

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

ALIVE,

JANUARY 5, 2020

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 5, 2020

Epiphany/Lord's Supper

"Where there is no vision, there is no hope." - George Washington Carver

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Michael McCabe

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Behold that Star*

Spiritual

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: The magi came from many places, following a star.

Many: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.

One: The magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

**Many: We too bring gifts—our hopes, our dreams, our talents, our resources,
our all.**

One: Shepherds and magi—the meek and the mighty—all were welcome in Bethlehem.

All: We too come to Worship and then return to our homes rejoicing. Alleluia! Amen.

*Hymn 56: *The First Nowell, vv. 1, 3, 5, 6*

THE FIRST NOWELL

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, following only a star in the sky, kings of old left their families and their lands to find a child whose birth was so profound, it was proclaimed in the heavens above. When we would rather sit comfortably in our homes than make spiritual pilgrimages of our own, clothe our feet of clay in walking shoes and send us on our way. At this season of light, help us shine your light in the darkness to honor the King of kings. Open our closed hearts to those in need, that the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh might not be the last gifts offered to the one who brings light into our lives.

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

Siena Williams

The First Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Pages 1-2 NT

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: *How Majestic*

Oh Lord, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth. Oh Lord, we praise your name. Oh Lord, we magnify your name. Prince of Peace, Mighty God. How majestic is your name oh Lord. King of Kings, forever and ever. And Lord of Lords, hallelujah, hallelujah. And he shall reign forever and ever. How majestic is your name, oh Lord our Lord. Oh Lord our God.

The Gospel Choir
Sara C. Blanford, director

The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthian 5:11, 14-21

Page 170 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE INTRUSIVE GOSPEL**

Christian Heyer Rivera

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 68: *What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Pledges for 2020

Offertory: *There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob* (from *Christus*)

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star come out of Jacob,

And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel

With might destroying princes and cities!

As bright the star of morning gleams,

So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation.

Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration! (Numbers 24:17)

*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy

to give you thanks and praise,

O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the

choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time

and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Congregational Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Richard Proulx

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord. God of pow-er and might. heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith.



Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine ...

... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, now and forever.

Congregational Response: *The Great Amen*

Proulx



The Lord's Prayer (traditional version)

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The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(We will come to the table to receive the elements of bread and wine/juice. Come forward using the center aisle, partake of the elements as you receive them, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Remember that the cups on the outside ring of the tray hold grape juice and the cups within the outside ring contain wine.)

Prayer After Communion

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 63: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response : #41 (Refrain)

ADESTE FIDELES

Postlude: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

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.

REV. REBECCA is on Long Island this 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 57 pledges received for a total of \$229,263.00. 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: On this Epiphany Sunday, welcome our Gospel and Chancel Choirs back to the choir loft, bringing their gifts of song as we commemorate the arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem. After his symphonic and chamber music, Mendelssohn is best known for his oratorios, which include *Elijah* and *St. Paul*. His unfinished oratorio *Christus* is the source for today's offertory anthem. Mendelssohn was also the composer of the melody for "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

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.

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.

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.

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.

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>.

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.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 5	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	Worship—Christian Heyer-Rivera preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Grades K-5
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir Room, Longstreth, Jennings Room
Monday, Jan. 6	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
	7:00 PM	Delaware Valley Opera Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 7	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal
Wed, Jan. 8	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Longstreth, Choir Room
	5:30 PM	GACM Board Meeting—Jennings Room
	6:00 PM	Friends of Vernon Park—Finney Room
	6:00 PM	Disciples Basketball Practice—Gym
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, Jan. 9	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	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Friday, Jan. 10	3:30 PM	Drop-in Center—Youth Lounge, Gym
	5:00 PM	KSB Small Group Ensemble—Choir Room
	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group—YL, Gym
Saturday, Jan. 11	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	10:00 AM	Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting—Jennings Room
	2:00 PM	Kevin Patterson Funeral—Sanctuary, Longstreth
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	5th Sunday Planning Committee Meeting
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Choir 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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