

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE, NOVEMBER 24, 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 24, 2019

Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving

"We are a long time in learning that all our strength and salvation is in God" - David Brainerd

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Dallas Blair

Steven Heitzer, trumpet

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *We Gather Together*

Dutch Folk Hymn

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Dawn has broken; light has come.

Many: Christ shines upon our lives.

One: The darkness is fading; new life is emerging.

Many: Christ calls us forward in faith.

One: Come, let us be made strong in the strength of Christ's glorious power.

Many: Christ bestows the power of love, bringing justice for all.

One: Truly, I tell you, we are already with God when we live this truth.

All: Christ is present as we worship this day!

*Hymn 555: *Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Jesus, remember us as we come into this time of prayer. Shine the light of your truth in our lives, that we may see where we have gone astray, and where we have driven others from your path of justice and righteousness. Gather us to be your people once more. Restore us through your mercy and grace, that we may know we are one with God and one with you, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 worshippers, 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

Ingrid Harris

The First Lesson: Psalm 46

Page 489-490 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: *Hallelujah Chorus* (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

The Second Lesson: Luke 23:33-43

Page 83-84 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **A SAVING GRACE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 599: *Jesus, Remember Me*

*Affirmation of Faith—(from *The Westminster Confession* in inclusive language)

God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of humankind, doth freely offer this salvation to all in the gospel. In the gospel God declares God's love for the world and God's desire that all should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy and by the Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with us to accept the Lord's gracious invitation. 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: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

Blair

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 260: *A Mighty Fortress*

EIN' FESTE BURG

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #587

Jester Hairston

Postlude: *Rejoicing*

Handel

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: Gayl & Herb Henze. Next week's host: Ingrid Harris. Many thanks to 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.

2020 STEWARDSHIP: Our 2020 Vision Discipleship/Stewardship Campaign is off to a good start with 30 pledges received for a total of \$109,923.00. We still have a significant way to go, so if you haven't taken the opportunity to commit your time, talent, and treasure to the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown yet, please pick up a pledge card on the literature table (or use the one that was mailed to you), fill it out, and place it in the box on the literature table or in Bookkeeper Cindy Osborne's box in the Church Office. Thank you for your gift and the covenant you're making with the Lord and the church in this offering!

THE MUSIC: Steven Heitzer, trumpet, joins us in worship today as we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar before a year commences with the First Sunday of Advent. A native of Philadelphia, Steve is an active classical trumpet player in the tri-state area. He is a member of the Philadelphia Brass, Opera Philadelphia, Bach Festival Orchestra of Bethlehem, Reading Symphony, and Ocean City Pops Orchestra, and a frequent performer with the Delaware Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Lancaster Symphony, and the Walnut Street Theatre. He received his undergraduate degree from Temple and his master's degree from Manhattan School of Music.

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 11:30am for our second educational event. This one will focus on Veterans, specifically, those involved in the justice system and dealing with PTSD and other mental health issues. Come hear guest speakers Duane Horne and Jim Abrams of Pointman Soldiers' Heart Ministries and Dr. Peter Yeomans, Psychologist and Program Director of the PTSD Clinic with the Philadelphia Veterans Association.

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 today, Sunday, November 24, 2019. Thank you for supporting the work of the Deacons.

THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY: Making Christmas meaningful (again). 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.

MESSIAH CONCERT: The Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra will present our annual Messiah concert next Sunday, December 1, at 3 p.m. A dessert reception will be offered in the Longstreth Auditorium following the concert. 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. Volunteers are needed before and after the event. If you are interested and available please sign-up with Deacon, John Orandash during coffee hour.

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!

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.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS: The poinsettias in the sanctuary during the Christmas season are in memory and honor of our loved ones. As is our custom, these flowers will be delivered after Christmas to the sick and shut-in of our congregation. Please contact the church during office hours: Monday through Friday from 9AM to 1PM if you would like your family members' or friends' names included in the worship bulletin. The cost is \$15 per line. Listings will be accepted until Monday, December 16, 2019.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, December 1st, 3:00pm

Messiah Concert

Saturday, December 21st, 11:00am—2:00pm

Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 24th, 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 29th, 5:00pm

5th @ 5

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 24	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—Jennings Room
	11:30 AM	Deacons Meeting—Finney Room
	1:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Choir Room
Monday, Nov. 25	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
Tuesday, Nov. 26	12:00 PM	NA 6th Anniversary Celebration—Longstreth
	6:15 PM	Advent Study & Dinner—Andrea Overton's Home
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Choir Room
Wed, Nov. 27	THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSING AT 3:00PM	
Thursday, Nov. 28	THANKSGIVING DAY—CHURCH CLOSED	
Friday, Nov. 29	CHURCH CLOSED	
Saturday, Nov. 30	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth (8-1pm)
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	10:00 AM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Choir Room
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 1	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
	3:00 PM	Messiah Concert & Dessert Reception—Sanctuary, L

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		

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org