

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

# *Messiah*

Excerpts from G.F. Handel's Oratorio in Three Parts  
including the beloved "Hallelujah Chorus"

**Sunday at 3 PM | December 1, 2019**

**Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra  
Fairmount Chamber Ensemble**

F. Anthony Thurman **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Rebecca Hughes **SOPRANO**

Margaret Mezzacappa **MEZZO SOPRANO**

Dugan Morgridge **TENOR**

Robert Phillips **BARITONE**

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[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)

# Welcome!

Thank you for your attendance at this *Messiah* concert today. We hope you enjoy the performance and that you will return for future concerts here at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown.

Handel's *Messiah*, an oratorio in three parts, is certainly the most famous work of the genre. The history of oratorio, or "the opera of the church" as I like to call it, dates from a 17th century Papal decree that prohibited theatrical performances, including opera and other "spectacles" during the season of Lent. As a result, many composers turned to a new form a composition, the oratorio, which appealed to opera audiences.

Unlike opera, oratorio is based on biblical texts (traditionally Old Testament) and its performance omits staging, costumes, and sets. *Messiah* stands out from most other oratorios in that the libretto is based on both Old and New Testament texts.

Before beginning his work on *Messiah*, Handel had enjoyed a successful career as an opera composer. However as time passed, the popularity of his operas began to suffer; Handel, himself, began to tire of opera. Being a man of great faith, it is not surprising that he would turn to oratorio. Without a doubt, *Messiah* saved his career as a composer and catapulted him back to the forefront of 18th century music composition.

*Messiah* received its premiere as an Easter offering in 1742 in Dublin where it was enthusiastically received by an audience of more than 700. Despite its success, *Messiah* was also greeted by controversy among Christians who felt it was unfitting for sacred texts to be sung in the theatre.

Today's concert is presented by the Germantown Oratorio Choir. This community chorus rehearses seasonally, October–December and January–March, and presents two major concerts each year. Members of the choir, representing a wide diversity of age, socioeconomic, racial, and educational backgrounds, are drawn from throughout the Delaware Valley. The semi-professional group unites volunteers and professional musicians working side by side toward a common goal of musical excellence while promoting classical music to an underserved community.

Our mission this afternoon is to present a concert of excerpts from *Messiah* to provide a shorter concert experience than what a full performance (three hours) would require. As we enter the season of Advent today, our program begins with the prophecy of Isaiah and culminates in the book of Revelation.

On behalf of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, I extend heartfelt gratitude to all those who have made this concert possible: the sponsors, advertisers, and friends of music listed in the program; and especially the soloists, instrumentalists, and choir who have rehearsed this extraordinary and difficult music over the past two months. Thank you all!

F. Anthony Thurman, DMA  
MUSIC DIRECTOR



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F. Anthony Thurman MUSIC DIRECTOR

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**The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown  
First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2019**

Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.  
This concert is being Internet livestreamed and can be replayed on demand:  
[www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2019](http://www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2019).

**Welcome**

The Rev. Rebecca Segers

***Messiah***

George Frideric Handel  
(1685–1759)

— *Part 1* —

**1. Overture**

**2. Recitative (*Tenor*)**

*Isaiah 40:1–3*

Comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**3. Air (*Tenor*)**

*Isaiah 40:4*

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

**4. Chorus**

*Isaiah 40:5*

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

**† 5. Accompaniato (*Bass*)**

*Haggai 2:22–7; Malachi 3:1*

Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.

**Air (*Bass*)**

*Malachi 3:2*

But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire.

**Recitative (*Alto*)**

*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23*

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

† Latecomers may be seated.

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## *Part 1, cont'd*

### **8. Air (*Alto*) and Chorus**

*Isaiah 40:9;60:1*

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

### **11. Chorus**

*Isaiah 9:6*

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called wonderful, counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

### **12. Pastoral Symphony**

#### **Recitative (*Soprano*)**

*Luke 2:8*

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

#### **13. Accompagnato (*Soprano*)**

*Luke 2:9*

And lo! The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

#### **Recitative (*Soprano*)**

*Luke 2:10-11*

And the angel said unto them, fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

#### **14. Accompagnato (*Soprano*)**

*Luke 2:13*

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

#### **15. Chorus**

*Luke 2:14*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

#### **16. Air (*Soprano*)**

*Zechariah 9:9-10*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

## **Offertory**

Your free-will offering will support this community outreach concert and others like it.

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— Part 2 —

**21. Chorus**

*Isaiah 53:4–5*

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him.

**30. Chorus**

*Psalm 24:7–10*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty in battle. The Lord of Hosts, he is the King of glory.

**39. Chorus**

*Revelation 19:1; II:15; 19:16*

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

— Part 3 —

**41. Chorus**

*I Corinthians 15:21–22*

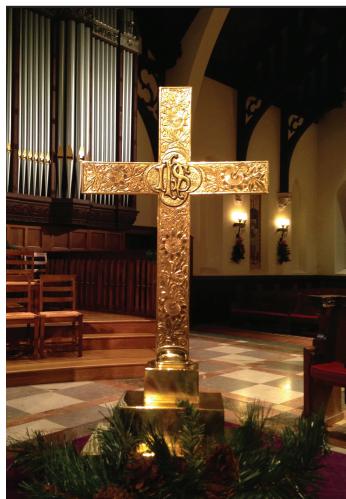
Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**47. Chorus**

*Revelation 5:12–13*

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

All are invited to a dessert reception in Longstreth Auditorium.



## ○ Come, All Ye Faithful

Christmas Eve will be no silent night at  
The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown!

7 PM Celebration of the Incarnation

The Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching  
Choral Anthems by the Chancel and Gospel Choirs  
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# FEATURED PERFORMERS



Florence, Italy. The Upper Darby native is a graduate of Temple University where she majored in voice and was a student of famed soprano Benita Valente.



**Margaret Mezzacapa**, mezzo soprano, rose to prominence in the opera world as the Grand Prize Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2012. She is a first prize winner of the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation International Vocal Competition and recipient of the George London Award. A graduate of Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts, the Ohio native has performed with Opera Philadelphia, Opera New Jersey, San Francisco Opera, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Columbus Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, and with the Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra.



**Dugan Morgridge**, tenor, is active as an ensemble singer and soloist throughout the Philadelphia area. In addition to the Germantown Oratorio Choir, he frequently appears with Philomusica Chorale, with whom he premiered *With Every Breath*, a new cantata for tenor, chorus, piano and percussion, the Archdiocesan Choir of Philadelphia, and more. Later this season, he will appear as tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with The Choristers, and in Honegger's *King David* with the Haverford-Bryn Mawr Bi-College Chorale and Orchestra. He was a core member of The Philadelphia Singers for the last ten years of that ensemble's existence. The New York City native holds degrees in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory and Temple University.



**Robert Phillips**, baritone, performs with Opera Philadelphia and with numerous choral organizations throughout the greater Philadelphia region. The Swarthmore native studied at the Tanglewood Institute Summer Program for Young Artists and continued his vocal studies at Westminster Choir College in Princeton. He was a core member of the Philadelphia Singers, a founding member of The Crossing in Chestnut Hill, and enjoyed a long association with the Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds in Italy.



**F. Anthony Thurman** is music director at The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown and has conducted church choirs, choral societies, and community choruses in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. He holds a doctor of musical arts degree from the Manhattan School of Music and has enjoyed a distinguished national and international career as organ soloist, having performed hundreds of recitals from coast to coast in the U.S. and abroad. He is recorded on *Historic Organs of Louisville* (Raven, 1996), has been heard on American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, and made his Kimmel Center debut in 2017 as organist for the Opera Philadelphia chorus.

In addition to his performing career, Dr. Thurman has been director of development and communications for the American Guild of Organists and a contributor to *The American Organist* magazine for two decades.



# Germantown Oratorio Choir & Orchestra

F. Anthony Thurman MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Soprano

Julia Bruton-Sheppard  
Marney Hague  
Molly Hall  
Rebecca Hughes  
Toni Kestenbaum  
Anne McKenna  
Raegan Ruiz  
Ulrike Shapiro  
Gina Thomas  
Perry Watts  
Ida Yellock

## Alto

Patricia Adams  
Ruth Ann Cato  
Eloise Chevrier  
Beth Delaney  
Mary Fallon  
Susan Mills Farrington  
Vera Harrison  
Evamarie Malsch  
Margaret Mezzacappa  
Christine Nass  
Nancy Stott

## Tenor

David Corbin  
Stuart Jasper  
David Kellett  
Joseph J. Leube Jr.  
A.E. Maddison  
Dugan Morgridge

## Bass

David Cassie  
Marc DiNardo  
Jesse Padgett  
Robert Phillips  
Erik Potteiger  
Paul Thomas  
David Wolford

## Fairmount Chamber Ensemble

Beth Dzwil, *Contractor*

## Violin I

Leah Kim, *Concertmaster*  
Melissa Locati  
Andreia Torain  
Rebecca Harris

## Violin II

Fran Berge  
Ellen Strange  
Julie Bougner  
Arianna Schickel

## Viola

Beth Dzwil  
Renee Warnick

## Cello

Mimi Morris Kim  
Ezgi Yargici

## Bass

Timothy Raub

## Oboe

Terry Belzer  
Tara Harvey

## Timpani

Flossie Lerardi

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