

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

NOVEMBER 17, 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 17, 2019

Pledge Sunday

"May we remain connected in love. We are one." - Forest Whitaker

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Meditation on BEECH SPRING*

Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Discipleship

Daniel Connor

Introit: *Be Thou My Vision*

Irish Folk Melody
arr. John Carter

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Our God is Alpha and Omega.

Many: We are a people of many beginnings and endings.

One: Sovereign God who is and was and is to come is the Almighty.

Many: Within God's time, we each find our little times—our memories, our concerns for today, our hopes for the future.

One: This is the hour we set aside to worship God in deep reverence through great praise.

All: With our human hearts and bodies, with our reason and our spirit, we rejoice in God's presence with us here, and find ourselves within God's presence.

*Hymn 476: *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*

LYONS

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O God, we are more like the vision in Luke than the vision of Jeremiah. We see wars, hatred, and violence everywhere, yet despair of ever stopping them. We see oppression and injustice and persecution, but fail to raise our voices in prophetic protest. We have become a pessimistic people. Help us believe, really believe—in your promise of a future with hope, and help us to have the willingness to work toward it. In Jesus' name 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

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 29:10-14

Page 687-688 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: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* Frederick C. Atkinson/arr.Dan R. Edwards
Voices in Bronze; Evelyn Santiago, director

The Second Lesson: Luke 21:1-19

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **20/20 VISION: INTO THE FUTURE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 428: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

SCHUMANN

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

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of man's mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love. 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 of Our Gifts and Our Pledges for 2020

Offertory: *Consecration*

Alice Parker

Text: Frances Ridley Havergal

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine: it shall be no longer mine.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Take my life, take my voice, take my all.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 422: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #587

Jester Hairston

Postlude: *Improvisation*

Peter Krasinski

IN MEMORIAM & IN HONOR

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Captain Michael P. Cassidy, USA and
in honor of Pamela Thompson Flake

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: Marney Hague. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to Cheresé Akers 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: We give thanks for the music of our handbell choir in worship today, and for the combined choir anthem, *Consecration*, presented as the offertory. It is a setting of "Take My Life and Let It Be," one of the most well-known hymns written by the Nineteenth Century English poet and hymnist Frances Ridley Havergal. Composer, arranger, and conductor Alice Parker (b. 1925) is best known for her association with the Robert Shaw Chorale in Atlanta, for which she composed and arranged music for 20 years. She has more than 700 compositions to her credit. The Boston native attended Smith College (later receiving the Smith College Medal) where she earned double degrees in organ and composition, and Juilliard, where she studied choral conducting. Parker was honored on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1947.

3RD SUNDAY TODAY AFTER WORSHIP: We are looking ahead to Advent, continuing our discussion of change and creating an Advent calendar to take us through the season ahead. Join us in the Longstreth after worship to connect with fellow FPCGers in study, prayer, and love.

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 in the Jennings Room today at 12:00pm or Tuesday November 19th at 5:00pm when we discuss “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson. Dr. Tonya Thames-Taylor, associate professor of American History at West Chester University will be our special guest facilitator at both events. Light refreshments will be served. Following this introduction, two additional Act and Engage events on Sunday, November 24th and Sunday, January 19, 2020, 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.

MCLEAN MEMORIAL ORGAN CENTENNIAL CONCERT SERIES: This afternoon, 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. This event is made possible by 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 tomorrow, 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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: On Saturday, November 23rd from 8:30-11:00am, men of all ages are invited to share a breakfast together and listen and learn from Anthony Ohemeng about his ministry as Resident Coordinator at the United Nations. Anthony describes himself as passionate about world peace and Africa's social, cultural, political, and economic development. A free will offering will be collected for this unique opportunity to hear about Anthony and his global work. Please email Christian Heyer-Rivera at cheyer-rivera@fpcgermantown.org with any questions or to let us know if you're planning to attend.

THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY: Can Christmas still change the world? FPCG is holding an Advent Bible Study for 4 weeks on Tuesday evenings beginning Tuesday, November 26 at Andrea Overton's home. The study will be led by Rev. Rebecca Segers and starts each week with dinner at 6:15pm followed by the study itself at 7:15pm. If you are not able to make it in time for dinner, you are welcome to come for the study alone. Please speak to Rev. Rebecca if you would like to attend so that she may assure books for all.

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 rec-

ognizing 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!

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.

DESSERT RECEPTION HELP IS NEEDED: Following this years Messiah Concert on December 1st there will be a dessert reception. Help before and after the event is needed. If you are interested and available please speak with Madeline Valentine during coffee hour.

MISSION & OUTREACH: Do you have an organization that you would like to be highlighted as one of our monthly challenge offering? Please contact a representative from Mission & Outreach.

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.

Upcoming at First Church

Tuesday, November 19th, 5:00pm
“Just Mercy” Book Discussion

Saturday, November 23rd, 8:30am
Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, December 1st, 3:00pm
Messiah Concert

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

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—Intergenerational Bible Study
	12:00 PM	“Just Mercy” Book Discussion—Jennings Room
	1:30 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	3:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room
	4:00 PM	<i>Wings</i> , silent film with organ—Sanctuary, Longstreth, F
Monday, Nov. 18	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Baskets Packing & Distribution—Finney
	11:00 AM	Rachel Circle—Jennings Room
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
Tuesday, Nov. 19	1:30 PM	Presbytery of Phila. Mtg.—Overbook Presbytery Church
	5:00 PM	“Just Mercy” Book Discussion—Jennings Room
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Choir Room
Wed, Nov. 20	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, CR, Longstreth
	4:00 PM	PIHN Empty Bowl Supper—United Lutheran Seminary
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	7:00 PM	Property Committee Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, Nov. 21	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	9:00 AM	Organ Tuning—Sanctuary
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Admin & Finance Meeting—Finney 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. 22	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Baskets Packing & Distribution—Finney
	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	5:00 PM	Johnsonburg High School Camp Retreat (11/22-11/24)
	6:30 PM	All Youth Group Christmas Festival Planning—YL, G, L
Saturday, Nov. 23	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-1pm)
	8:30 AM	Men’s Breakfast—Kitchen, Jennings Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Nov. 24	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	Act & Engage At The Table Meeting—Jennings Room
	11:30 AM	Deacons Meeting—Finney 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	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, Clinton (CJ) Cotton
Sextons		

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