

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

DECEMBER 9, 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 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

"Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around." – Henry David Thoreau

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Pastoral Symphony* (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Fourth Century

Savior of the nations, come, virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.

†*Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Jones Family

Isaiah 11 describes the Kingdom of God as a place of peace where hatred, anger, and
violence are not just tucked under the rug, but swept away all together.

In today's terms, that scripture *could* sound like this:

The wolf shall live with the lamb,

Israel and Palestine will end their fighting, the war in Yemen will cease, the violence in
Central and South America will be no more, our schools and churches and streets will
be places of safety.

The leopard shall lie down with the kid,

Our waterways will be clear, our land treated as sacred, our skies and air will be pure
and clean and protected.

The calf and the lion will feed together,

All People, of every background and race and culture and ideology, will work together
in harmony, even when they disagree.

And a little child shall lead them.

And, without fear, the Church will lead them.

Today we light the candle of peace as a prayer, a protest, and a reminder of God's
prayer for this world. We lit the candle of hope last Sunday, we light the candle of
peace this week to symbolize God's ever-increasing light.

(light candle)

And as this light burns and grows, we will wait, eagerly, longing for the birth of a child
and for the peace only love can bring. May peace light up the world. Amen.

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

VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession: If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we are not yet with you; if we are waiting for Jesus, we need a Savior; if we are waiting for a Messiah, the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, the hungry stand unheard at the door; if we are waiting for your incarnation in human form, we confess that we have not known you in our sister, we have not loved you in our brother, we have not served you in our neighbor. In this time of great meaning, in the stillness of Advent love and light, hear our deepest confession, heal us and make us new through the good tidings of your presence in our lives.

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

Diane Filter, Reader

The First Lesson: Luke 1:68-79

Page 54 NT

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

Solo: From *Messiah*

Handel

*For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth
The People that Walked in Darkness*

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. (Isaiah 60: 2-3) The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Isaiah 9: 2)

Robert Phillips, baritone

The Second Lesson: Luke 3:1-6

Page 56 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **TURN AROUND**

Rev. Rebecca Seegers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 3: *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

PSALM 42

*Affirmation of Faith [from *The Westminster Confession of Faith (The Shorter Catechism)*]

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Every Valley*

John Ness Beck

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low; and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen. (Isaiah 40: 4,5)

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 10: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Wake, Awake! For Night Is Flying*

Paul Manz

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of John A. Chandler.

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: Ingrid Harris. Next week: Lorraine Hall and Tim Robinson. **Please join us today as we celebrate staff members Joan Harris, Robert Patterson and Harold Whaley.** 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.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: From the Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee, thank you all for helping and attending the annual Christmas Dinner.

THE MUSIC: On this Second Sunday of Advent, we continue to look expectantly to the coming of the Savior of the Nations, the Christ Child of Bethlehem born to save the world from sin and despair. Our music calls us to wait, watch, and prepare the way for Christ's coming. From *Messiah*, we hear two solos movements offered by Robert Phillips. The Swarthmore native studied at the Tanglewood Institute Summer Program for Young Artists and continued his vocal studies at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. He was a core member of The Philadelphia Singers, a founding member of The Crossing in Chestnut Hill, and enjoyed a long association with the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds in Italy. We are honored to have him serving as a section leader in our Chancel Choir.

Looking ahead: Voices in Bronze handbell choir will play during worship on Dec. 16; the Children's Choir will sing on Dec. 22; our evening service on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. will be preceded by an organ recital at 6:30. If you were unable to attend last week's *Messiah* concert, or if you would like to hear it again, our Internet livestream recording can be played on demand at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2018.

Save the Date! 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 Clara Schumann's bicentennial. For more information or to participate, call the church office at 212-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

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 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. **Today is the deadline for 2019 Challenge Offering suggestions.**

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, December 17, at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

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 contribute to these appreciation gifts after church today, 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.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: The poinsettias in the sanctuary during the Christmas season are in memory and honor of our loved ones. As is our custom, these flowers will be delivered after Christmas to the sick and shut-in of our congregation. Please contact the church during office hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. if you would like your family members' or friends' names included in the worship bulletin. The cost is \$15 per line. Listings will be accepted until Tuesday, December 18, 2018.

THIRD SUNDAY: Next Sunday, December 16th after worship, we will be talking about Elizabeth and Mary, their surprising pregnancies, and remembering the special births in our lives—our own and those we love. Please bring a photo of yourself as a baby or a baby picture of a special person in your life to share. Then we'll work on a Christmas activity to take with us when we leave.

DINNER AND A MOVIE! The Christian Education Committee invites you to Dinner and a Movie on Friday, December 21, 2018. That is also the evening of the Youth Group lock-in, and the entire church family is welcome to come enjoy a pizza supper at 6:30 p.m. in the Longstreth Auditorium followed by a screening of the Christmas movie "Elf" in the Jennings Room starting at 7:15 p.m. Come join the fun and fellowship with us this Advent season!

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed from December 24, 2018 through January 2, 2019 to give our volunteers much needed time off and time with their families.

2019 PLEDGE CARDS: Thanks to all who have submitted your 2019 pledge card—so far we have received 50 for a total of \$218,200. 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.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES: To save the church the cost of mailing your 2019 offering envelopes, please pick them up during Coffee Hour today. If your envelopes are not there and you wish to have them, please call the church office.

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.

Join us for the FPCG Annual

Christmas Festival!

Saturday, December 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

featuring

- **Build-your-own Gingerbread House**
- **Card Making and Ornament Decorating**
- **Live Nativity with Animals from Saul High School**
- **Christmas Play by FPCG Youth**
- **Christmas Carol Sing-Along**
- **Pictures with Santa**
- **Fun Time with Family, Neighbors and Friends!**

Lunch is Included!

A free-will offering will be taken to help support the festival.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 9	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	<i>Animate</i> —Finney Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Youth Lounge
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	12:30 PM	<i>Third Sunday</i> Planning Meeting—Upstairs Office
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Team Practice—Gym
3:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Concert—Sanctuary	
Monday, Dec. 10	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
	5:00 PM	<i>Animate</i> —Finney Room
Tuesday, Dec. 11	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Staff Meeting—Finney Rm.
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium
Wednesday, Dec. 12	9:30 AM	Crisis Ministry Coat Drive—Jennings Rm. (9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.)
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Primary
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Sanctuary, Choir Room
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
Thursday, Dec. 13	8:00 AM	Rev. Segers at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave., 8-10 am
	6:00 PM	Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Jennings Room, Longstreth Aud.
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
Friday, Dec. 14	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Christmas Festival Rehearsal—Longstreth Auditorium
	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—Youth Lounge
Saturday, Dec. 15	11:00 AM	Annual Christmas Festival (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
	1:00 PM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 16	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	<i>Third Sunday</i> Interactive Bible Study
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Youth Lounge
	12:30 PM	Violence Task Force—Finney Room
1:30 PM	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	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		

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org