

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

COMMUNION
JANUARY 6, 2019

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.

January 6, 2019

Epiphany Sunday

*"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." –
E.M. Forster*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *We Three Kings* Rulon Christiansen

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission Chris Scott Jr.

Introit: *De Tierra Lejana Venimos (From a Distant Home)* Puerto Rican carol

From a distant home the Savior we come seeking, using as our guide the star, so brightly beaming.
Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning, heaven's wondrous light, O never cease thy shining!
Glory in the highest to the Son of heaven, and upon the earth be peace and love to all.

Evelyn Santiago, soprano

†*Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.
The glory of God has risen among us.

**People: We are awake, we are alive!
Praise God for deliverance and blessings.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes to see all around you.
Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

**People: May justice water the earth like a shower;
let righteousness and peace abound.**

Leader: Receive again the promises of the gospel.
Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.

**People: God's ways are being revealed to us today.
Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ.**

*Hymn 63: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Holy Protector of all who are in need, the words you place within our hearts
shine like a guiding star, calling us to show the world your goodness and your
grace. Heal us with your steadfast love when we close our minds and shutter**

our hearts, refusing to let your brightness shine through us. You call us to protect widows and orphans, and to care for all who have no helper. Restore us in your mercy when we put our own comfort before the needs of others, and when we are unwilling to stop the oppression and violence done in our name. You promised to reveal your glory through us, and proclaimed that we will shine like the sun when the world is plunged into shadows. Renew us in the power of your Spirit when we refuse to follow the star you have placed before us.

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 worshippers, 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.

Gospel Choir: *The First Noel*

BeBe and CeCe Winans

The first Noel the angels did say, was too certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay. In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel born is the King of Israel.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Page 1 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **CLEAR EYES, FULL HEARTS, CAN'T LOSE**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 56: *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

*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: *The Work of Christmas*

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart. —text by Howard Thurman

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

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: It is a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give our gratitude to you, O God, who set a star in the sky to guide the Magi as they searched for the holy Child, who opened their hearts in his presence, and who warned them in a dream to go home by another way. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

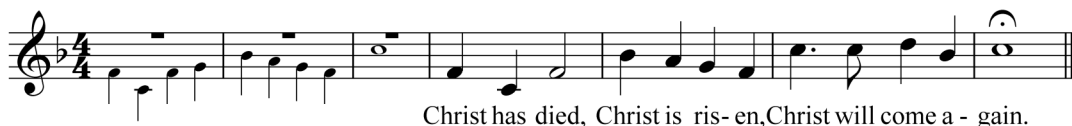
Congregational Response: *Sanctus*

F. Anthony Thurman

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly—
 Lord, God of pow-er and might. Hea-ven and earth are filled_ with your
 glo-ry. Ho - san - na in__ the__ high- est! Bles - sed is he who
 comes in the name__ of the Lord. Ho - san - na in__ the__
 high - est; Ho - san - na in__ the__ high - est!

Leader: Holy are you, and holy is your child, our Lord Jesus Christ. We come together in this Epiphany celebration, acknowledging his life, death and resurrection, that all the world might know the good news of your forgiveness and hope. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in the things of this world, he brought the wealth of your grace. As we celebrate this meal, may we remember with gratitude all that has been done for us and offer ourselves as a living and holy sacrifice, that our lives may be a witness to Jesus’ redemptive love.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may nurture us and strengthen us as the body of Christ. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, may we never forget your steadfast love, binding us to you and one another everywhere. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.



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

Eternal God, Jesus has been born in a manger and in our hearts and home this season; his presence is fulfilled in this holy meal. Like the Magi who followed the star, may the light of God shine through us and in us and all around us. In the name of the Source of all light, the shining Spirit and the one, true Light, may we leave with place with vision and hope and love; with clear eyes, full hearts, and the knowledge that if you are with us, nothing can be against us. Grant this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 66: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

*Charge and Benediction

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

ADESTE FIDELES

Postlude: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Noel Rawsthorne

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 week's communion liturgy celebrates Epiphany, the coming of our Lord in a feeding trough, which prefigures his coming as Bread for the world. This liturgy was written with the intention of reminding us our journey to follow the Light of Jesus Christ is an unending one, that always bears fruit if we are willing to take steps of faithfulness. Additionally, to make the wine and grape juice more distinct from one another, the grape juice will be white and the wine will be red.

THE MUSIC: On this Epiphany Sunday, we hear the words of Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader, sung by the Chancel Choir. Thurman's powerful poetry reminds us that as Christians, the work of Christmas—our work—is not over but only beginning. How we respond—both individually and as the community of faith known as The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown—is the challenge we receive from today's offertory anthem.

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: Youth Group Next week's host: Open. Thank you to The Rachel Circle for providing the munchies last week.

JANUARY CHALLENGE OFFERING: HEALING THE CHILDREN, GREATER PHILADELPHIA: Ethiopia is a large country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a population of over 100 million people. There are at most 30 ENT doctors, 30 Anesthesiologists, and no Audiologists for the entire population. Since 2009, *Healing the Children, Greater Philadelphia* has been traveling to Ethiopia twice a year to provide clinical care for children in need and to provide education. We take care of patients in partnership with Ethiopian ENT and Anesthesiology physicians and trainees. We care for patients at Cure Ethiopia, a mission hospital run by the US-based foundation *Cure International* and local government hospitals. *Cure* primarily cares for children with orthopedic deformities, burns and cleft lip and palate deformities. We teach Ethiopian students and residents and mentor Ethiopian young physicians who are starting their careers. Our audiology team provides hearing exams and hearing aids to children with hearing impairment who otherwise would not have access to this type of care. I have been blessed to be part of this ongoing mission work since its inception. --Elizabeth T. Drum, MD

RISE AGAINST HUNGER—A DAY OF SERVICE: Monday, January 21, 2019 at 9 a.m. Join us in assisting *Rise Against Hunger* and their mission to provide food and aid to communities around the world. To celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we will be packing meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. Each meal costs 29 cents to make. This is an experience for people of **all** ages. A light lunch will be provided. We need 10 to 15 volunteers to help unload the supplies at 7:30 a.m. Please see Chris Scott Jr. for more information.

GACM REQUESTS YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT: As we enter the heart of winter, GACM requests your continued support to keep our cupboard shelves full. One way to do so is to take advantage of Shop Rite's annual Can Can Sale that features extraordinary discounts on canned goods. Throughout the month, check for their sales; then shop to stock your pantry and ours. On Celebration Sunday, January 27, we can bring our offerings of goods and hopefully fill the steps. All donations, especially hearty soups, proteins and vegetables, much appreciated. Thank you.

LIHEAP is a heating assistance program for income-eligible households. You do not need to be behind to receive assistance for gas, electric or oil. The program can also repair or replace a broken heater. Check the bulletin boards for income guidelines or contact Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, 215-843-2340, regarding questions or assistance to apply.

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.

PLEASE SEE LITERATURE TABLE for *Window on the Week*.

NEW BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin is now **Wednesday at 10 a.m.** Thank you.

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

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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	Bookkeeper	Tanieya Matthews, Robert Patterson, Harold Whaley
Building Manager	Sextons	
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