

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, APRIL 7, 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.

April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday in Lent

"Life is a moving, breathing thing. We have to be willing to constantly evolve. Perfection is constant transformation." - Nia Peeples

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *When In Our Music Is Glorified*

McNeil Robinson

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Sing to the Lord a New Song*

Thurman

†*Call to Worship

One: The one who parted the waters to save Israel will set our feet on dry land;

All: We will walk forward in faith.

One: The one who restored the fortunes of Zion will fill our mouths with laughter;

All: We will dream of life renewed.

One: The one who raised Jesus from the dead will do a new thing in our lives;

All: We will rest in the peace of Christ.

*Hymn 361: *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

Presentation of New Members

Clerk of Session Robert Seed

Call to Discipleship

Minister: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

Congregation: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. – from the Book of Order, G-1.0200

Profession of Faith (Only new members respond to these questions.)

Minister: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and its power in the world?

I do.

Minister: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Minister: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Minister: Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,
share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts,
your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be
a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Prayer of Welcome

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy Source of New Life, you promise to set us free from paths of fear, doubt, and denial. Yet we resist your invitation, seeing only what we must give up if we are to follow the path of Jesus. You call us to faith in your sustaining presence of power, but your call takes us beyond anything we can see or touch. We fear placing our trust in things beyond our control. We doubt that you can bring water to the dry places of our lives or replace our suffering with joy. Forgive us when we turn away from your promise of abundant life. Heal us and lead us home, Holy One.

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

Siena Williams

The First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21

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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.

I will be with you if you will only trust me. Trust me, trust me.
 I'll never leave you if you will only trust me. Trust me, trust me.
 I'll fight your battle if you will only trust me. Trust me, trust me.
 I am that I am! I have all power. I will deliver. If you will only trust me.
 Trust me, trust me.

The Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: **The Story of your grace.**Sermon: **A NEW THING**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 2176: *Make Me a Servant* (from *Sing the Faith* hymnal)

MAKE ME A SERVANT

*Affirmation of Faith (from *the Confession of 1967, in inclusive language*)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of man or woman's mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God's love is revealed in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, God's wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. Out of Israel God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in humanity. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another. God enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves. In spite of our sin, God gives us power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *See, I Make All Things New*

Alfred Fedak

Behold! I am doing a new thing. Now it breaks forth; do you not perceive it?
 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. See, I make all things new!
 I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers through the desert.
 To the thirsty I give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.
 I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground.
 I will pour my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing upon your children.
 (Isaiah 43:19-20, 44:3; Revelation 21:6)

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 76: *My Song Is Love Unknown*

LOVE UNKNOWN

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

Thurman



Postlude: *How Firm a Foundation*

Wilbur Held

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.

NEW MEMBERS This morning in worship we welcome our new member Fatima Robinson; please be sure to say hello to her and her son Maddox during coffee hour.

THE MUSIC: Alfred Fedak, the composer of our offertory anthem, is minister of music and arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, N.Y. The New Jersey native earned degrees in music from Hope College (Mich.) and Montclair State University (N.J.) and did additional study at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. A well-known composer of church music, his compositions appear in the catalogues of ten different publishing companies. The offertory anthem is in A-B-A form. Beginning and ending with a joyful outburst in the voices of the choir, the middle section provides a serene landscape for the reassuring message of Isaiah's text.

COFFEE HOUR: Next week's host: The Congregational Development and Fellowship Committee Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. Many thanks to Rachel Circle 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.

PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST After worship next Sunday, April 14th. All are invited to a delicious breakfast hosted by the CDFC and prepared by men of the congregation. Come for the food and stay for the fellowship!

EASTER MEMORIAL LILIES: The lilies in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday are in memory and honor of our loved ones. As is our custom, these flowers will be delivered on Easter to the sick and shut-in of our congregation. If you would like your family members' or friends' names included in the worship bulletin, please send the names and your check (made payable to FPCG) to the church office. The cost is \$15 per line. Listings will be accepted until Wednesday, April 17.

PALM SUNDAY PHOTO Please remain after worship next Sunday, April 14th, as we will gather as a group to take photographs in the sanctuary for the website.

DO YOU WANT TO DANCE? Rev. Rebecca is planning an opportunity for Liturgical Dance in May. If you are interested please speak to her.

APRIL CHALLENGE OFFERING: Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. To learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing, visit pcusa.org/oghs.

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.

QUINTESSENCE THEATRE GROUP has offered our staff and congregants free tickets to see the performance of King Lear. There is a limited number of tickets available and they are on a first come first serve basis. The performances will take place on Wednesday, April 10th at 10:00am or 7:30pm and also on Thursday, April 11th at 7:30pm. To reserve tickets please visit their website at bit.ly/qtglear and use the code **FPCG**. If you are interested in attending the matinee on Wednesday, April 10th you can email the code **FPCG** to boxoffice@quintessencetheatre.org. All performances take place at the Sedgwick Theater, 7131 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

Upcoming at First Church

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

Saturday, April 20, 11 a.m.

Easter Festival

Sunday, April 21

Easter Sunday

Saturday, April 27

Walk Against Hunger

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Apr. 7	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
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	12:30 PM	Children's Choir—Choir Room
Monday, Apr. 8	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge—Gym
Tuesday, Apr. 9	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth Aud., Jennings
	5:00 PM	Lenten Wilderness Bible Study—Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Nominating Committee—Upstairs Office
Wednesday, Apr. 10	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	4:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Rehearsal
	5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
Thursday, Apr. 11	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. 12	9:00 AM	Property Management Sub-Committee Meeting
	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, Gym
Saturday, Apr. 13	8:00 AM	Keystone State Boychoir
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
	10:00 AM	Mission and Outreach Committee—Finney Room
Sunday, Apr. 14		Palm Sunday
	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:00 AM	Congregational Pancake Breakfast
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
12:30 PM	Children's Choir—Choir Room	
	2:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Jennings, Primary 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
Communications Management Fellow		Cherese Akers
	Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
	Sextons	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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