

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

NOVEMBER 25, 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.

November 25, 2018

Christ the King Sunday

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Procesión Alegre*

Garry Cornell

Steven Heitzer, trumpet

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *We Gather Together*

Sixteenth Century Dutch Hymn

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing; sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

†*Call to Worship

Leader: Grace and peace to you, from Jesus, the Risen One.

People: Let all the faithful shout for joy!

Leader: Grace and peace to you, from the Alpha and the Omega,
the first and the last.

People: Let all the faithful shout for joy!

Leader: Grace and peace to you,
from the One who brings the new heaven and the new earth.

People: Let all the faithful shout for joy!

Leader: Grace and peace to you, from Jesus,
who is both the lamb and the lion.

People: Let all the faithful shout for joy!

Leader: Grace and peace to you, from Jesus,
risen to rule with God over all things.

People: Let all the faithful shout for joy!

*Hymn 263: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Risen Christ, you are Lord of Lords! You are King of Kings, and no one works like you! We proclaim your kingdom with our lips and voices, but not so much with our living. Too often the things we want are rulers of our lives. Too often our own needs get all our attention and not the needs of others. That is not what life in your kingdom should look like. Christ our King, you did not come to condemn, but to love. Love us into the power of your forgiveness, and make our lives a witness to your tender kingship.

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

Zaria Cuffee

The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Page 234 OT

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

People: Thanks be to God!

The Time for Children

Anthem: *Praise, O Praise Our God and King*

Raymond Haan

Praise, O praise our God and King; hymns of adoration sing. For his mercies still endure ever faithful, ever sure. Praise him that he made the sun day by day his course to run; And the silver moon by night, shining with her gentle light. Praise him that he gave the rain to mature the swelling grain; He has caused the fruitful field crops of golden corn to yield. Praise him for our harvest store; he hath filled the garner floor. And for richer food than this, pledge of everlasting bliss. Glory to our bounteous King; glory let creation sing; Glory to the Father, Son, and blest Spirit, three in one.

Chancel, Children's and Voices in Bronze Choirs

Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: John 18:33-37

Page 106 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **TRUTH TESTIFIERS**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 442: *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

*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 Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

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

Offering

Offertory: *Psalm 96*

Michael Bedford

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and splendor of his sanctuary! Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 138: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

NICAEA

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response: *Go Now in Peace*

Natalie Sleeth

Children's Choir; Evelyn Santiago, Director

Postlude: *Procesión Alegre*

Cornell

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.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Rev. Rebecca and her daughter, Grace. Next week: no coffee hour because of Christmas Dinner! Thank you to Gayl and Herb Henze 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.

THE MUSIC: Steven Heitzer, trumpet, joins us in worship today as we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar before a year commences with the First Sunday of Advent. A native of Philadelphia, Steve is an active classical trumpet player in the tri-state area. He is a member of Opera Philadelphia, Bach Festival Orchestra of Bethlehem, Reading Symphony, and Ocean City Pops Orchestra, and a frequent performer with the Delaware Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Lancaster Symphony, and the Walnut Street Theatre. He received his undergraduate degree from Temple and his master's degree from Manhattan School of Music.

The offertory anthem was the winning composition of the 2004 AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition, a biennial competition sponsored by the American Guild of Organists and E.C. Schirmer Publishing Company. Michael Bedford is the current president of the AGO and composer-in-residence at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulsa, Okla., where he was organist/choirmaster for 25 years before retiring in 2015. His compositions have been published by thirteen different publishing companies.

OUR MESSIAH IS COMING! The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will perform excerpts from G.F. Handel's beloved oratorio *Messiah* on Sunday, December 2, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 7-9 p.m. For more information or to participate, e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or call the church office at 215-843-8811.

DON'T HAVE ANY CASH? FORGOT YOUR PLEDGE ENVELOPE? We've got you covered! Now you can give online *from your pew*. There are new cards in the pew racks that have both a QR code and a bit.ly, either of which allow you to use your smart phone to take you directly to our secure giving page on the First Pres website. After giving, you may place the card in the Offering Plate, publicly acknowledging your gift along with those who are using envelopes or loose cash as we all share our gifts to the Lord.

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING: RISE AGAINST HUNGER is an organization whose mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and to create a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. *Hunger doesn't have to exist. Let's end it together!* Please consider giving generously to this worthwhile cause. Please note that on **Monday, January 21, 2019**, First Church will hold our third annual meal packing event.

THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE would like to offer the congregation the opportunity to make suggestions for the 2019 Challenge offerings. If you know of an organization in our community that would benefit from a Challenge Offering, please contact a committee member for more information: Larry Elliott, Andrea Overton, Sam Whyte or Gloria Bethea, Chair.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT: Christmas is the time when we tangibly show our appreciation to our staff for all they do during the year to serve our congregation and the community. Most of us have experienced the "extra" each of these staff members put into their job. Staff Appreciation Christmas Gifts will be given to Kevin, Eileen, Tony, Evelyn, Christian, Heidi, Sara, Joan, Cindy, Terry, Whaley, Robert and Tanieya just prior to the holiday.

You can share in these appreciation gifts beginning Sunday, December 2, when a member of the Personnel Committee will be available during the coffee hour to receive your contribution. *Please be generous.* In the spirit of the season, the Personnel Committee.

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 canned fruits and vegetables. Many thanks in advance for your donations.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY is free and open for business! A wide variety of books from Bible commentaries to spiritual poetry to the Gospel According to Peanuts and more has been collected in the upstairs office for your reading pleasure. If you would like to check out what we've got and then "check it out" to take home, please take a look and then sign the clipboard letting us know what you've borrowed.

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](tel:215-927-4648)) or call the church.

ALASKA AND SCOTLAND TRIPS: An Alaskan cruise and a trip to Scotland are in the planning process. Experience the majesty of Alaska on the beautiful *Carnival Legend* August 20-27, 2019. Visit Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan in Alaska and Victoria, British Columbia. See Gloria Bethea for more information. In 2020, travel to Scotland, the home of John Knox, who studied with Jon Calvin and thus brought us our denomination. Visit Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Isle of Skye, Inverness, the Orkneys, Arthur's Seat, Glen Coe, Loch Lomond, Loch Ness, Stirling Castle and Iona Abbey. And let's not forget the Harry Potter Train! See Glenna Hazeltine for details.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, December 2

Handel's Messiah Performance, 4 p.m.

followed by

FPCG Annual Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day, Church Closed

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 25	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Kevin Porter preaching
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Mission and Outreach Committee—Jennings Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	12:30 PM	Deacons Meeting—Finney Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym
Monday, Nov. 26	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
Tuesday, Nov. 27	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Staff Meeting—Finney Rm.
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
Wednesday, Nov. 28	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary
	2:00 PM	Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
Thursday, Nov. 29	8:00 AM	Rev. Segers at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave., 8-10 am
	9:00 AM	Christmas Decorating <i>Sanctuary, Longstreth Auditorium, Finney Room, Jennings Room</i>
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers Alumni Night—Kitchen, Longstreth
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Finney Room, Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
Friday, Nov. 30	9:00 AM	Christmas Decorating <i>Sanctuary, Longstreth Auditorium, Finney Room, Jennings Room</i>
	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—Youth Lounge
Saturday, Dec. 1	8:00 AM	Christmas Dinner Prep— <i>Longstreth, Jennings, Kitchen</i>
	9:30 AM	Unity Committee—Finney Room, Jennings Room
	9:30 AM	Congregational Development & Fellowship—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
	10:00 AM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 2	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School—Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Book Discussion with Rev. Segers—Finney Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym
4:00 PM	<i>Messiah</i> Concert—Sanctuary, followed by Annual Christmas Dinner—Jennings Room	

Church Officers

Elders

2019

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

2021

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

Clerk of Session:
Madeline Valentine

Deacons

2019

Ruth Cato
Diane Filter
Dick Liberty

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

2021

Dhyan Cassie
Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

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	Taneyia Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley	
Building Manager		
Administrative Assistant		
Bookkeeper		
Sextons		

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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