

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

**ALIVE,**

MARCH 17, 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.

March 17, 2019

Second Sunday in Lent

*"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."* – Edith Wharton

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

### **GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY**

Prelude: *Be Thou My Vision*

Traditional Irish Melody/arr. Deborah Govenor  
Gayle Martin, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord* (Ps. 95)

Nancy Wertsch

†\*Call to Worship

One: Put away your hesitation to come before God;  
quiet your fears and anxieties, for God welcomes us.

**Many: God is our light and our salvation;  
whom shall we fear?**

One: Look to the heavens for inspiration and assurance;  
look around you, for God's presence is everywhere.

**Many: God is the stronghold of our lives;  
of whom shall we be afraid?**

One: Let us watch and wait with our Creator;  
let us trust in the one who gives life and hope.

**Many: Teach us your ways, O God,  
and lead us on a level path.**

\*Hymn 2271: *Come, Come! Everybody Worship* (from *Sing the Faith* hymnal)    HOLY GROUND

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

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, we would rather warn your servants when they are in danger,  
than join them in their work: healing the sick and offering good news to the  
downtrodden; we would rather bask in the light of your salvation, than jour-  
ney into the darkness of self-discovery, standing naked before you with all of  
our faults exposed; we would rather keep our faith a private affair, than pro-  
claim boldly for all to hear: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord." Find us in the dark, mighty God, and shine your light upon us, that  
we may have the courage to brave the deepest night and find others who are  
lost in the dark.**

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.")

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Ernie Freeman, Reader

The First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-18

Page 11 OT

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

A Time For Children

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

Anthem: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Spiritual/arr. Dan R. Edwards

Voices in Bronze Handbell Choir; Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: Luke 13:31-35

Page 72 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **LET THERE BE LIGHT**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 394: *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

BALM IN GILEAD

Affirmation of Faith Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

### Offering

Offertory: *The Lord Is My Light*

Frances Allitsen

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom, then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom then shall I be afraid? Though a host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid; and tho' there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him. For in the time of trouble, he shall hide me in his tabernacle. Yea, in the secret places of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

The Chancel Choir; Evelyn Santiago, soprano

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

### GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn 339: *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response

### Amen

Post-  
lude:

Nancy Wertsch *London-  
derry Air*



Copyright © 2019 by the composer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tradi-

tional Irish Melody/arr. Wertsch

---

### IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Margaret E. Parker.

---

**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:** We continue our journey to the cross with Jesus in this second week in Lent. The arc of worship reminds us that "(t)he light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) Meanwhile, our supplementary aspects of worship continue to be drawn from women in acknowledgement of Women's History Month. The quote is from Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist Edith Wharton. "Be Thou My Vision" is an Irish hymn that was put into verse in English by Eleanor Hull, a writer, journalist and scholar of Old Irish, who co-founded the Irish Texts Society in 1898. "Come, Come! Everybody Worship" was composed by Natalie Sleeth, a prolific American composer, known for writing over 180 selections for church and school.

**THE MUSIC:** Much of our music today was selected in honor of Women's History Month. Frances Allitsen was a nineteenth century English singer, teacher, and composer who published more than fifty songs. The best known of these is certainly "The Lord Is My Light," a setting of Ps. 27 sung at the offertory. Our service is framed by an Introit and Amen by Nancy Wertsch, which were composed especially for First Church. The Wisconsin native has built a career as a pianist, mezzo-soprano soloist, composer, teacher, professional chorister, and choral contractor and consultant in New York City. We are delighted to have Gayle Martin offering her gifts to the glory of God. A native of Houston, Gayle has performed around the globe and was a finalist in the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow.

**Today:** The Germantown Oratorio Choir, with concert pianist Gayle Martin and organist Ted Barr, will present a Brahms Festival Concert at 4 p.m. The program will feature the music of Brahms, Robert Schumann, and Clara Schumann. Childcare will be provided. If you are unable to attend in person, please join us via Internet livestream, [www.fpcgermantown.org/brahms-2019](http://www.fpcgermantown.org/brahms-2019).

**Save the Date:** The College of William & Mary Women's Chorus will present a free concert at First Church on Friday March 29, at 7 p.m., as a part of their spring concert tour. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of women attending William & Mary, the concert program is dedicated to female composers and will include choral works spanning five centuries, including a world premiere. Founded in 1923, the chorus consists of approximately 60 undergraduate women, representing a wide variety of interests and majors. At home, they present a dozen concerts each year, including a candlelight concert at the historic Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: CDFC. Next week's host: Open. Thank you, Fatima Robinson and Annie Kotto, 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 see Delores Solomon if you feel called to provide snacks or hands-on support.

**THE LENTEN WILDERNESS BIBLE STUDY** continues this week, focusing on the topic of Harassment/Bullying. Our Sunday study will start in the Longstreth Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. with an intergenerational creative discussion and activity and then move to the Finney Room at noon for further discussion. Participants are welcome to attend either/both segments. Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Finney Room will be the more traditional discussion aspect only. Materials can be found on the Literature Table.

**RACHEL CIRCLE**, an arm of the Presbyterian Women's Association, will hold its next meeting tomorrow, March 18, at 11 AM in the Jennings Room. All are invited to attend. See Deborah Robinson, Debra Gary, Mary Lundy, Gloria Patterson or Madeline Valentine for more information.

**5TH SUNDAY:** FPCG holds its first 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Alternative Worship Service on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. While the regular traditional Order of Worship will occur at 10:00 a.m., another option is going to be available for those who have difficulty attending worship on Sunday mornings because of work or other challenges. This worship service will occur in the West Transept of the sanctuary, include creative elements and more contemporary music, and conclude with a Family Meal in the Longstreth Auditorium. There will be child care for small children, but the service is open and welcoming to all ages, designed to be inclusive even for young ones. The Praise & Evangelism Team prays this will be a meaningful service and an opportunity for us to expand the ways in which we experience community and connection with the Lord.

**NEW MEMBERS CLASSES** will occur on Monday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. We'll be talking about what it means to be a Christian, a Presbyterian, and a member of FPCG, ending with a meeting with the FPCG Session to be received into membership. New members will be formally welcomed during worship on Sunday, April 7.

**MARCH CHALLENGE OFFERING: SHE (Securing Her Experience) ACADEMY.** SHE Academy is non-profit organization that, through literacy and other life-changing experiences, focuses on leadership development for girls in grades K-8 and, in the future, hopes to expand its program to include high school girls as well. SHE Academy's co-founders, Tiffany Davis and Dominique Bobo-Peden, are kin to our Freedom School program as both were servant leaders and, combined, have more than a decade's worth of Freedom School experience! Tiffany and Dominique are also National Ella Baker Trainers for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools. Please give to our young women to help ensure their growth and commitment to leadership. Email [pleasesecureherexperience@gmail.com](mailto:pleasesecureherexperience@gmail.com) for more information and/or ways to **volunteer**.

**23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WALK AGAINST HUNGER TO BE HELD ON APRIL 27.** Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry joins communities across Philadelphia to help end hunger one step at a time, both in Northwest Philadelphia and across the region. Hosted by the Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, the Walk Against Hunger will support the efforts of GACM and hundreds of other agencies to eradicate hunger in our community. GACM encourages family and friends of all ages to form teams to support GACM and register to walk. To register to walk, see <https://hungercoalition.salsalabs.org/walkagainsthunger2018registrationcopy1/index.html> and use the code FOOD5 to receive a discount. For more information about the Walk Against Hunger and how you can support GACM, contact Hope Primas at 215-681-9554 or [hprimas@crisisministry.org](mailto:hprimas@crisisministry.org).

### *Upcoming at First Church*

Today, 4 p.m.

*Brahms Festival Concert*

Friday, March 29, 7 p.m.

*College of William and Mary Women's Chorus*

Sunday, April 14

*Palm Sunday*

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

*Maundy Thursday Service*

Friday, April 19, 7 p.m.

*Good Friday Taize Tenebrae Service*

Sunday, April 21

*Easter Sunday*

Saturday, April 27

*Walk Against Hunger*

## **WINDOW ON THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Mar. 17</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	Third Sunday/Lenten Wilderness Bible Study Longstreth Auditorium, Finney Room
	12:15 PM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	4:00 PM	Brahms Festival Concert—Sanctuary
<b>Monday, Mar. 18</b>	11:00 AM	Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
	7:15 PM	Disciples B Team Playoff Game—GFS Fieldhouse
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 19</b>	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth , Finney Room
	5:00 PM	Lenten Wilderness Bible Study—Finney Room
	7:00 PM	Christian Education Committee—Upstairs Office
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 20</b>	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, Mar. 21</b>	8:00 AM	Rev. Segers at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave., 8-10AM
	6:00 PM	Administration and Finance Committee—Finney Room
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Finney Room, Longstreth
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
<b>Friday, Mar. 22</b>	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
<b>Saturday, Mar. 23</b>	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
<b>Sunday, Mar. 24</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	Lenten Wilderness Bible Study—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Deacons Meeting—Primary Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir 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:  
Robert Seed

## Deacons

### 2019

Ruth Cato  
OPEN  
Dick Liberty

### 2020

Randy Clever  
John Orandosh  
Carolyn Tarver

### 2021

Dhyan Cassie  
Rhonda Highsmith  
Dani Howard

## First Church Staff

---

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

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)