

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, APRIL 8, 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 8, 2018

Second Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Chorale-Prelude on LLANFAIR*

McNeil Robinson II

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Leader: Christ our Savior is risen from the dead! Alleluia!

**People: Break forth into joy! Sing together!
God comforts those whose hearts are broken in sorrow.**

Leader: We who once suffered in death, we who once cried in despair—

People: Now we know victory over death! Now we know joy over despair!

Leader: For God has raised Christ from the grave!

All: The tomb is empty and death has been defeated for all the earth!

*Hymn 104: *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

HYMN TO JOY

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (from John 20)

Must we see you in order to believe you, Lord? Is seeing truly believing? Are we to be prisoners of our senses, distrusting and rejecting whatever we cannot see, touch or hear? Yet you are faithful—you give sight to the blind, you carry us when we are weary, you call us to your side. The locked room of our hearts opens at the turn of your key. Speak your words of life to us again: “Do not doubt, only believe.” Speak your words of life, that we might live.

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.**

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

†*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.")

Anthem: *A Joyful Psalm*

Michael Helman

Voices in Bronze
Evelyn Santiago, Director

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Andrea Overton, Reader

The First Lesson: 1 John 1:1-7

Page 224 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

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

*Hymn 108: *Christ Is Alive!*

TRURO

The Second Lesson: John 20:19-31

Page 108 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*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.

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: *Chorale-Invention on EASTER HYMN* (after Bach)

Thurman

*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 113: *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

LLANFAIR

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *LLANFAIR*

Albert Travis

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 rejoice in having our handbell choir, Voices in Bronze, playing in worship today. New members are always welcome. Assistance and personal instruction to beginning ringers is gladly offered! Rehearsals are on Thursday nights at 7:45 p.m. in the Choir Room. Two settings of the Nineteenth Century Welsh hymn tune LLANFAIR frame our morning worship. McNeil Robinson's LLANFAIR heard in the Prelude today was commissioned in honor of the 90th birthday of Clementine Miller Tangeman, the benefactor who provided funding to move the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary to Yale University in the 1970s. LLANFAIR was not only her favorite Easter hymn but also the name of her vacation home in Canada. Sadly, she did not live to hear Robinson's composition played. Her beloved *Llanfair* burned to the ground shortly after her death. Albert Travis's setting heard in the Postlude was composed for Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, home of the Casavant Organ Company's magnum opus. Looking ahead: the Chancel Choir will return to the choir loft on April 15 and will finish their season on Sunday, May 27.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: CDFC. Next week's host: Rosy and Ted Walkenhorst. Thank you to Madeline Valentine 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.

APRIL CHALLENGE OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. Your contributions to The Presbyterian Church U.S.A.'s *One Great Hour of Sharing* support multiple critical ministries. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** has worked in regions as diverse as the Republic of South Sudan to fund relief projects for displaced refugees, the Caribbean and the U.S. to provide food and water to hurricane victims, and Mexico to assist in reconstruction of communities following devastating earthquakes. The **Presbyterian Hunger Program** provides hands-on training in regenerative farming and whole-foods cooking in the U.S. and abroad with the goal of producing healthy and resilient soil, farmers and communities. **Self-Development of People** has assisted in such diverse activities as certifying low-income individuals in professional bicycle repair and shop operations in Redmond, Oregon and assisting fisherfolk in Belize to establish cooperatives, increasing their ability to compete with other fishing groups and to store perishable goods. See the literature table for more information on these vital ministries and please consider giving generously. Thank you.

COMMITTED TO CHANGE BENEFIT GALA: You are invited to the *Committed to Change* Benefit Gala on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 7 p.m. Building on the success of the *Be the Change* Charity Concert, this year's charity experience is an evening combining artistry and philanthropy to fulfill hopes and dreams while raising money for *Keep A Child Alive*, which provides life-saving treatment, care and support to millions of lives impacted by AIDS and HIV. The evening includes dinner, special performances, cocktails, raffles, dancing and much more! Join us at the **William Way Center, 1315 Spruce St. Phila, PA 19107**. To purchase tickets, visit www.bethechangephilly.info or see Chris Scott Jr. or Contina Lundy. Once purchased, if you would like to sit at a table with other FPCGers, speak to Chris, Contina or Pastor Rebecca.

FIRST CHURCH TRAVELS TO PUERTO RICO! *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, a group of about 20 people from First Church 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 and bring donations with us to the community. The donations that we raise will be put towards purchasing supplies and helping to stock a food pantry at the church. Our team is blessed with multiple gifts which will be used in various ways in Añasco: 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, April 21 - Children's Clothing Sale at First Church; 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 Evening Night Out at First Church. For more information please see Christian Heyer-Rivera, Sheila Heyer-Rivera or Jason Williams. **MUCHAS GRACIAS** for any support you can provide!

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) or call the church.

PASTOR REBECCA will be taking Monday, April 9 as her day off this week. She will be in the office on Tuesday instead.

JOAN'S NEW OFFICE HOURS: Please note that Joan Harris' new office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday.

NEW DEADLINE FOR SUNDAY BULLETIN: Wednesday at 10 a.m. Thank you.

MAY WINDOWS DEADLINE: Submissions for the May issue of *Windows* are due April 13. Please submit any announcements for church festivals, etc. at least one month prior to the event.

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

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

June 16 to 23

PCUSA General Assembly in St. Louis

Monday, June 25

Freedom School begins!

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org