

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,
CELEBRATING
& SERVING
THE LIVING LORD!

MAY 13, 2018

*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.

May 13, 2018

Seventh Sunday of Easter

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *From Three Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes*

II. RHOSYMEDRE

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

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

John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Acts 10, Psalm 98, John 15

Leader: God our Mother, for the miracle of continuing creation
in the conception and birth of a child, we give you thanks.

**People: For the miracle of our own birth,
and the lessons we have learned about your love
from a mother's tenderness, we give you thanks.**

Leader: For the miracle of being human and being alive,
of loving, of sharing, of learning and growing,
and for those who nurture us, we give you thanks.

**People: For the miracle of your love and grace,
and the opportunity to worship you this day,
we give you thanks. Amen!**

*Hymn 150: *Come, Christian, Join to Sing*

MADRID

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (*Acts 1, John 17*)

Bringer of glory, author of everlasting life, when Jesus' disciples watched as their friend and teacher was carried away to heaven, they felt bereft and alone. In your mercy, you sent angels to comfort them. We too need your winged messengers of hope, O God, for we can also feel bereft and alone. We long to be like Peter, James and John, and Mary the mother of Jesus, who devoted themselves to prayer. In our isolation, we forsake community, and resign ourselves to loneliness and loss. Teach us once more that we are yours and that you are ours. Remind us again that eternal life comes from knowing you and being known by you. Open us to prayer. Open us to hope. Open us to life in your holy name.

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

Arlene Grace, Reader

The First Lesson: Acts 1:1-5

Page 110 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's Choir Anthems

Lynn Shaw Bailey
Becki Slagle Mayo

Come with a Grateful Heart

Come to God with a grateful heart, ready to serve and ready to praise. God made ev'rything, all creatures great and small. God loves ev'ryone and God is Lord of all! Come on children! God so loved the world, he sent his only son. Jesus came to share God's love for ev'ryone! Praise the Lord!

A Mother's Faith—She Follows Jesus

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, there is joy when we trust and obey. Bold and tender, strong, full of laughter, joy and song. Hands that labor, arms that hold both the children and the old. Slow to anger, full of grace. Loving smile upon her face. Acts of mercy, words of peace. Faith prayers that never cease. Step by step and day by day, she follows Jesus. With God's Word to light her way, she follows Jesus. With her life and her love, she finds strength from God above. By God's grace, she has the faith to follow Jesus. More than diamonds, more than silver, more than rubies, more than gold is the one who lives for Jesus and provides a loving home. And her children call her blessed, far surpassing all the rest, for she puts her hope in Jesus, showing others what is best.

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

The Second Lesson: Acts 1:6-14

Page 110 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **JESUS: THE SEQUEL**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 403: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

CONVERSE

*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, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God made us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. 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 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: *Greater Love Hath No Man*

John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus; Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 411: *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Albert L. Travis

“...Who from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way. . .”

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.

NEXT WEEK IS THE CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST, the birthday of the Church. We have several ways we will be celebrating, including the Lord's Supper and welcome of new members in worship, as well as a surprise celebration out front, thanks to the Praise and Evangelism Team. You won't want to miss it!

THE MUSIC: John Ireland, whose anthem is heard at the offertory, was English by birth and composed more music for the piano and voice than anything else. Among his choral works, *Greater Love*, written for St. Paul's Cathedral in 1912, is best known. The anthem text, based on several different scriptural passages, gained new meaning as casualties from the front mounted during World War I. We give thanks to Evelyn Santiago, director of our Children's Choir, and the children singing in worship today. The children complete their season of singing in worship today. Voices in Bronze will complete their season of ringing next Sunday. We look forward to the return of both groups in the fall. The Chancel Choir will sing through May 27; the Gospel Choir will sing again on June 3. 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: CDFC. Next week's host: Gayl and Herb Henze. Thank you to Lois Nafziger 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.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO ANNUAL REPORT: Please note that Jason Williams was incorrectly named as Jason Miller under "Elders (Class of 2021)" and that Glenna Hazeltine should have been named in the "(OPEN)" position as a Member-at-Large for 2019; however, she had agreed to serve after the report had gone to print. Our apologies! Also, we are pleased to share that at last Sunday's Congregational Meeting, Rhonda Highsmith was nominated from the floor and elected as the Deacon replacing Vera Harrison.

WINDOWS: Please note that the submission deadline for the June issue of *Windows* is by the end of today. Also, we are saddened to share that the Summer (July/August) issue will be Deborah Thompson's last issue as Windows editor, and grateful for her term of service. Deborah will be moving to Tennessee to care for her mother. Travelling mercies, Deborah. We will miss you!

A MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION WITH PASTOR REBECCA will begin in June, and will be held at 11:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month and 5 p.m. on the Tuesday following it. Our first discussion book is *Searching for Happiness* by Martin Thielen and is available during coffee hour for \$12. We will discuss the preface and Chapter One in June. We hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE: The Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ Day at the Kimmel Center will include a performance by the Opera Philadelphia chorus, including our own Evelyn Santiago and Rob Phillips, accompanied by FPCG Music Director Tony Thurman on Saturday, June 23. The day-long celebration of the organ begins at 11 a.m. The organ and opera performance will be at 1:15 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

FIRST CHURCH PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP UPDATE: Thank you for your contributions toward our goal of raising \$10,000 (\$500 per person) to help offset the cost of the trip as well as supplies and food for the Añasco Presbyterian Church. Future fundraising events include a **Piña Colada Sale** on Saturday, June 10 and a **Puerto Rico Evening Out** on Saturday, June 30. We hope to see you at these events! For more information, please see Christian Heyer-Rivera, Sheila Heyer-Rivera or Jason Williams.

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.

Conversations About Race

beginning

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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**. Pre-registration is not necessary—you can register at the event.

Coffee, registration and fellowship will begin at 9:30 and the program will start promptly at 10. **All are welcome!** If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Pynch at cpynch@summitpres.net or 215-438-2825.

May Session Highlights

Presbytery Meeting - Bob Seed and Ted Walkenhorst were elected commissioners for the Tuesday, May 15th (10:30 am) Presbytery meeting at Valley Forge Presbyterian Church. Randy Clever and Pastor Segers will be driving and have room if you would like to attend.

Pastor Segers will be on vacation July 2nd through July 9th. The Rev. Dr. Allison Seed will preach on Sunday, July 8th.

Bob Seed reported that a breakfast for the men of the church will held at 8:30 am on Saturday June 23rd. Our own David Cassie will speak about his experiences in Cuba.

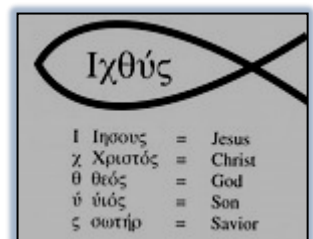
Beginning the first Sunday in June (and the following Tuesday afternoon) Pastor Segers will lead a monthly Bible study to discuss the book "Searching for Happiness." Books are available in the church office for \$12.00 each.

Session voted to approve a 3-month contract with Dinkum Website Maintenance.

Ted Walkenhorst, Chair of the Praise and Evangelism Team, reported that the team will be outside the church greeting the congregation on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th.

Session will meet with prospective new members Lydia Overton, Margaret Mukai, and David and Patty Wilson on Monday May 7th to hear their faith journeys and welcome them to FPCG.

Session enthusiastically approved Dhyran Cassie's suggestion to display four "Rainbow Fish" emblems (two on each sign) to demonstrate FPCG's LGBTQ inclusiveness. The fish was an early Christian symbol. The Greek word for fish is an acronym for "Jesus Christ God Son Savior."



WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, May 13

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 Philadelphia Sinfonia Concert

Monday, May 14

1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium

Tuesday, May 15

10:30 AM Presbytery of Phila.—Pre-Presbytery Conversations—Valley Forge PC
12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room
1:00 PM Presbytery of Philadelphia Meeting—Valley Forge Presbyterian Church
5:30 PM Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Jennings Room
6:30 PM Personnel Committee—Finney Room

Wednesday, May 16

10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
12:00 PM Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room
4:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room

Thursday, May 17

8:00 AM Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Avenue (8-10 a.m.)
6:00 PM Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room
6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Longstreth Auditorium, Primary Room
6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
7:45 PM Voices in Bronze—Choir Room

Friday, May 18

3:30 PM Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gymnasium
5:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Room
6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group—Youth Lounge

Saturday, May 19

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
9:00 AM Anti-Racism Discussion Group—Jennings Room (9 a.m. to noon)
Breakout Groups—Christian Ed Sunday School Rooms
10:00 AM Open Gym

Sunday, May 20

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
10:00 AM Pentecost Sunday Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
11:30 AM Chancel Choir—Choir Room
12:30 PM Children's Choir Parents Meeting—Finney 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

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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