

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JANUARY 12, 2020

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.

January 12, 2020

Baptism of the Lord

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It's that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year's resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective." - G.K. Chesterson

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Shall We Gather at the River* John Carter

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission Drew Hood

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God, Almighty* Carter

†*Call to Worship Eileen Jones

One: Created in God's loving image,

Many: We gather as the children of God.

One: Beloved by Christ, who loves us well,

Many: We gather as the beloved body of Christ.

One: Blessed by the Spirit of God,

All: We gather in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Hymn 72: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

DE EERSTEN ZIJN DE LAATSTEN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

O God, you have given Christ as a covenant to the nations, yet your people continue to live at war. Your prophets proclaim justice and peace, yet we dwell amid hostility and oppression. You judge your people with fairness; we implore you to have mercy upon us. Give sight to eyes that are blind to your truth. Enlighten our darkness, that we may behold you even in the midst of our enemies. Free us from seeking our own grandeur, so that in humility we may live at peace with your people.

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

Matt Grewe

The First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

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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: *Down in the River to Pray*

Southern Gospel
Arr. David L. Mennicke

As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way!

O sisters let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way!

O brothers let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way!

O fathers let's go down, down in the river to pray.

As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord show me the way!
O mothers let's go down, don't you wanna go down in the river to pray?

As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord show me the way!

O sinners let's go down, down in the river to pray.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: **The story of your grace.**

Sermon: **HAPPY NEW THING!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 2247: *Crashing Waters at Creation* (Sing The Faith)

CRASHING WATERS

*Affirmation of Faith (The Confession of 1967)

By humble submission to John's baptism, Christ joined himself to men in their need and entered upon his ministry of reconciliation in the power of the Spirit. Christian baptism marks the receiving of the same Spirit by all

his people. Baptism with water represents not only cleansing from sin, but a dying with Christ and a joyful rising with him to new life. It commits all Christians to die each day to sin and to live for righteousness. In baptism, the church celebrates the renewal of the covenant with which God has bound his people to himself. 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: *At the River*

Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels' feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.
Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.
Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river, that flows by the throne of God.

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 419: *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

REPTON

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response : #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Promenade in G Major*

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: CDFC. Next week's host: Open. Many thanks to The Rachel Circle 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 59 pledges received for a total of \$235,383.00. 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: Familiar music of Americana is offered in worship today, including *Shall We Gather at the River*, a hymn by Robert Lowry, a favorite son of Philadelphia born in 1826. As Jesus was baptized at the river, shall we, too, gather at the river? In faith, our answer surely must be, "Yes, we'll gather at the river."

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 today, January 12th 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 our series next 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 Dr. 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. Visit the church website www.fpcgermantown.org or Facebook page for the livestream link.

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>.

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.

THE RACHEL CIRCLE, an arm of the Presbyterian Women USA, will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, January 27th at 11:00 a.m. in the Jennings Room. All women are welcome. Please bring your lunch. Drink and dessert will be provided.

JANUARY CHALLENGE OFFERING BIBLE BASED TRAUMA HEALING FOR AFRICA: January's Challenge Offering will be dedicated to Bible Based Trauma Healing for Africa. Africans have been experiencing conflict and trauma for decades. But 20 years ago, Bible-based trauma healing was pioneered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, hundreds of African pastors, counselors, and community leaders have launched ministries to help people who suffer deeply. Each healing group is led by a trained

ministry leader using a simple curriculum. Based on foundational truths from God's Word, the lessons use art, stories, activities, and questions to help people engage deeply with themselves, with God, and with each other. 100% of all donations received will go directly to the bible ministry. For more information or to give please visit americanbible.org.

MESSIAH CONCERT: If you were unable to attend the *Messiah* concert or if you did and would like to enjoy the performance again, the Internet livestream video can be found online at www.fpcgermantown.org/Messiah-2019. This concert was made possible by generous gifts from members and friends of First Church. Additional support was provided by the City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy.

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 are on Tuesdays 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.

Upcoming at First Church

Sunday, January 19th, 4:00pm

Organ & Brass Concert

Monday, January 20th, 9:00am

MLK Day of Service

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event

Sunday, January 26th, 11:30am

Act & Engage: The Criminal Justice System

Sunday, January 26th, 5:00pm

5th @ 5:00 Alternative Worship Service

Followed by dinner

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 12	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	5th Sunday Planning Meeting—Finney Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—CE Classroom Upstairs
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room
Monday, Jan. 13	8:30 AM	GACM Training—Jennings
	10:00 AM	Marvin Mills Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
	6:15 PM	Disciples Basketball Game—GFS
Tuesday, Jan. 14	5:30 PM	KSB Percussion Rehearsal—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Christian Education Meeting
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Wed, Jan. 15	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Longstreth, Choir Room
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	7:00 PM	Property Committee Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, Jan. 16	8:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie's, 5445 Germantown Ave. (8-10 a.m.)
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Admin & Finance Meeting—Finney Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	URDC Meeting—Finney Room
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, Jan. 17	11:00 AM	Viviette Applewaite's Funeral—S,L
	2:00 PM	Marvin Mills Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
Saturday, Jan. 18	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	10:00 AM	Philadelphia Brass Rehearsal—Jennings Room (10-1)
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, Jan. 19	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	3rd Sunday Intergenerational Bible Study—Longstreth
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room
4:00 PM	Organ & Brass Concert—Sanctuary	

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

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