

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

INSTALLATION OF
THE REV. REBECCA SEGERS
APRIL 29, 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, and join in celebration in the
Longstreth Auditorium. Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

April 29, 2018

Installation of The Rev. Rebecca Segers

*A Joint Service of the Presbytery of Philadelphia
and
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown*



ORDER OF WORSHIP AT 3:00 P.M.

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude

*Fanfare and Processional
God of Grace and God of Glory
Prelude to The New Commonwealth
When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

Lynn Trapp
Michael Helman
Ralph Vaughan Williams
McNeil Robinson II

Welcome

The Rev. Kevin Porter

Introit: *Chichester Psalms* 2nd Movement

Leonard Bernstein

Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir
Steven Fisher, Artistic Director

†*Call to Worship

Heidi Mercado-Littles

Leader: Sing a new song to God.

People: Sing of light and hope.

Leader: Praise with dancing and joy.

People: Praise with lives of love.

Leader: Rejoice with strings and drums.

People: Rejoice with justice and peace.

Leader: Sing a new song to God.

People: Come let us worship the Lord!

*Opening Hymn 485: *To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Call to Confession

The Rev. Kari Olson

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we have turned away from you in so many ways. Forgive us, Holy One: when we forget you; when we fail to recognize your works in this world; when we allow doubt to overcome our belief; when we allow fear to replace our trust and faith. Help us remember that we are yours, your beloved children, striving to be your beloved community. As we turn to you, to receive your grace and mercy, bless us once more that we may live lives of faithfulness.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

†Choral Response: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Harold Friedell

UNION SEMINARY

Chancel Choir; F. Anthony Thurman, Director

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name, two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them. Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem. As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ at sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup. Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Shakeel Arif

The First Lesson: Psalm 133

Leader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *I Need You to Survive*

Hezekiah Walker and David Frazier

I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body. Stand with me, agree with me, we're all a part of God's body. It is His will that every need be supplied. You are important to me, I need you to survive. I pray for you, you pray for me, I love you. I need you to survive. I won't harm you with words from my mouth. I love you, I need you to survive.

Gospel Choir; Sara Carter-Blanford, Director
Liturgical Dancers; Robin Marshall, Choreographer

The Second Lesson: Luke 4:16-21; Romans 12:1-2

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

SERMON: YOUR PROJECT AND THE POWER TO SEE IT THROUGH

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 280: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

*Affirmation of Faith: *Apostles Creed*

Christian Heyer-Rivera

**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 cruci-
fied, 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 ev-
erlasting. Amen.**

The Pastoral Prayer

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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Eileen Jones

The offering collected today will be shared between the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry and scholarships for inquirers and candidates attending seminary who are under care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia's Commission on Preparation for Ministry and Membership.

Offertory: *I Have Seen the Lord*

Text and Music by Jesse Padgett

Based on Luke 24:1-12 and John 20:1-30

Mary rose to tend the Lord she loved: the Crucified, God's only Son. She found the stone was rolled away; the linens left behind where he once lay. Two angels stood within the empty grave. They asked of her, "Why do you weep?" The Risen Lord walked to her side and told her, "Go, tell all I shall ascend on high." She said, "I have seen the Lord. With my eyes, I saw the Risen Savior. With my ears, I heard the words of peace. With my heart I feel the love of Christ who died for me, now my soul cries, 'I believe'."

Jesus sought those once who followed him. “Peace to you,” his message said. The nail-scarred hands, where blood poured out, with just one touch relieved them of their doubt. They said, “I have seen the Lord. With my eyes, I saw the Risen Savior. With my hands I felt his sword-pierced side. His voice cried, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’ Then my soul cried, ‘I believe.’”

Jesus died and rose up from the grave. He conquered death so we might live. The sins of all were washed away. Those who believe the resurrection say, “Halleluiah, we will see the Lord. We will share the kingdom he created. We will sing the praises of our God. We will claim our home in Glory where we will live forevermore! We will see the Lord! Halleluiah!”

The Gospel and Chancel Choirs

Margaret Mezzacappa, soloist; Rebecca Hughes, descant; Ted Barr, piano

*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

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Words of Introduction

Elder Linda Rutkosky

Constitutional Questions to The Rev. Rebecca Segers

Elder Linda Rutkosky

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
4. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
5. Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?
6. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

7. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
8. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
9. Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Constitutional Questions to Congregation

Christian Heyer-Rivera

1. Do we, the members of the church, accept Rebecca Segers as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

2. Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

3. Do we promise to pay her fairly and provide for her welfare as she works among us; to stand by her in trouble and share her joys? Will we listen to the word she preaches, welcome her pastoral care, and honor her authority as she seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

We do and we will.

Prayer of Installation

The Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace

Declaration of Installation

Elder Linda Rutkosky

Charge to the Pastor

The Rev. Kevin Porter

Charge to the Congregation

Elder Lloyd Higgins

Closing Anthem: *Ubuntu*

Verolga Nix/Steven Fisher

Keystone State Boychoir

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

Presentation by the Pastor Nominating Committee

Contina Lundy, Chair, and members of the committee

*Closing Hymn 376: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *To God Be the Glory*

Frederick Swann

Installation Commission

Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia

Elder Linda Rutkosky, Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Administration Commission Members

Elder Shakeel Arif, Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

Elder Lloyd Higgins, Oxford Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Kari Olson, East Falls Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Kevin Porter, The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

Additional Worship Participants

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.; Pastor Emeritus, Riverside Church in New York City

The Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace; Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Contina Lundy, Chair, and members of the FPCG PNC

Charles Bethea

Daniel Conner

Arlene Grace

Leah Hood

Rosy Walkenhorst

Jason Williams

Chancel Choir; F. Anthony Thurman, Music Director

Gospel Choir; Sara Carter-Blanford, Director

Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir; Steven Fisher, Artistic Director

Liturgical Dancers; The Rev. Rebecca Segers, Director

Christian Heyer-Rivera, Director of Christian Education

Heidi Mercado-Littles, Parish Visitor

Eileen Jones, Director of Urban Ministry

A Message of Thanks from Rev. Rebecca Segers

The celebration of my Installation as the Pastor and Head of Staff at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown is special on so many levels. I feel called to this place in this time more powerfully than I have ever before experienced, and above all am grateful to God for all the joys and the challenges that led me to the “here and now.”

I am abundantly grateful to all those who made the words, music, and dance of this service happen. Thank you to the members of the Administrative Commission, every liturgist, musician, singer, dancer, and especially to the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., for blessing this service with his or her presence and participation. Each and every piece ministered through speech, instrument, song, and dance is special to me in some way.

While studying for my M.Div. at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, I choreographed the 2nd Movement of the *Chichester Psalms* for a Jewish-Christian Relations class. I was blessed to have twins from the Ailey II company perform this ballet, which I rigorously researched and they danced with grace and beauty. The piece has remained a favorite of mine ever since.

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether is my alma mater's anthem; no more need be said there. *I Have Seen the Lord* was written by one of our own, Jesse Padgett, for this very special congregation and its world premiere was sung here at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown on Easter Sunday five weeks ago. I could not be happier to have it reprised during my Installation.

While I danced professionally in my former career in theater, *I Need You to Survive* was one of the first liturgical dances I ever learned, choreographed by a colleague and friend, Robin Marshall, from the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Roosevelt, NY on Long Island. It has blessed people in multiple services and three states that I know of; I am so happy to have it ministered today with you.

The hymns I selected are three of my absolute favorites, and I chose them solely out of love, as they speak to me of God's abiding presence and grace in my life and my gratitude for it.

A grateful note of thanks to those who made this service and the reception afterward possible, especially the staff at the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown including Administrative Assistant Joan Harris, Building Manager Terry Boyer, and Sextons Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, and Harold Whaley.

Additional heartfelt gratitude to the FPCG Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee Chair Delores Solomon, and the support from its members and friends, especially Dani Howard and her mother Chef Mary Lewis of California Catering, for a reception beyond compare.

Finally, I am thankful for *your* presence in this beautiful sanctuary today, however well or little we know each other, we are all God's children, and I am beyond delighted that we are praising the Lord together this day!

You are joyously invited to remain after this Worship Service of Installation to greet Rev. Segers and the participants at a Reception in the Longstreth Auditorium.