

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

PENTECOST SUNDAY
COMMUNION
MAY 20, 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.

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Praise with Timbrel and Dance (Ps. 150)*

Frederick Chatfield

Voices in Bronze, Evelyn Santiago, Director

Welcome and Announcements

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

John Carter

*Call to Worship

Acts 2, John 14

Leader: In rushing wind, in cleansing fire . . .

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Leader: In courage found, in strength renewed . . .

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Leader: In visions born, in dreams restored . . .

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Leader: In hopes rekindled, in fears released . . .

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Leader: In the church's sudden birth, in possibilities untold . . .

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Leader: In rushing wind, in cleansing fire . . .

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

*Hymn 130: *Let Every Christian Pray*

LAUDES DOMINI

Presentation of New Members

Clerk of Session Madeline Valentine

Call to Discipleship

Minister: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ,
a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

Congregation: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. – from the Book of Order, F-1.0304

*congregation standing

† latecomers may be seated

Profession of Faith (Only new members respond to these questions.)

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin
and its power in the world?

I do.

Minister: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Minister: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Minister: Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,
share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts,
your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be
a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Prayer of Welcome

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession (from *Acts 2, Psalm 104*)

Gracious and Almighty God, we have often failed to be receptive to the power of your Holy Spirit. Fearful of true unity, our words have often confused rather than clarified, hurt rather than healed, and divided rather than united your people. In your never failing grace, bestow the wonderful gift of your Spirit among us. Forgive us when we turn away from oneness and wholeness, and save us from the terrible toll of apathy and neglect. May we constantly sing your praises, honoring Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother and Father of us all.

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.")

A Time for Children

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

Bell Anthem: *With Heart and Hands and Voices*

Douglas Wagner

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Lesson: Acts 2:1-21

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **THE VERB 'TO BE'**

The Reverend Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Affirmation of Faith: *Apostles Creed*

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.

Offering of Our Gifts and Lives

Offertory: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Harold Friedell

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 to 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.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Table

*Communion Hymn 769: *For Everyone Born*

Glory to God hymnal

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Eternal God, by your Holy Spirit, you breathed life into human form, and set us on the earth to praise and serve you. When we wander from your ways and are lost, you call your people to return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son to be our deliverer. In every age your Holy Spirit has led us in your ways. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, saying:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. At his baptism, your Spirit came with gentle wings, settling on him your blessing. In the wilderness of temptation, your Spirit stood by with power. In Jesus' life and ministry, your Spirit guided him to serve the poor, and the friendless, and announce freedom from sin's bondage. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of death and led the way to eternal life. He then sent the Spirit from on high that our lives may emulate his and we may give praise to you, Lord Jesus:

People: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, binding us to you and one another, receiving our gratitude as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

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.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(We will come to the table to receive the elements of bread and wine/juice. Come forward using the center aisle, partake of the elements as you receive them, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Remember that the cups on the outside ring of the tray hold grape juice and the cups within the outside ring contain wine.)

Prayer After Supper

God of all might and power, we praise you that you forged your church in the fire of the Spirit, and breathed life into your people that we might be the body of Christ. May we who have received this sacrament be shaped according to your will, in the service of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, now and forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 526: *For All the Saints*

SINE NOMINE

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Come, God Creator, Holy Spirit*

J.S. Bach

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 LITURGY: This is a very special day in the life of the church universal, celebrating its very beginning. It has often been traditional to welcome new members into congregations on this day, as they were welcomed in the scripture following that which we hear this morning: “So those who welcomed (Peter’s) message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.” (Acts 2:41) Additionally, here at First Presbyterian in Germantown, we celebrate the Lord’s Supper on Pentecost. I have written the Eucharistic liturgy using the Book of Common Worship as my helper and guide, that we might focus on the gift of the Holy Spirit, even as we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus within its language. This month, we speak the words rather than sing them, as they would have in the early days of the church.

THE MUSIC: Today we introduce a new hymn in worship, *For Everyone Born* by Shirley Murray. “Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him. . .” the author writes. “I couldn’t find anything to reflect a broad overview of human rights in any hymnbook. You can see that I have used some of the very basic ideas of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—the right to shelter, safety, food, and later, the right to a job, to freedom of speech and worship. I’ve tried to put them in a context which relates directly to the Gospel, but without excluding those who are not of the Christian faith.” Murray’s hymn extends the invitation to all regardless of gender, cultural background, social class, or sexual orientation. Unfortunately, the last verse of her hymn has been omitted from some hymnals. It is especially relevant to the inclusivity and diversity of First Church: “For gay and for straight, a place at the table, a covenant shared, a welcoming place, a rainbow of race and gender and color, for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace. . .”

We give thanks to Evelyn Santiago, director of our Voices in Bronze handbell choir, and the musicians ringing in worship. The bell choir completes its season today. 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 hosts: Gayl and Herbe Henze. Next week’s host: Administration and Finance Committee. Thank you to Debra Gary 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.

MAY CHALLENGE OFFERING: FREEDOM SCHOOL. We look forward to another awesome summer of learning and fun. For those unfamiliar with Freedom School, it is a seven-week program (this year, June 25 to August 10) which focuses on literacy, mental and spiritual growth, and fun for approximately 50 children and young adults. Mornings include reading and other age-appropriate educational activities. Afternoons include dance, music, swimming, Bible study, assemblies, arts and crafts, field trips and more. Breakfast and lunch, prepared on site, and an afternoon snack are provided daily. Children can be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. and picked up as late as 6:00 p.m. Please consider giving generously. A gift of \$610 will sponsor a child for the entire seven-week program; a \$300 contribution will offset the transportation cost for a local field trip; \$100 can provide a subsidy to a working family to enable a sibling to also attend the program; \$50 will pay for two days of afternoon snacks. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

PROGRAM STAFF RETREAT: Rev. Rebecca Segers, Rev. Kevin Porter, Director of Christian Education Christian Heyer-Rivera, and Director of Urban Ministry Eileen Jones will be out of the office Monday, May 21, 2018-Wednesday, May 23, 2018. They will be at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference & Family Retreat Center, working on the upcoming Program Year. (Director of Music Tony Thurman will be Skyping in on Tuesday morning to participate.) Please be praying for them as they strive to discover new ways in which their respective ministries can intersect and support each other, to the glory of God and coming of the kingdom. Parish Visitor Heidi Mercado-Littles will be available in case of any critical pastoral care needs during Rebecca's and Kevin's absence.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold it's monthly meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room tomorrow, May 21. All women are encouraged and invited to attend. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided.

RESCHEDULED PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING: The next property committee meeting will be this Tuesday, May 22 at 7 p.m. in the Finney Room.

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.

Windows on the Week

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 AM Children's Choir parents meeting—Finney Room

Monday, May 21

Program Staff Retreat
 11:00 AM Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
 1:00 PM Ladies Teen Challenge—Gymnasium

Tuesday, May 22

Program Staff Retreat
 12:00 PM Commonwealth Youthchoirs Administration Meeting—Finney Room
 5:30 PM Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium, Jennings Room
 7:00 PM Property Committee Meeting—Finney Room

Wednesday, May 23

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

Thursday, May 24

8:00 AM Pastor Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
 6:00 PM Keystone State Boychoir—Primary Room, Longstreth Auditorium
 6:30 PM Gospel Choir—Sanctuary

Friday, May 25

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

Saturday, May 26

8:00 AM Keystone State Boychoir
 9:00 AM Readers' Choice—Offsite
 9:30 AM Worship, Music and the Arts Committee—Upstairs Office

Sunday, May 27

9:00 AM Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
 10:00 AM Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
 12:30 PM Deacons Meeting—Finney Room
 6:00 PM Dinner for Eight—home of Pastor Segers, 4920 Greene Street

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	The Reverend 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 Chelton Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org