

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, MARCH 24, 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 24, 2019

Third Sunday in Lent

*"The table is a meeting place, a gathering ground, the source of sustenance and nourishment,  
festivity, safety, and satisfaction. A person cooking is a person giving:  
Even the simplest food is a gift." – Laurie Colwin*

## ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

### GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Chorale*

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

Welcome and Announcements

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

Nancy Wertsch

†\*Call to Worship

One: Come to the waters of grace.

**Many: Here, our thirst is satisfied.**

One: Come to the rivers of love.

**Many: Here, our parched mouths sing with praise.**

One: Come to the tree bearing the fruit of life.

**Many: Here, our hungry souls are fed.**

One: Come to the One who loves us.

**Many: Here, our hearts find joy,  
our spirits reside in deepest love.**

One: Come to worship the Lord.

**Many: Here, we praise God's Name!**

\*Hymn 81: *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, full of grace, hear our prayer of confession and need. As we hunger for forgiveness, feed us with your grace. As we thirst for righteousness, fill us with your mercy, that we may be just and merciful as your disciples upon this earth. As we faint from the aridness of mistakes that haunt us and sins that destroy us, lift us from despair into newness of life. Hold our hands, lift us up, and clutch us to your breast, that we might cling to you with laughter and joy in the abundance of your love. Feed us with your strength and wisdom, that we might bear fruit, abundant with love and justice, for a world in need.**

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

The First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-9

Page 645 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: *A Love Round*

Nancy Gifford

Love, Christians, this is your call: "Love your neighbor as yourself, for God loves us all."

Children's Choir; Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: Luke 13:1-9

Page 71 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **THE FEAST THAT SATISFIES**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn: *One Day the News Was Grim* (see insert)

LEONI

\*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Westminster Confession*)

**The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of his Father; and purchased not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him. To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same; making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation; effectually persuading them by his Spirit to believe and obey; and governing their hearts by his Word and Spirit; overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

### Offering

Offertory: *O Come, Every One that Thirsteth* (from *Elijah*) Felix Mendelssohn  
O come everyone that thirsteth, O come to the waters: come unto him. O hear, and your  
souls shall live forever!

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*Prayer of Dedication

## GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn: *For Everyone Born* (see insert)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response

## Amen

Nancy Wertsch

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

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Postlude: *Postlude in F Minor*

Luise Adolpha Le Beau

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## IN MEMORIAM

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

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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.

**THE LITURGY:** Today's journey with Jesus to the cross continues in this third week in Lent. Our worship theme reminds us that we are blessed with a God of second (and third and fourth and unlimited) chances, who longs for us to live lives of meaning and bounty. Meanwhile, our supplementary aspects of worship continue to be drawn from women in acknowledgement of Women's History Month. The quote is from award-winning American novelist and columnist Laurie Colwin. She was particularly known for her portrayals of life in New York City, and food columns for *Gourmet* magazine. She understood in a deep way the importance of table fellowship, which is such a strong part of our Christian heritage. The traditional Lenten hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" was written by the prolific 19<sup>th</sup> century composer Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). The second hymn text is by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a Parish Associate in a small congregation in New York, who writes in response to God's call, and freely shares her writings related to justice issues such as immigration and disaster, both natural such as the recent cyclone in Mozambique and man-made like mass shootings. "For Everyone Born" is by Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931), a contemporary hymn writer from New Zealand, known for her lyrical focus on justice, peace, and equality.

**THE MUSIC:** Our service includes music by female composers in honor of Women's History Month. Fanny Mendelssohn and her brother, Felix, grew up in a musical household playing duets on the piano. Each were fine composers in their own right. The choral Introit and Amen by Nancy Wertsch 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.

**This Week:** 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. The choir will perform the world premiere of *Journey* by Ysaÿe M. Barnwell, a founding member of Sweet Honey in The Rock. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering is requested. Childcare will be provided.

**Germantown Oratorio Choir:** If you were unable to attend last Sunday's concert, please enjoy the archived Internet livestream video online at [www.fpcgermantown.org/rahms-2019](http://www.fpcgermantown.org/rahms-2019).

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week's host: CDFC. Next week's host: Open. 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.

**LENTEN WILDERNESS BIBLE STUDY** with Rev. Segers continues today following worship. This week's topic is illness, something all of us have experienced. Preparatory readings are on the literature table and can be mailed or emailed in advance of each week if requested. The class will also be held on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 p.m., beginning this Tuesday, March 12. We hope you can join us for this five-week program during which we'll wrestle with what the Bible has to say about "wilderness" times and issues in our lives.

**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 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00 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.

**REV. REBECCA'S DAY OFF THIS WEEK** will be Thursday instead of Monday. Please note she will not be at Uncle Bobbie's on Thursday, March 28.

**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*

Friday, March 29, 7 p.m.

*College of William and Mary Women's Chorus*

Sunday, March 31, 5 p.m.

*Fifth Sunday Worship*

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. 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
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	2:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Longstreth Aud., Primary Room
<b>Monday, Mar. 25</b>	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 26</b>	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Aud., Finney Room
	5:00 PM	Lenten Wilderness Bible Study—Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 27</b>	8:30 AM	GACM Thrive Program—Jennings Room
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Admin. Meeting—Primary Room
	1:00 PM	Thrive Graduation—Jennings Room
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir
<b>Thursday, Mar. 28</b>	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Finney Room, Longstreth Aud.
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
<b>Friday, Mar. 29</b>	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble—Choir Room
	7:00 PM	William & Mary Women’s Choir Concert—Sanctuary
<b>Saturday, Mar. 30</b>	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
	9:00 AM	Readers’ Choice—Offsite
<b>Sunday, Mar. 31</b>	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Christian Heyer-Rivera 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
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	12:30 PM	Children’s Choir—Choir Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
5:00 PM	5th Sunday Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching	

# 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

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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	Sextons	Tanieya Matthews, Tony Nixon, David Slaughter

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