

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

MARCH 31, 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 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: Two Gospel Preludes
Amazing Grace
Blessed Assurance

Gerald Near

Welcome and Announcements

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

Nancy Wertsch

†*Call to Worship

One: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven;

All: Blessed are they whose sin is put away!

One: Blessed are they who are free of guilt;

All: Blessed are they, in whose spirit there is no deceit!

One: Beloved, children of God and they who are seeking,

All: Come, let us worship God !

*Hymn 2236: *Gather Us In* (from *Sing the Faith* hymnal)

GATHER US IN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you are compassionate beyond measure, merciful beyond belief. We have been in the far country, lost in our sin, distant from you, seemingly beyond your reach. Yet something is calling us back. Somehow, we hope to return to you. We're just not sure about the details. Yet before we can work out what to say, you are running to us. Before we can voice our confession, your arms are around us, welcoming us home. Your forgiveness astounds us. Help us to believe that it is so, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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: Psalm 32

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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.

Solo: *I Will Arise*

Alice Parker

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love. Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano

The Second Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The Story of your grace.

Sermon: **DON'T FORGET OUR FAMILY'S STORY** Christian Heyer-River, M. Div.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn: *I Love to Tell the Story* (see insert)

HANKEY

*Affirmation of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Glory be to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Amazing Grace*

arr. Nancy Wertsch

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 341: *Blessed Assurance*

ASSURANCE

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Amen

Nancy Wertsch



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

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Postlude: *March in D Major*

Elizabeth Turner

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Ora Kaylor.

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 MUSIC: Our service includes music by female composers in honor of Women's History Month. The choral Introit and Amen by Nancy Wertsch were composed especially for First Church. Also included in today's service is Nancy's stirring arrangement of *Amazing Grace*. The Wisconsin native enjoys a career as a pianist, mezzo-soprano soloist, composer, teacher, professional chorister, and choral contractor and consultant in New York City. As a composer, Nancy has received commissions from various prestigious New York organizations, including The Interchurch Center, New York Treble Singers, New York Concert Singers, Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, The Riverside Church, The Collegiate Chorale, Holy Trinity Bach Choir, and Temple Shaaray Tefila. She is a longtime friend and colleague of our music director. Alice Parker (b. 1925) is best known for her association with the Robert Shaw Chorale in Atlanta, for which she composed and arranged music for 20 years. Parker attended Smith College (later receiving the Smith College Medal) where she earned double degrees in organ and composition, studied choral conducting at Juilliard, and was honored on the cover of Time magazine in 1947. She has more than 500 compositions to her credit.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Rachel Circle. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to Debra Gary, Lorraine Hall and Tim Robinson 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.

5TH SUNDAY: FPCG holds its first 5th Sunday Alternative Worship Service today 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.

A SECOND NEW MEMBERS CLASS will be held on 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.

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 for more information and/or ways to **volunteer**.

23RD 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.

Upcoming at First Church

Today at 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

Sunday, Mar. 31	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	
Monday, Apr. 1	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
Tuesday, Apr. 2	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Program Meeting—Finney Room
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Auditorium
	5:00 PM	Lenten Wilderness Bible Study—Finney Room
Wednesday, Apr. 3	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	12:00 PM	Commonwealth Choirs Admin. Meeting—Primary Room
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir
	6:00 PM	New Members Class
	7:00 PM	Session—Finney Room
Thursday, Apr. 4	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Finney Room, Longstreth Aud.
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir—Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Voices in Bronze—Choir Room
Friday, Apr. 5	9:00 AM	GACM Staff Meeting
	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, Gym
Saturday, Apr. 6	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
	9:30 AM	Congregational Development & Fellowship—Finney Rm.
	9:30 AM	Worship, Music and the Arts Committee—Upstairs Office
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
Sunday, Apr. 7	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching New Members Received
	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

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

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, Tony Nixon, David Slaughter	
Building Manager		
Administrative Assistant		
Bookkeeper		
Sextons		

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