

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

OCTOBER 27, 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 27, 2019

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

"Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility." - Saint Augustine

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Aria Cantabile*

Samuel Wesley
arr. Howard Helvey

Ted W. Barr and Tony Thurman, piano

Welcome and Announcements

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

arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: The Spirit is here,

Many: Bringing vision and hope for our world.

One: Christ lifts us up,

Many: Welcoming us with loving arms.

One: God showers the earth,

Many: Nourishing all creation with grace.

One: Sense the Spirit moving within and among us.

Many: Feel Christ's presence healing and blessing us.

One: As we gather in worship this day,

All: We receive the showering love of God.

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

LOBE DEN HERREN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

How easily we have forgotten you, O God our salvation. We imagine that our prosperity is of our own design. We wander into paths of self-righteousness and self-congratulation. We compare ourselves with those whose sins are public knowledge and consider ourselves better than they. O God, rescue us from the evil inside us that alienates us from others and from you. We humble ourselves before you, seeking forgiveness.

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

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

Randy Clever

The First Lesson: Psalm 84:1-7

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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: *Be Thou My Vision*

Irish Folk Tune/arr. Kristine Johnanek

Voices in Bronze; Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: Luke 18:9-14

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 2146: *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* (from *Sing the Faith*)

SPARROW

*Affirmation of Faith—(from *the Larger Catechism of the Westminster Confession*)

For whom are we to pray?

We are to pray for the whole church of Christ upon earth, for magistrates, and ministers, for ourselves, our brethren, yea, our enemies, and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter; but not for the dead.

For what things are we to pray?

We are to pray for all things tending to the glory of God, the welfare of the church, our own or others' good; but not for anything that is unlawful.

How are we to pray?

We are to pray with an awful apprehension of the majesty of God, and deep sense of our own unworthiness, necessities, and sins; with penitent, thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance, waiting upon him with humble submission to his will. 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: *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* (from *A German Requiem*) Johannes Brahms
Text: from Ps. 84

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!
For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth, for the courts of the Lord.
My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God.
Blest are they that dwell within thy house.
They praise thy name evermore.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 384: *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* ST. MARGARET

*Charge and Benediction Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #587 Jester Hairston

Postlude: *Festive Trumpet Tune* David German

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.

COFFEE HOUR: This week's host: (A special coffee hour) Mission & Outreach Committee, Ruth Cato and Randy Rosensteel. Next week's host: CE 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.

THANK YOU FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: The CDFC would like to send a extra special thank you to all those who participated in our Harvest; multicultural coffeehouse (formerly known as Bread & Cup) event on Sunday 10/20. It was a great time fellowshiping with members and the community. Thanks to all the brave and talented performers, a job well done.

THE MUSIC: The Brahms *Requiem* (1868) stands among the greatest monuments of choral repertoire, and includes the beloved setting of Ps. 84, "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place." Today's offertory is accompanied on the Linda Leube Memorial Concert Piano using the composer's own arrangement for piano four hands. The Brahms *Requiem* is set apart

from other Requiems by the use of text from the Lutheran Bible rather than the Latin mass text. The composer's stated intention was to create a musical work to comfort the living rather than one for the souls of the dead. In this work, Brahms focused on faith in the Resurrection rather than on fear of the Last Judgment.

PHILADELPHIA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK: Today we say goodbye to our PIHN families. As they move on to another congregation, we can be confident PIHN will continue to provide them the professional case management needed. The PIHN approach is highly effective. ***“92% of our families have succeeded in permanently overcoming homelessness.”*** To learn more about the program visit philashelter.org.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Evelyn Santiago will resume rehearsals on Thursday nights at 6:30, 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 all those attending. R.S.V.P. by calling the church office at 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 through generous contributions from members and friends of First Church. Additional support is 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: Act & Engage is a new initiative that offers the opportunity to wrestle with important issues as followers of Christ: to listen, to learn, to engage through the lens of our Christian faith. Our first topic is Criminal Justice. Join us Sunday, November 17th or Tuesday November 19th when we discuss “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson. Critics say “The book provides readers a window into the justice system... The stories told within... hold the potential to transform what we think we mean when we talk about justice.” Books are \$8 and available for purchase during coffee hour. Following this introduction, two additional Act and Engage events on Criminal Justice will more narrowly focus on Veterans, specifically, those involved in the justice system and dealing with PTSD and other mental health issues.

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. This concert is made possible by generous gifts from members and friends of First Church. Additional support is provided by the City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy. The post-concert fellowship this year will be a dessert reception.

PARKING LOT PROJECT: The project was tentatively scheduled to begin in late August or early September but has been delayed due to new regulations and increased construction costs. It is likely to happen in 2020. More information about this project and storm water management is available on the Literature Table.

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.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Congregational Meeting, Part I, of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, in the County of Philadelphia, PA, will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2019, immediately following the worship service.

The following will be presented:

- Annual Report 2019
- Preliminary Budget 2020
- Pastor's Terms of Call 2020

Any other business which properly comes before the Congregation may be transacted at this meeting.

Attest: Robert Seed, Clerk of Session

Rev. Rebecca L. Segers, Moderator

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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
	12:30 PM	IHN Move-out Day
	1:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room (1-3:30pm)
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Jennings, Finney (3:30-5p)
Monday, Oct. 28	ALL DAY	Peter Kraskinski Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Tuesday, Oct. 29	6:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting—Offsite
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Choir Room
Wed, Oct. 30	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Choir Rm., Longstreth
Thursday, Oct. 31	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	5:30 PM	Halloween Gathering/Trick or Treating (Hood's Home)
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, Nov. 1	10:00 AM	GACM Staff Meeting—Finney Room
	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Elementary School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, Nov. 2	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, CR (8-3pm)
	9:30 AM	CDFC Meeting—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Nov. 3	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	3rd Sunday Planning Meeting
	12:00 PM	Organ Tuning—Sanctuary

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, Clinton (CJ) Cotton	
Building Manager		
Communications Management Fellow		
Bookkeeper		
Sextons		

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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