

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 29, 2019

ALIVE,

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.

December 29, 2019

First Sunday after Christmas

Lessons and Carols

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *An Angelic Triptych*

Jerry Westenkuehler

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Leader: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

People: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!

Leader: A child is born for us—a son has been given!

**People: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace,
we shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!**

Leader: Come, let us see what God has brought us!

People: Let us see what the Lord has done!

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

All: And on earth, peace and good will to everyone!

*Hymn 40: *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Kevin Porter

God of holy mystery, it was no heavenly stranger that came to save us; it was no divine afterthought that freed us from captivity to aimlessness and sin; it was no casual gesture that fashioned our salvation. As we laugh and sing our praises at Christmastime, remind us once more of what you offer: a love born of endless searching, a connection born of deep longing, a future born of selfless sacrifice. As we praise you with our lips, and love you with our hearts, help us to be the people you imagine us to be, remembering that you are Emmanuel, "God with us," now and always, guiding our steps, and directing our paths.

Silent Meditation

†*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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

The First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-15 (Page 598 OT) Christian Heyer-Rivera
God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

Hymn 9: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Page 600 OT) Rev. Rebecca Segers
God promises that child shall be the Prince of Peace and
his kingdom shall never end.

*Hymn 44: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

The Third Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25 (Page 1 NT) Rev. Kevin Porter
An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream.

Hymn 38: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* CAROL

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-58 (Page 53 NT) Christian Heyer-Rivera
The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary
that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

*Hymn 23: *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1-20 (Page 54 NT) Rev. Kevin Porter
Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

Hymn 49: *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

Pastoral Prayer Christian Heyer-Rivera

The Lord's Prayer

Offering
Offertory: *Angels We Have Heard on High* Richard Elliot

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH
*Prayer of Dedication Rev. Rebecca Segers

The Sixth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (Page 1 NT) Rev. Rebecca Segers
Jesus is likewise sought after and found by Wise Men from the East.

Hymn 53: *What Child Is This?* GREENSLEEVES

The Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-18 (Page 86 NT) Christian Heyer-Rivera
The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

*Hymn 29: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Charge and Benediction Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #41 (Refrain) ADESTE FIDELES

Postlude: *Joy to the World!* Jacob B. Weber

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: The Rachel Circle. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to Anna Doubeni 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.

REV. REBECCA will be on Long Island next weekend attending the funeral of a dear friend, artist, and Christian saint, Creighton Berry. If you would like to see one of his works, feel free to stop by Rev. Rebecca's office to view his painting of the crucifixion.

2020 STEWARDSHIP: Our 2020 Vision Discipleship/Stewardship Campaign is off to a good start with 55 pledges received for a total of \$220,425.00. 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: Lessons and Carols is a worship service format of readings and music that dates back to the late nineteenth century. Each scripture lesson is followed by a carol related to the lesson's message. At the Offertory, we hear a fresh, new setting of *Angels We Have Heard on High*, composed by Mormon Tabernacle organist Richard Elliott.

DECEMBER CHALLENGE OFFERING PRESBYTERIAN JOY OFFERING: During the Christmas and Advent season, we celebrate leadership—past, present and future—through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do this because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith and we want these leaders and their families who are grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. The Assistance program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.

5TH @ 5:00 IS TONIGHT: Please join us this evening for a meaningful service of celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Afterward, we will enjoy a Christmas Dinner together. All are invited to both.

CALENDARS ARE READY FOR PICKUP: John Orandosh will have the calendars to be distributed during coffee hour. If you have not paid yet, please pay with cash or by check payable to FPCG with Deacons Calendars in the memo line. Thank you for supporting the work of the Deacons.

CHURCH OFFICE: The church office continues to be closed for the holidays this week and will reopen on January 2, 2020 to give our office volunteers a break.

FPCG IS GOING BACK TO PUERTO RICO: FPCG has been traveling to PR for the last two summers to assist in the recovery from Hurricane Maria. We will be heading down there again this summer on July 18-26, 2020. If you are interested in finding out more

about the trip, the island, and the work we will be doing, please join us at our first info session on Sunday, January 12 at 11:30am. Any questions, please feel free to talk with Sheila or Christian Heyer-Rivera.

MCLEAN MEMORIAL ORGAN CENTENNIAL CONCERT SERIES: Philadelphia native Marvin Mills and the Philadelphia Brass will present the next concert in the series on Sunday, January 19, at 4 p.m. Their program of works for organ and brass will commemorate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend and will include an organ solo by James Lee III, *Ascend the Mountain: A Walk with Dr. King*, which was inspired by King's "I've Been to the Mountaintop" sermon, and selections by Duke Ellington. The concert will be Internet livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

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 and we have held two programs around it thus far. One that focused on the book "Just Mercy", and a second that looked at Veterans with PTSD. Our January program is a panel discussion with speakers from the legal and prison systems. Join us on Sunday, January 26, 2020 immediately following worship. Please save the date and join us as we strive to discern how God is calling us to respond to this issue.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Germantown Oratorio Choir, with concert pianist Gayle Martin, will present a Beethoven Festival Concert on Sunday, March 15, at 3 p.m. The program will feature the choral music of Beethoven, including the *Choral Fantasy*, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, January 7, from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information or to participate, call the church office at 212-843-8811 or e-mail music.fpcgermantown@gmail.com.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER: In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we will be RISING AGAINST HUNGER for the 5th consecutive year. Join us on January 20, 2020 for our annual day of service as we participate in the mission to end world hunger by 2030. Our goal is to provide 25,000 meals to feed those who are in need around the world. Each meal cost 34 cents and consists of rice, soy, vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. If you would like to donate and or volunteer please use this link <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCG2020>.

2019 CHRISTMAS GIFT TO FIRST CHURCH STAFF: The Personnel Committee will be collecting for the annual Christmas gift to First Church staff during Coffee Hour through today, 12/29 (*Date changed to allow more time to give*). Please stop at the table in Longstreth to drop off your monetary gift and to sign the Christmas Card insert. Thank you in advance for showing your appreciation to the staff during this joyous season.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, December 29th, 5:00pm
5th @ 5 Worship Service
with Christmas Dinner following

Sunday, January 5th, 10:00am
Epiphany Worship Service

Sunday, January 19th, 4:00pm
Organ & Brass Concert

Monday, January 20th, 9:00am
MLK Day of Service
Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 29	10:00 AM	Worship—Lessons & Carols
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	5:00 PM	5th @ 5—Sanctuary, Longstreth
Monday, Dec. 30	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
Tuesday, Dec. 31	CLOSED	NEW YEARS EVE
Wed, Jan. 1	CLOSED	NEW YEARS DAY
Thursday, Jan. 2	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, Jan. 3	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, Jan. 4	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	9:30 AM	CDFC Meeting—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Jan. 5	10:00 AM	Worship—Christian Heyer-Rivera preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	5:00 PM	5th @ 5—Sanctuary, Longstreth

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

Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry	Eileen Jones
Director of Music	F. Anthony Thurman
Director of the Gospel Choir	Sara C. Blanford
Director of the Handbell and Children's Choirs	Evelyn Santiago
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Parish Visitor	Heidi Mercado-Littles
Building Manager	Terry Boyer
Communications Management Fellow	Cherese Akers
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Tony Nixon, David Slaughter, Clinton (CJ) Cotton

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org