

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

NOVEMBER 10, 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.

November 10, 2019

Discipleship/Stewardship 2

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that's why it's called the present."

- Alice Morse Earle

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Praise the Lord, His Glories Show*

McNeil Robinson

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Be Thou My Vision*

Irish Folk Melody
arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Children of the living God, why have you come to this house of worship?

Many: We come to worship the God of the living.

One: Children of the loving God, what do you bring to honor the Holy One?

Many: We bring our hearts of hope and love.

One: Children of the faithful God, how will you worship our God on high?

All: We will worship in trust and faith this day.

*Hymn 478: *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

All-knowing God, we are reluctant to identify weakness or wickedness in ourselves. We do not recognize violent behavior or lawless rebellion as a personal problem. We would not think of elevating ourselves to take your place. Yet we find ourselves viewing the world from the narrow perspectives of our own self-interest. Our anger at others spills over into our words and deeds. We ignore you in our decision making and fail to give thanks to you in our daily living. Without your forgiveness and transforming love, there is little hope for us. Hear us and save us, we pray.

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

Sheila Heyer-Rivera

The First Lesson: Haggai 1:15b-2:9

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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: *Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*

Jay Althouse

Lord, I stretch my hands to you; no other help I know.

If you should leave me all alone, where, then, shall I go?

Lord, I give my soul to you; I seek your care and love.

No other blessings do I need but those from you above.

Lord, I ask you: give me faith, and help me to understand.

And Lord, when I this life shall leave, just hold me in your hand.

The Second Lesson: Luke 20:27-38

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **20/20 VISION: HERE & NOW**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 2036: *Give Thanks 2x (from Sing the Faith)*

GIVE THANKS

*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. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” 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. 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: *Now Thank We All Our God*

J.S. Bach

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

Postcard Offering: *Alabaster Box*

Janice Sjostrand

The room grew still as she made her way to Jesus.
She stumbled through the tears that make her blind.
She felt such pain; some spoke in anger, heard folks whisper,
"There's no place here for her kind."
Still on she came through the shame that flushed her face
Until at last she knelt before his feet.
And though she spoke no words, everything she said was heard
As she poured her love for the master from her box of alabaster.
And I've come to pour my praise on him like oil from Mary's alabaster box.
Don't be angry if I wash his feet with my tears and I dry them with my hair.
You weren't there the night he found me, you did not feel what I felt
When he wrapped his loving arms around me,
And you don't know the cost of the oil in my alabaster box.
I can't forget the way life used to be; I was a pris'ner to the sin that had me bound.
And I spent my days pouring my life without measure into a little treasure box I thought I found,
Until the day when Jesus came to me and healed my soul with the wonder of his touch.
So now I'm giving back to him all the praise he's worthy of.
I've been forgiven and that's why I love him so much.

Soloist, Stephanie Garrett

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #585 Threefold Amen

Robinson

Postlude: *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Robinson

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: Cherese Akers. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to the CE Committee 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.

STEWARDSHIP POSTCARD OFFERING: We continue in this stewardship season to ponder all the good gifts God has given to us and the ways God calls us to give back in return. Many thanks to all the participants in the Postcard Offering for sharing a piece of their stories and commitment to FPCG. We hope their offering inspires prayerful consideration of your own as we bring our pledges before the Lord during next Sunday's service of worship.

THE MUSIC: The sacred music of McNeil Robinson is played and sung in churches and synagogues around the globe. He received new music commissions from the American Guild of Organists, the Archbishop of Canterbury, numerous symphony orchestras, churches, and synagogues. The Alabama native was trained at Julliard and enjoyed an international reputation as composer, organist, and teacher. He spent his professional career in New York where he was music director and organist at St. Mary the Virgin, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Park Avenue Christian, and Park Avenue Synagogue. He was on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and was a visiting faculty member of the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music.

NOVEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING RISE AGAINST HUNGER: November's Challenge Offering will be dedicated to Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now). Since 1998, Rise Against Hunger has been driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. Over 820 million people go to bed hungry every night. RAH's work is recognizing that ending hunger is more than just feeding people, which led RAH to focus its feeding programs in areas where they can have a real impact and expand its hunger-fighting programs beyond meal packaging and distribution. Since 2016, the friends and families of FPCG has risen to the occasion by participating in meal packing events that has packed over 40,000 meals!! On Monday, January 20, 2020, the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown continues our commitment to ending hunger with our 4th meal packing event. Hunger doesn't have to exist. Let's end it together!

MCLEAN MEMORIAL ORGAN CENTENNIAL CONCERT SERIES: This afternoon, *Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza* for children and youth will be offered at 4 p.m. Adults with a curiosity about our church organ are welcome, too! This event will include a demonstration of our organ, a tour of the pipe chambers, and pizza dinner for all those attending. 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, winner of the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation. 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.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting Monday, November 18th at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

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.

MISSION & OUTREACH: Do you have an organization that you would like to be highlighted as one of our monthly challenge offering in 2020? Please contact a representative from Mission & Outreach no later than December 13, 2020.

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. A dessert reception will be offered in Longstreth Auditorium following the concert. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7 -9 p.m. 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.

FAREWELL & GOD BLESS FROM THE MCCORD-AMASIS FAMILY: As some of you know, Mark has taken a new job in Seattle, WA and relocated with Taye and Amara at the end of August so they could enroll in school. Aidan is in Baltimore, MD for his 1st year of college. I wanted to thank you for all of your support and prayers as we transition. Our home has sold and I plan to take Jameson to Seattle on Nov 8th and regroup. This has not been an ideal process, but it was necessary. It's hard to think of life outside FPCG. Mark and I searched for a long time for a church we could call home and the funny thing is, when we visited FPCG and Ted Walkenhorst insisted we join, I told him flat out, while Mark stepped on my foot, that I had no intention of joining. We were happy to just go to church, why be members? It's hard to find a church that is accepting and not the "frozen chosen", as well as diverse with young families. Being a visitor to several churches but not being an active part of a community was not fun either, but I didn't want to get hurt again. I must say Ted and other wonderful people won me over and we joined. We love the diversity here. We love the friendships made, the children's program, the lessons taught. Please pray for us as we look to find a new church family and please stay in touch if you wish. If you'd like our contact information feel free to contact Cherese at communications@fpcgermantown.org.

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, Nov. 10	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:15 AM	Congregational Meeting/Annual Report
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	4:00 PM	Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza—Sanctuary, Jennings, F, L
Monday, Nov. 11	Veterans Day—Crisis Ministry Closed	
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
Tuesday, Nov. 12	5:30 PM	KSB Percussion Rehearsal—Choir Room
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Choir Room
Wed, Nov. 13	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Longstreth
	5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
	5:30 PM	Disciple's Basketball Practice—Gym
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Christian Education Meeting—Offsite
Thursday, Nov. 14	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	Children's Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, Nov. 15	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	All Youth Group Christmas Festival Planning—YL, Gym, L
Saturday, Nov. 16	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-1pm)
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Nov. 17	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship/Pledge Sunday Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	3rd Sunday
	12:00 PM	Just Mercy Book Discussion—Jennings Room
	4:00 PM	<i>Wings</i> , silent film with organ—Sanctuary, Longstreth, Finney

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
Parish Visitor	Building Manager	Cherese Akers
Building Manager	Communications Management Fellow	Cindy Osborne
Communications Management Fellow	Bookkeeper	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter, Clinton (CJ) Cotton
Bookkeeper	Sextons	

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