

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

JULY 21, 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.

July 21, 2019

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

*"As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him.
This is the divine mystery supreme." - Mahatma Gandhi*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

McNeil Robinson II

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Eileen Jones

One: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

Many: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

One: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.

Many: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and make music to the Lord.

One: Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth.

All: Teach us your ways, O Lord, and make straight our paths in this house of worship and always.

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

GATHER US IN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, you seek to grow new things within and through us. We confess that we fear the seed of faith is too small within us. Hope is hard to keep alive. Love is often inconvenient. Our sin keeps us from responding to you. Have mercy on us. Stir us, empower us, redeem us, so that we might reach to you, move toward you, and grow in the ways of faith, hope, and love. We pray in Jesus' name. 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

Arlene Grace

The First Lesson: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

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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!

The Time for Children

Anthem: *For the Music of Creation*

Hubert Parry/arr. Lloyd Larson
text: Shirley Erena Murray

For the music of creation, for the song your Spirit sings,
For your sound's divine expression, burst of joy in living things;
God, our God, the world's composer, hear us, echoes of your voice;
Music is your art, your glory, let the human heart rejoice!
Psalms and symphonies exalt you, drum and trumpet, string and reed,
Simple melodies acclaim you, tunes that rise from deepest need,
Hymns of longing and belonging, carols from a cheerful throat,
Lilt of lullaby and love song catching heaven in a note.
All the voices of the ages in transcendent chorus meet,
Worship lifting up the senses, hands that praise, and dancing feet;
Over discord and division music speaks your joy and peace,
Harmony of earth and heaven, song of God that cannot cease!

Robert Phillips, baritone; Christine Nass, soprano

The Second Lesson: Colossians 1:1-14, 21-23

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE DEPTH OF MERCY**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 280: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

*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 Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. 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 Christ Jesus 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: *Come, Thou Fount*

John Wyeth/arr. Craig Courtney
text: Robert Robinson

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy great help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 2223: *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love (from Sing the Faith)* ST. BRENDAN'S

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response : #585

Robinson

Postlude: *Recessional on Amazing Grace*

Adolphus Hailstork

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Patricia A. Thompson

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: Robert Phillips, a bass section leader in our Chancel Choir, is joined in worship today by his wife Christine and daughter Sophia. A graduate of Westminster Choir College, the Swarthmore native first sang at First Church under the direction of Robert Carwithen. Since then, Rob has performed with numerous choral organizations throughout the greater Philadelphia region including Opera Philadelphia. He was a core member of the Philadelphia Singers, a founding member of the Crossing in Chestnut Hill. Christine Nass is assistant director of music activities at Villanova University and conductor of the Villanova Voices, the university's Women's Choir. The Temple University music school graduate is a member of Opera Philadelphia and sang with the Philadelphia Singers for more than two decades. Both Rob and Christine are active participants in the Germantown Oratorio Choir. We are blessed to have them offering their talents in worship today.

SUMMER MUSIC: Over the summer months, there are opportunities for members of the congregation to share their talents in worship. Please e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com or speak with Tony Thurman if you are interested in singing or playing a sacred solo during worship.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: Annie Kotto. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to the Marney Hague 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.

WELCOME HOME to our Puerto Rico Service Trip and Triennium participants! We pray that you grew in faith in your time away from us, and look forward to hearing about and celebrating your experiences in the fall.

FREEDOM SCHOOL: This week the scholars read Freedom On The Menu by Carole Boston Weatherford, Tutankhamun's Gift by Robert Sabuda, and Tears of A Tiger by Sharon Draper. Our Level 1 scholars enjoyed a trip to Uncle Bobbie's Book Store where they listened to the book, "How To Read A Book" by Kwame Alexander. On Friday our program went to see the special showing of "The Lion King" at the AMC Broad Street 7. Special thank you to Lois VanEerden for donating tons of books/supplies and Debra Gray for her donation of new games. We also want to say thank you to everyone that attended and supported our Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser on Saturday. The scholars and staff enjoyed seeing everyone.

TRIP TO SMITHVILLE NEW JERSEY: Smithville, N.J. is located about 15 miles north-inland from Atlantic City. There are brick paths shaded by oak and pine trees and lined by shops and boutiques on each side. Smithville began as a simple stagecoach stop, It is now a welcoming and thriving community. Cobblestone walkways with places to sit and rest, footbridges and beautiful grounds are some of the historic sites the town has to offer. Smithville is a shoppers paradise as it features over 50 shops, a delicious bakery and a winery. The winery offers tastings as well as a wide variety of wines to purchase. A day in the town of Smithville will be a day well spent. The van will leave the church parking lot at 10:00am sharp on July 25, 2019 and will return at approximately 4:00pm. If you are inter-

ested in attending please contact Gloria Bethea (215) 473-1672 or Faith Lewis (267) 816-9911 for further information.

REV REBECCA SEGERS is still in Puerto Rico. She served with fellow FPCG participants in service in Añasco through July 21 and is now participating in the PCUSA Fossil Free Delegation through July 31. She will not be at Uncle Bobbie's on Thursday mornings until August.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS: The Deacons started sending birthday cards to every member of our congregation. Deacons John Orandosh and Carolyn Tarver have spearheaded this effort, and now there's a way you can contribute as well, in addition to adding your well-wishing notes in the cards when you see them at coffee hours. If you receive greeting cards in the mail from various charities, please consider donating them to the Deacons. The Deacons would also welcome cards purchased for this purpose if you feel called to do so. Thank You.

JULY CHALLENGE OFFERING SUNDAY BREAKFAST RESCUE MISSION: Founded in 1878, we have reached out to the homeless in Philadelphia for more than 130 years. Originally named the Sunday Breakfast Association, our name was changed a few years ago to reflect our expanded services as a Rescue Mission. Rescue Missions are similar to a traditional homeless shelter, but focus on caring for the spiritual needs in addition to the practical needs of people. Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, a non-profit organization, exists to minister in the name of Jesus Christ to the physical and spiritual needs of homeless and disadvantaged people in the Philadelphia area. Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission aims to transform lives by the power of God; so that those who have been loved, rescued and trained would become those who love, rescue and train. Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission serves the homeless through two locations in Philadelphia: a meal service program serving three meals a day to anyone in need and men's shelter in Center City and a transitional home for women in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. The Center City shelter also houses a long-term recovery program for men. The Mission does not receive government funding and relies on the generous contributions of caring individuals, families, churches and businesses.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION: Come out on August 8, 6-8pm, and learn how to use the new voting machines for Philadelphia elections. This information session will be hosted at FPCG by State Representative Stephen Kinsey. Representatives from the Philadelphia City Commissioner's office will demonstrate how the new machines operate. There are flyers located on the literature table for your convenience.

Upcoming at First Church

Monday, June 24th - Friday August 9th

Freedom School

Saturday, July 27th

Beach Day

Sunday, August 4th

Freedom School Sunday

Sunday, August 11th

Communion Sunday

Friday, August 16th - Sunday, August 18th

Camping Trip

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, July 21	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Kevin Porter preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
Monday, July 22	Freedom School—Mon-Fri	
Tuesday, July 23	3:00 PM	Sunday Suppers Alumni Night—Primary Room
Wednesday, July 24	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
Friday, July 26	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, July 27	8:00 AM	Beach Day
Sunday, July 28	10:00 AM	Worship— Don Carlin preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5

Church Officers

Elders

2020

Gloria Bethea
Andrea Overton
J. Randall Rosensteel

2021

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

2022

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

Clerk of Session:
Robert Seed

Deacons

2020

Randy Clever
John Orandosh
Carolyn Tarver

2021

Dhyan Cassie
Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

2022

Dick Liberty
Dolores Shanks
OPEN

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
Communications Management Fellow	Building Manager	Cherese Akers
	Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
	Sextons	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter

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