

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

JANUARY 13, 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.

Please be sure that your cell phone is turned off during worship.

January 13, 2019

Second Sunday After Christmas Day

*“Terms like ‘good’ and ‘bad’ are extremely simplistic in what is a far more complex situation.”*

– David Icke

## **ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**

### **GATHERING AS GOD’S FAMILY**

Prelude: *How Firm a Foundation*

Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Liz Drum

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

arr. John Carter

†\*Call to Worship

Leader: Gather us from East and West, from North and South.  
God is calling us; listen, for God is naming you.

**People: The voice of God thunders through our midst.  
The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty.**

Leader: Bow in awe before the one who created you.  
God knows you completely, yet accepts you.

**People: The voice of God commands our attention.  
The voice of God is like fire and tornado.**

Leader: God reaches out to strengthen, not condemn us.  
God bring us through terror to a place of peace.

**People: Ascribe to God glory and strength.  
Worship God in awe, wonder and joy!**

\*Hymn 455: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### **CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**God of water and spirit, it is hard to hear your voice calling us beloved amid the cacophony of voices around us that tell us we are worthless. Even when we hear your voice, it is hard to believe the depth of your love for us amid the messages of the world that tell us we are far from precious. Open our ears, Beloved One, to hear your voice. Open our eyes to see your amazing presence in this world. Help us feel your strength filling us and enabling us to be and do what you call us to be and do. Forgive our doubts, our excuses, our inability to hear and see and feel you in our lives and in the world around us. We would claim our true identity—the beloved daughters and sons of God—washed, named, claimed and transformed.**

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

Robert Seed, Reader

The First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

Page 631 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

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

Solo: *How Firm a Foundation*

Traditional American Melody  
arr. Paul S. Jones

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled!  
"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;  
for I am your God and will still give you aid.  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.  
"When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.  
When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.  
The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

Robert Phillips, baritone

The Second Lesson: Luke 3:15-22

Page 56 NT

**Leader:** God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **THE BAD NEWS AND THE GOOD NEWS**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 72: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

DE EERSTEN ZIJN DE LAATSTEN

\*Affirmation of Faith (from the *Second Helvetic Confession*)

**Baptism was instituted and consecrated by God. First John baptized, who dipped Christ in the water in Jordan. From him it came to the apostles, who also baptized with water. The Lord expressly commanded them to preach the Gospel and to baptize “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” There is but one baptism in the Church of God; and it is sufficient to be one baptized or consecrated unto God. For baptism once received continues for all of life, and is a perpetual sealing of our adoption. Now to be baptized in the name of Christ is to be enrolled, entered and received into the covenant and family, and so into the inheritance of God. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *At the River*

Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels' feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God. Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease, soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints by the river, that flows by the throne of God.

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

### **GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Hymn 276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response 585: *Threefold Amen*

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Promenade in G Major*

Robinson

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Linda M. Leube.

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**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: Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee. Next week's host: Open. Thank you to the Youth Group 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:** Familiar music of Americana can be found throughout the service today. *How Firm a Foundation*, which is sung in a fresh new arrangement by Paul S. Jones, is a hymn that has assured believers of the faithfulness of God for more than two centuries. The hymn text is believed to have been written by Richard Keen and was first published in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns* (1787). In the words of this hymn, we carry with us the word from God, and the call to trust in that Word, and in the Word made flesh through Jesus Christ. Aaron Copland's setting of *At the River* is based on a hymn by Robert Lowry, a favorite son of Philadelphia born in 1826. Shall we gather at the river? In faith, our answer must be, "Yes, we'll gather at the river."

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will present a Brahms Festival Concert on Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays 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 215-843-8811 or e-mail [music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com](mailto:music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com).

**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

**THE RACHEL CIRCLE**, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, January 14, at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER—A DAY OF SERVICE: Monday, January 21, 2019 at 9:00 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** will resume its regular hours tomorrow, January 14: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for social services; Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the food pantry; closed on Fridays. 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 featuring amazing 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, are very 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, 2019. The cost is \$30 and a \$10 deposit will reserve your spot **if turned in today**, the early bird deadline. Gloria Bethea is taking reservations at the CD table in Longstreth after worship.

**2019 PLEDGE CARDS:** Thanks to all who have submitted your 2019 pledge card—so far we have received 69 for a total of \$276,336. 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.

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

## 2019 CHALLENGE OFFERINGS

JANUARY:	<i>Healing the Children, Greater Phila.</i>
FEBRUARY:	<i>Deacons</i>
MARCH:	<i>She Academy</i>
APRIL:	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>
MAY:	<i>Beacon</i>
JUNE:	<i>Friends of Vernon Park</i>
JULY:	<i>Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission</i>
AUGUST:	<i>PAR-Recycle Works</i>
SEPTEMBER:	<i>Athletes in Action</i>
OCTOBER:	<i>Presbyterian Peace and Justice</i>
NOVEMBER:	<i>Rise Against Hunger</i>
DECEMBER:	<i>Presbyterian Joy Offering</i>

**WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Jan. 13</b>	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
	11:30 AM	Praise and Evangelism Team—Primary 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
<b>Monday, Jan. 14</b>	11:00 AM	Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
	5:00 PM	<i>Animate</i> —Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Disciples A Team—Germantown Friends Fieldhouse
	7:30 PM	Disciples B Team—Germantown Friends Fieldhouse
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 15</b>	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir—Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 16</b>	8:30 AM	Thrive—Jennings Room (8:30 a.m. to noon)
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Admin. Meeting—Primary Room
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir
	7:00 PM	Property Committee—Finney Room
<b>Thursday, Jan. 17</b>	8:00 AM	Rev. Segers at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10)
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Jennings Room, Longstreth Aud.
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
<b>Friday, Jan. 18</b>	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group—Youth Lounge
<b>Saturday, Jan. 19</b>	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir—All Day Festival
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
	2:30 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Concert—Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, Jan. 20</b>	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> Bible Study
	12:15 PM	Confirmation Class—Youth Lounge
12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir 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:  
Robert Seed

## 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

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	Pastor	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, Tony Nixon, David Slaughter

## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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