

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

DECEMBER 30, 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.

December 30, 2018

First Sunday After Christmas Day

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." – Charles Dickens

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *An Angelic Triptych* Jerry Westenkuehler

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Rebecca Segers

†*Call to Worship Eileen Jones

Leader: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

People: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!

Leader: A child is born for us—a son has been given!

**People: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace,
we shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!**

Leader: Come, let us see what God has brought us!

People: Let us see what the Lord has done!

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And on earth, peace and good will to everyone!

*Hymn 40: *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Kevin Porter

God of holy mystery, it was no heavenly stranger that came to save us; it was no divine afterthought that freed us from captivity to aimlessness and sin; it was no casual gesture that fashioned our salvation. As we laugh and sing our praises at Christmastime, remind us once more of what you offer: a love born of endless searching, a connection born of deep longing, a future born of selfless sacrifice. As we praise you with our lips, and love you with our hearts, help us to be the people you imagine us to be, remembering that you are Emmanuel, "God with us," now and always, guiding our steps, and directing our paths.

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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Presentation of Wynter Love Jones

Questions to the Parents

Question to the Sponsors

Question to the Congregation:

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise
to guide and nurture Wynter, by word and deed, with love
and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to
be a faithful member of this church?

We do.

Blessing Over Water

Baptism

Baptismal Hymn 25: *Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

Welcome

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

The First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-15 (Page 598 OT)

F. Anthony Thurman

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

Hymn 9: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Page 600 OT)

Christian Heyer-Rivera

God promises that child shall be the Prince of Peace and
his kingdom shall never end.

*Hymn 28: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

The Third Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25 (Page 1 NT)

Eileen Jones

An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream.

Hymn 38: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

CAROL

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-58 (Page 53 NT)

Rev. Kevin Porter

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary
that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

*Hymn 53: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1-20 (Page 54 NT)

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

Hymn 49: *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Pastoral Prayer

Christian Heyer-Rivera

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Away in a Manger*

Thurman

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Jesse Padgett, baritone

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Rebecca Segers

The Sixth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (Page 1 NT)

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Jesus is likewise sought after and found by Wise Men from the East.

Hymn 53: *What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

The Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-18 (Page 86 NT)

Rev. Kevin Porter

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

*Hymn 29: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response 41: *O Come All Ye Faithful* (refrain)

ADESTE FIDELES

Postlude: *Joy to the World*

Gerre Hancock

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: Lessons and Carols is a worship service format of scripture and song, and is a recognized presentation of the Word by the PC(USA). Today, each scripture passage is followed by a carol related to the lesson's message, celebrating the birth, life and good news of Jesus Christ. Each member of the FPCG program staff is participating as a worship leader, celebrating both new life in Christ and moving into a new year together. Additionally, we are blessed today to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, welcoming Wynter Love Jones, daughter of Tara and David Jones, into the faith family at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

THE MUSIC: Today, we hear a fresh, new setting of *Away in a Manger* as the Offertory, which was composed as a gift to Randy and Donna Bremer. It was recently published by the Organ Historical Society in the *Empire State Hymnbook*, a collection of 104 hymns by New York composers and organists whose lives span three centuries. The hymn text was once attributed to Martin Luther but now is believed to be of nineteenth century American origin.

Messiah 2018: If you were unable to attend our *Messiah* concert, or if you would like to hear it again, the Internet livestream recording can be played on demand at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2018. The concert recording has now received more than 360 views.

Looking ahead: The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will present a Brahms Festival Concert on Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, January 8, from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The program will feature the music of Brahms, Robert and Clara Schumann in recognition of the bicentennial of Clara Schumann's birth. For more information or to participate, call the church office at 212-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: The Rachel Circle. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to Daniel Conner 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.

DECEMBER CHALLENGE: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING. During the Christmas and Advent season, we celebrate leadership—past, present and future—through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith and we want these leaders and their families who are grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will be collecting new gloves, hats and socks for adults and children during Sunday worship. All items collected will be given to the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry for distribution.

BOOK DISCUSSION WITH REV. SEGERS: Our next discussion will be on Sunday, January 6 and Tuesday, January 8. We will discuss Chapter 8 of *Searching for Happiness*, which is all about gratitude. We hope you can join us!

THE GACM will be closed for the Christmas holidays, with their last day of service being Thursday, December 20, 2018. The administrative staff will return on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. The food pantry will reopen on Thursday, January 10, 2019 and social services will resume on Monday, January 14, 2019. Many thanks to staff and volunteers for an amazing 2018!

2019 PLEDGE CARDS: Thanks to all who have submitted your 2019 pledge card—so far we have received 66 for a total of \$270,136. You can still make a difference transforming lives at FPCG and in the community beyond; just place your pledge in the *Transformed by Gratitude* box on the literature table and add your commitment toward next year's ministry.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Save your place for the Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 2, 2109. The cost is \$30 and a \$10 deposit will reserve your spot. Gloria Bethea is taking reservations at the CD table in Longstreth after worship.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 30	10:00 AM 11:45 AM 1:30 PM	Worship—Lessons and Carols Confirmation Class—Youth Lounge Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym
Monday, Dec. 31		CHURCH CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan. 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH CLOSED
Wednesday, Jan. 2	10:00 AM 12:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	GACM CLOSED Staff Meeting—Finney Room Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary Room Keystone State Boychoir Session—Finney Room
Thursday, Jan. 3	8:00 AM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	GACM CLOSED Rev. Segers at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave., 8-10 am Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
Friday, Jan. 4	3:30 PM 6:30 PM	GACM CLOSED Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym Elementary School Youth Group—Youth Lounge
Saturday, Jan. 5	9:30 AM 10:00 AM	Congregational Development & Fellowship—Finney Room Open Gym
Sunday, Jan. 6	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:15 AM 11:30 AM 11:30 AM 11:45 AM 1:30 PM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching Sunday School—Grades K-5 Book Discussion—Finney Room Chancel Choir—Choir Room Confirmation Class—Youth Lounge Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym

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	Christian Heyer-Rivera	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Director of Christian Education	Parish Visitor	Terry Boyer
Building Manager	Administrative Assistant	Joan Harris
Bookkeeper	Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons		Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley

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