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, APRIL 29, 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.

April 29, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Two Gospel Preludes

Gerald Near

*Amazing Grace
In the Garden*

Welcome and Announcements

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

John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Acts 8, John 4, John 15

Leader: Come to the household of love, for God is love.

People: As we abide in love, we abide in God.

Leader: Come to the vineyard of grace, for God is gracious.

People: As we abide in the vine, we bear the fruit of salvation.

Leader: Come bathe in baptismal waters, for God's Spirit awaits.

People: As we abide in God's Spirit, we abide in peace.

Leader: Come to the household of love, for God is love.

People: Come! All are welcome here.

*Hymn 288: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Dresser of Vines, we confess that we have been more willing to consume the fruits of others than to bear fruit ourselves. We have refused to give of ourselves when the harvest is uncertain. We have not been fruitful because we depended too much on ourselves and not enough on you. Help us, God, to be channels for your grace, branches who feed on your life-giving Spirit, and bearers of your word of love and joy.

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

Madison Lundy, Reader

The First Lesson: John 4:7-12

Page 89 NT

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: *You Are Welcome Here*

Text and Music by Mark Burrows

Am I welcome here? Am I safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear? Will I be loved the way I am? Will friends be near? You are welcome here. You are safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear. We love you just the way you are, so have no fear. This is a place of peace and grace, where all God's children have a home. God's reign will come, God's will be done when all are loved and no one stands alone. All are welcome here. All are safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear. God loves us the way we are, so have no fear. All are welcome here. I am welcome here.

Children's Choir; Evelyn Santiago, director.

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

The Second Lesson: John 15:1-8

Page 103 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 306: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

CRUSADERS' HYMN

*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Scots Confession*)

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. We acknowledge and confess that this wonderful union between the Godhead and the humanity in Christ Jesus did arise from the eternal and immutable decree of God from which all our salvation springs and depends. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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: *Christ Hath a Garden*

Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground, chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness. Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand; by Eden's gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow. Awake, O wind of heav'n and bear their sweetest perfume through the air: stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come: that he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set; that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

*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 476: *O, Worship the King, All Glorious Above*

LYONS

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Trumpet Processional in G Major*

David German

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Michael R. Parks.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

after worship on Sunday, May 6, 2018

for the purposes of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and voting on said report; receiving the reports from the staff, committees and organizations of First Church; and formally presenting the financial report for the Corporation for 2017.

Please plan to attend this meeting.

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: Gerald Near, whose music is heard in the prelude and offertory today, enjoys a place alongside the finest living composers of church music. His works have been heard on NPR's *A Prairie Home Companion*, on American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, and at the national conventions of the American Guild of Organists. Near studied composition with Leo Sowerby at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, and later composition, organ, and orchestral conducting at the University of Michigan. Looking ahead: The Children's Choir will sing in worship again on May 13 (Mother's Day); the Gospel Choir will sing in worship on May 6 and June 3; Voices in Bronze will play again on May 20; the Chancel Choir will sing through May 27, then take a break until September. If you are interested in offering your musical talents in worship during the summer months, please e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or call the church office at 215-843-8811.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Rachel Women's Circle. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to John Orandosh for supplying the munchies last week. If you love to bake, buy or share hospitality, we need you to host this important time of fellowship! Please speak to Delores Solomon if you feel called to provide the snacks or hands-on support for our community's gathering time after worship.

PLEASE NOTE: PASTOR REBECCA WILL NOT BE AT UNCLE BOBBIE'S this Thursday, May 3 because she will be attending a Servant Keeper training.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM EUGENE GARDENHIRE for all of your cards, visits and prayers while he was in the hospital.

NEW RESOURCE ROOM IS OPEN! Located across from Pastor Rebecca's office on the second floor, the room is filled with inspirational books, magazines and Bible Study materials. Resource Room hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and you are welcome to visit and/or check out materials. If you would like to visit on a weekend, please leave a request with one of the church office volunteers.

PHILADELPHIA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (PIHN): The families will be with us through Sunday, May 6. Kindly consider helping our guests feel safe and welcome by preparing a dinner, serving as an overnight host or providing lunch or snacks. To volunteer, please see Eileen Jones or Delores Solomon. Please keep these families, as well as thousands of other Philadelphians who are unable to afford surging rents or gain access to affordable public housing, in your thoughts and prayers.

"SUNDAY SUPPERS" continues its program at First Church on Tuesday nights through the end of June. Families are served a full meal at their own special table, receive a cooking lesson and are sent home with that night's recipe and the ingredients needed to prepare the meal at home on their own. Preparation for the evening begins at 2:30 p.m. and the families are here from 5:30 to 8 p.m. **Volunteers are very much needed for any portion of those times.** Please contact Jackie at 215-203-6364 or Jackie@sundaysuppersphilly.org.

"EXPLORING OUR FAITH" classes will be held on **Monday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.** and **Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Finney Room for those interested in the possibility of joining in membership with FPCG, but are open to any who would like to attend. On April 30, our focus will be the history of Christianity from Jesus to the Presbyterian Church (USA). The May 7 class will focus on our ministry at First Pres including information from session members about opportunities for service here. Please let Ted Walkenhorst or Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in joining us.

A MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION WITH PASTOR REBECCA will begin in June, and will be held at 11:30 a.m. on the first Sunday and 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Stay tuned for details about the first book to be DISCUSSED!

SELECTING THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOUR STUDENT: On Monday, May 7, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at FPCG, The Notebook, a division of The Penn Project for Civic Engagement, will provide information on selecting the best Philadelphia public high school (district or charter) for your child. Over a free dinner, let's talk about what kind of information you want, including things like afterschool programs, arts, sports, class size, etc. Free child care is available upon request. To reserve child care, please contact Lauren Wiley at laurenw@thenotebook.org or 215-839-0082, ext. 106.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE, a monthly event sponsored by the Presbytery of Philadelphia and the *Coming to the Table* organization (CTT), will begin at FPCG on Saturday, May 19. The group will meet on the third Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to noon. CTT is a nation-wide organization dedicated to acknowledging and healing the wounds of racism by creating a safe space for participants to deepen their understanding of racism, strengthen community and take action. Discussions will be led by CTT-trained facilitators and are free of charge. Coffee, registration and fellowship will begin at 9:30 and the program will start promptly at 10. All are welcome! For more information, contact Cheryl Pyrch at cpyrch@summitpres.net or 215-438-2825.

FIRST CHURCH PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP: July 21-28, 2018. In September of last year, Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria. Many people lost their homes, belongings and their sources of income. The beautiful '*Isla del Encanto*' or *Island of Enchantment* was rendered unrecognizable in the wake of this storm. Today, nearly six months later, the recovery effort is still very much underway as many locations remain without power and residents work to rebuild their lives and communities. This July, Christian, Sheila, Emanuel and Elisa Heyer-Rivera; Andrea and Josh Overton; Jason, Rosemary, Sienna and Sol Williams; Sara and Jasmine Greene; Marc Dinardo; Annie Kotto and her daughter Danielle Ohemeng, as well as Leah and Emery Hood will work at the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** site located at the Añasco Presbyterian Church in Añasco, Puerto Rico, on the western coast of the island. We are currently working towards our goal of raising \$10,000 (\$500 per person) to help offset the cost of our trip as well as supplies and food for the Añasco Presbyterian Church. Our team is blessed with multiple gifts which will be used in various ways: three of our participants are medical professionals and will be hosting a health clinic; several of our members will use their electrical and construction expertise to help rebuild; those of us who speak Spanish will assist as translators; while others of us will help to clean, paint and remove debris. There is much work to be done! If you are interested in financially supporting this trip you can do so through one of several fundraising events happening this spring and summer. Current fundraisers are set for the following dates: Saturday, May 5 - Face Painting and Puerto Rican Coffee Sale at Mt. Airy Day; Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13 - Mother's Day Plant Sale at First Church; Saturday, June 10 - Piña Colada Sale at First Church; Saturday, June 30 - Puerto Rico Night Out at First Church. Please see Christian Heyer-Rivera, Sheila Heyer-Rivera or Jason Williams for more information. MUCHAS GRACIAS for any support you can provide!

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, April 29

- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 11:45 AM Confirmation Class—Primary Room
- 12:30 PM Chancel and Gospel Choirs Luncheon—Finney Room
- 2:00 PM Chancel and Gospel Choirs—Sanctuary
- 3:00 PM Service for the Installation of Rev. Rebecca Segers
The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. preaching
- 4:30 PM Post-Installation Celebration—Longstreth Auditorium

Monday, April 30

- 1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium
- 7:00 PM “Exploring Our Faith” new members class—Finney Room

Tuesday, May 1

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

Wednesday, May 2

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
- 12:00 AM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room
- 4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Dress Rehearsal—Sanctuary,
Choir Room, Primary Room, Longstreth Auditorium
- 7:00 PM Session—Finney Room

Thursday, May 3

- 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Longstreth Auditorium, Primary Room
- 6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
- 6:30 PM Children’s Choir—Choir Room
- 7:45 PM Voices in Bronze—Choir Room

Friday, May 4

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

Saturday, May 5

- Puerto Rico Trip Fundraiser: Face Painting & Coffee Sale at
Mt. Airy Day Festival, 6400 Germantown Avenue (at Cliveden Street)
- 8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
- 9:30 AM Congregational Development and Fellowship—Finney Room
- 10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, May 6

- IHN Departs
- Congregational Meeting Following Worship
- 9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
- 3:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Spring Concert
- 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Spring Concert

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 | 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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