

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

JUNE 2, 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.

June 2, 2019

Ascension Sunday

"I'll lift you and you lift me, and we'll both ascend together." - John Greenleaf Whittier

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

Frederick Swann

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Angela Miles, Friends of Vernon Park

Introit: *Spirit of the Living God*

Daniel Iverson

†*Call to Worship

One: Let everything that has being praise the name of the Lord!

Many: Mountains and hills, fruit trees and all cedars, shall praise the name of the Lord.

One: Young men and women alike, old and young together shall praise the name of the Lord.

Many: We shall praise your name, O God, for your glory is above earth and heaven.

One: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 482: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O God, you are judge over all things. That strikes terror within us when we realize how poorly our church has lived as the body of Christ in the world. We have been more interested in institutional survival than in proclamation of the gospel, more attentive to numbers than to individuals, more eager to speak than to listen. What is true for all of us together is also true for most of us individually. We do not seek or accept your daily guidance. Our witness to Jesus Christ is a pale reflection of the joy expressed by the early disciples. Forgive our pretenses. 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 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

Jim Thompson

The First Lesson: Psalms 47

Page 490 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

Anthem: *Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Allen Pote

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice.

Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.

O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.

In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.

O, God, remind us we are not alone.

Though we move on different pathways,

We are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.

We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.

Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul

Into the beauty of a rainbow. Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

The Second Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

Page 110 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE RHYTHM IS GONNA GET YOU**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 144: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!*

HYFRYDOL

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Presentation

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling.

In baptism, Dick Liberty, Dolores Shanks, Ingrid Harris, Joe Leube, and Delores Solomon were clothed with Christ, and are now called by God through the voice of the church to enter into ministries of service and governance, announcing in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ.

We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God's particular call to our brothers and sisters.

Ordination and Installation

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Profession of Faith

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Constitutional Questions

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
I will.

To deacons: Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

To elders: Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

The Clerk of Session addresses members of the congregation: Do we, the members of the church, accept Dick Liberty, Dolores Shanks, Ingrid Harris, Joe Leube, and Delores Solomon as deacons or ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Ordination

Declaration of Ordination (and Installation)

*Affirmation of Faith (from *The Scots Confession*)

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory: *Clap Your Hands*

Alfred V. Fedak

Clap your hands, O faithful people!
Shout to God a song of praise!
From the dust of conquered nations,
God a realm of grace shall raise.
In appointed courts of glory
Faithful to God's name always.
May we prosper all our days.
With a shout and blast of trumpet,
God shall mount a throne on high;
Let our praise, as finest incense
Rise to meet God in the sky.

Fill the world with glad rejoicing,
Heaven shall sing, and earth reply,
All God's works to glorify.
Let your hearts be filled with gladness,
As the Lord your life shall bless;
Live as heirs of God's great justice,
Wear the cloak of righteousness.
God will grant us earth's dominion,
All things good, and nothing less,
For our gift of faithfulness.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 525: *Here I Am, Lord*

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *A Rejoicing*

Fedak

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William M. David, Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. David,
and Mr. & Mrs. Clifford David

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: Allen Pote is best known for his anthems for children and youth. A full-time composer, the Kansas native was a Fullbright scholar who completed advanced work at Union Theological Seminary in New York. His original text, "Many Gifts, One Spirit" could not be more appropriate for a congregation like First Church given the great diversity we share and celebrate. Alfred Fedak is well-known composer and church musician serving the Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Albany, N.Y. The offertory anthem is a joyous paraphrase of Psalm 47. **Father's Day Men's Chorus:** On Sunday, June 16, we invite the men from the congregation to unite their voices in a Father's Day Men's Chorus. Rehearsals will be on Sunday, June 9, from 11:30-12:30 and Sunday, June 16 from 9-9:30 in the Sanctuary. **Save the date!** Our Gospel Choir will join their voices with the Grace Baptist Church Cancel Choir in a Gospel Concert in our Sanctuary on Sunday, June 23, at 4 p.m. The concert will be directed by Sara C. Blanford.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: CDFC. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to the CDFC 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 LITURGICAL DANCE REHEARSALS CONTINUE: **Rehearsal will be held** every Thursday at 5:30pm and every Saturday at 10am through Sunday, June 30th date when the dance will be ministered. Thursday rehearsals are held in the Sanctuary and Saturday rehearsals are held in the Youth Lounge. If you are interested please speak to Rev. Rebecca after worship or email her at rsegers@fpcgermantown.org.

JUNE CHALLENGE OFFERING FRIENDS OF VERNON PARK: Just outside the windows of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown you will see green leafy trees and colorful flowers in bloom, children playing, dogs and their owners strolling the paths and folks enjoying a conversation or book as they sit on the benches. Vernon Park, the 'Emerald of Germantown' is nestled in between commercial corridors and residential streets and serves as a connector, interlude and green oasis in our neighborhood. The Friends of Vernon Park is a group of dedicated volunteer stewards of this vital community resource, ensuring that the Park is vibrant, welcoming and a positive environment for all. We are able to accomplish this joyful work with the help of our community. The financial support provided by First Presbyterian Church has enabled us to tend to gardens, create thoughtful programming for families and invest in (limited but consistent) maintenance during the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation off-season. The Park looked and felt great all winter—and welcomed spring once it (finally!) arrived—ready for picnicking, Easter egg hunting and all sorts of fun. To learn

more about Friends of Vernon Park, please visit www.friendsofvernonpark.org. Thank you, FPCG friends, for all you do to lift up our community.

STAFF RETREAT: Today at 2:00pm, FPCG staff will go on their Annual Program Planning Retreat, and will return on Tuesday, June 4th at 3:00pm. They will spend their time resting in the Lord, discussing the 2018-2019 program season—what worked and what didn't and what needs tweaking, and making decisions about the 2019-2020 season. Was there a program or activity that you loved and would like to see return? Or an idea you have you would like considered? Speak to any member of our program staff (Rebecca, Kevin, Christian, Tony, or Eileen) and we will make sure your voice is heard.

FPCG ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS: Applications for our annual scholarships are now available for church members, active program members and friends of the church. Scholarships are for trade school degrees, undergraduate degrees, and graduate studies. Applications are in the church office. If you'd like to have an application electronically please contact Christian Heyer-Rivera at Christianaheyer@yahoo.com. The application deadline is June 30th.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, June 2		Service of Ordination and Installation
	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
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—Christian Education Middle Room
	2:00 PM	Staff Retreat—Offsite
Tuesday, June 4	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth, Finney Room
Wednesday, June 5	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	4:00 PM	KSB—Sanctuary, Choir Rm, Primary, Longstreth
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, June 6	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	2:30 PM	Sunday Suppers—Kitchen, Longstreth, Finney Room
	5:30 PM	Liturgical Dance Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir—Jennings Room, Longstreth Aud.
	7:00 PM	Property Sub-Committee Meeting—Upstairs
Friday, June 7	9:00 AM	GACM Staff Meeting—Offsite
	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Small Ensemble Group—Choir Rm.
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group—Youth Lounge, Gym
Saturday, June 8	8:00 AM	KSB —Primary, Sanctuary, Finney, Choir Rm, Longstreth Aud.
	10:00 AM	Liturgical Dance Rehearsal—Youth Lounge
	10:00 AM	Open Gym
	10:00 AM	Mission & Outreach—Jennings Room
Sunday, June 9		Pentecost—Lord's Supper Sunday
	10:00 AM	Worship/Confirmation—The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Men's Chorus Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	5:00 PM	Keystone State Boychoir Concert—Sanctuary

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

Dick Liberty
Dolores Shanks
OPEN

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 C. 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	Cherese Akers	Cindy Osborne
Communications Management Fellow	Bookkeeper	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter
Sextons		

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