

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

OCTOBER 20, 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.

October 20, 2019

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

"It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it."
- Joseph Joubert

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

McNeil Robinson

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: The God of steadfast love calls us together. We are gifted by God's promised presence.

Many: God names us and gathers us as one body; God inclines an ear to us and hears our prayers.

One: When we meet God, there is refuge for us; when we meet God, there is also struggle and pain.

Many: God leads us to face ourselves and our potential; God prompts us to wrestle with our fears.

One: God calls us to daring commitment and service. In Christ, we take the risks of faithful discipleship.

All: We come to hear God's promises once more; we dare to seek the new life Christ offers.

*Hymn 461: *God Is Here!*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we are not eager to wrestle with you or to take responsibility for sin in our lives. We see ourselves as basically decent, respectable people. Yet we have bent your commitments to our own conveniences. We listen only to the word we want to hear. We participate in the greed that is destroying your good earth, and we allow evil to triumph through our neglect. Shake us into awareness that brings change, and support us, we pray, on the difficult path toward greater faithfulness.

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.

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

†*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

Contina Lundy

The First Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

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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

Sing God a Simple Song, Lauda, Laude. Make it up as you go along: Lauda, Laude.
Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, for God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song, to praise him, to bless him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing his praises while I live, all of my days. Blessed is the one who loves the Lord.

Blessed is the one who praises him and walks in his ways.
I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help.
I will lift up my voice to the Lord—singing Lauda, Laude.
For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand.
And the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night.
Blessed is the one who loves the Lord and walks in his ways.

David Kellett, tenor

The Second Lesson: Luke 18:1-8

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **WRESTLEMANIA!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 363: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

SOJOURNER

*Affirmation of Faith—(from *The Confession of 1967*)

The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists his will and disrupts his creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in men and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: *We Are Our Heavenly Father's Children*

Roberta Martin
arr. Robert L. Morris

We are our Heavenly Father's children, and we all know, he loves us one and all.

Yet, there are times, we find we'll answer the tempter's voice and call.

If we are willing, he will teach us his voice only to obey no matter where.

For he knows, I'm so glad he knows, just how much we can bear!

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 426: *Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

CANONBURY

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #585

Robinson

Postlude: *Psalm Impression 150:6*

Douglas Wagner

Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord!

IN CELEBRATION

Today's flowers are placed by the Reimann Family in celebration of the 100th birthday of Anne K. Reimann. Anne was a long-time member of FPCG and the choir.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: We welcome new members Ian and Rena Cameron, Roberta Robinson and Ida Shirl Wiggins-White. When you see them in fellowship after worship, please give them a warm welcome.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: CE Committee. Next week's host: Mission & Outreach Committee. 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 MUSIC: Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* was commissioned by Jacqueline Kennedy and received its premiere performance in 1971 as part of the opening of the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. While it is based on the Roman Catholic Tridentine Mass, Bernstein's setting was not composed as a liturgical work but to be performed and staged as musical theatre. *Simple Song*, largely based on the text of Psalm 121, is often extracted as a church solo. McNeil Robinson, whose music is often heard in worship, was a musical associate of Bernstein and organist at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, where Bernstein belonged.

3RD SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP TODAY: It's a new season and we all are dealing with change, whether it's the weather, a new school, job, health issue or something else. Please join us in the Longstreth Auditorium after worship today to study together Jeremiah's call to live into difficult change as well as plant some seeds of change ourselves. This is an opportunity to interact across generations; all ages are welcome!

PHILADELPHIA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK: Soon our PIHN guests will move on to another congregation. Pray that doors open for them to obtain stable employment that offers a living wage and affordable housing in safe neighborhoods with safe schools. Thank you to all who have helped these past weeks. You are part of the 1,500 volunteers who annually help make this program work.

OCTOBER CHALLENGE OFFERING PRESBYTERIAN PEACE & JUSTICE:

Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering is our Challenge recipient for the month of October. Without a doubt, our world is in need of peace. On our streets and in our communities, within our households and in our relationships, within groups and between factions, among nations and within the whole global community, we need peace. Stark reminders of our need for peace confront us every day, calling us to act and inviting us to engage in the works and witness of peacemaking. The Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering provides a concrete way for all of us to contribute to the work of peacemaking.

REV JOHN DENNIS served as a pastor at FPCG in the 1960's. We are saddened to share that he passed away in Oregon where he was living. His funeral was this past Saturday, October 12th.

ANN REISSE would like to thank everyone for all the birthday cards and get well cards that have been sent to her and Wes. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting, tomorrow, Monday, October 21st at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Evelyn Santiago will resume rehearsals on Thursday nights at 7:30, beginning Nov. 7, in the Choir Room. For more information, e-mail Evelyn at esco-qui@msn.com.

MCLEAN MEMORIAL ORGAN CENTENNIAL CONCERT SERIES: Two events are planned in November in celebration of the 100th anniversary of our church organ. On Nov. 10, *Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza* for children and youth will be offered at 4 p.m. This will include a demonstration of our organ, a tour of the pipe chambers, and pizza dinner for families attending. R.S.V.P. by calling the church office, 215-843-8811, or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com. On Nov. 17 at 4 p.m., the 1927 academy award winning *Wings*, a WWI silent movie, will be screened with improvised organ accompaniment by Peter Krasinski. Both events are free and open to the public with support provided by the American Guild of Organists and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

ACT & ENGAGE: Our first official program will be on Sunday, November 27th immediately following worship where we'll wrestle with God's call to free the prisoners, especially focusing those who are veterans dealing with PTSD and other mental health issues. Meanwhile to prepare, you're invited to read "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson. You can pick up a copy after worship for just \$8.00. Discussions will be held on Sunday, November 17th after 3rd Sunday, and Tuesday, November 19th at 5:00pm.

2020 CALENDAR SALE TO BENEFITS THE DEACONS: After a three year hiatus, the Deacons will be selling 2020 Calendars featuring photography by Heidi Mercado-Littles. Calendars are \$15 and will be available in time for Christmas. You can see a sample and place your order during Coffee Hour through Sunday, November 24, 2019. Thank you for supporting the work of the Deacons.

MESSIAH CONCERT: Save the date! The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will present our annual Messiah concert on Sunday, December 1, at 3 p.m. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. beginning October 29. For more information or to participate, please call the church office at 215-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com. The post-concert fellowship this year will be a dessert reception.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, October 20th, 5:00-6:30pm

Harvest

(formerly known as Bread & Cup)

Sunday, October 27th, 11:30am

Act & Engage

Sunday, November 10th, 2:00-6:00pm

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 20	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Session Meeting—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	3rd Sunday Bible Activity—Longstreth Auditorium
	5:00 PM	Harvest <i>(formerly known as Bread & Cup)</i> —Longstreth
Monday, Oct. 21	11:00 AM	Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
Tuesday, Oct. 22	5:30 PM	KSB Percussion—Choir Room
	7:15 PM	Confirmation Sub-committee Meeting—Offsite
Wed, Oct. 23	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Jennings, Longstreth
Thursday, Oct. 24	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, Oct. 25	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—YL, Gym
	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group— <i>Eastern Penitentiary</i>
Saturday, Oct. 26	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-12pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-12pm)
	9:00 AM	Readers Choice—Offsite
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Oct. 27	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Act & Engage at the table
	1:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room

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	Heidi Mercado-Littles	Terry Boyer
Director of Christian Education	Cherese Akers	Cindy Osborne
Parish Visitor	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter	
Building Manager		
Communications Management Fellow		
Bookkeeper		
Sextons		

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