

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

MARCH 01, 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.

March 01, 2020

Women's History Month

The Lord's Supper

*"Every time I say 'no' to a small temptation, I strengthen my will to say 'no' to a greater one."
- Mother Angelica*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Dale Wood

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord (Ps. 95)*

Nancy Wertsch

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Forbidden fruit is such a delight to the eye.

Many: God is our delight.

One: Forbidden pleasures tug at us each day.

Many: God is our joy.

One: Temptation is everywhere.

Many: We can live as God intends, through Christ who strengthen us.

One: Let us sing to the Lord, who saves us from the time of trial.

All: Sing to the Lord, our delight and our joy.

*Hymn 285: *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we do not always face temptation well. We heed the rumblings of our stomachs and settle for loaves of bread when we are starving for the words of life that come from your mouth, O God. We put you to the test, seeking signs of your favor before others when we should "be still" and know that you are God. We place our trust in deceitful leaders who promise us a better and easier life when we should be putting our faith in you alone. Forgive us, O God. In the desert experiences of our lives, help us find ways to resist temptation, that we might be found worthy of your calling, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

The First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Pages 2-3 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: *We Serve A Mighty God*

Ford Memorial Temple Choir

We serve a mighty God. Angels bow down before him.
Heaven and Earth shall adore him. What a mighty God we serve.
Praise him, praise him! We serve a mighty God!

Gospel Choir
Sara C. Blanford, director

The Second Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11

Page 3 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **WHAT IF?**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 81: *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

*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.

Offering

Offertory: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

American Folk Hymn/arr.Wertsch

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, he had to walk it by himself;
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.
You must walk this lonesome valley, you have to walk it by yourself;
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you, you have to walk it by yourself.
I must walk this lonesome valley, I have to walk it by myself,
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I have to walk it by myself.
I must go and stand my trial, I have to stand it by myself,
Oh, nobody else can stand it for me, I have to stand it by myself.

Chancel Choir
Gayle Martin, piano

*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: Eternal God, it is truly right to glorify you, and to give you thanks, for you made all things and filled them with your blessing; you created them and us to rejoice in your splendor. Countless throngs of angels serve you night and day, and offer you unceasing praise. We join with them, giving voice to every creature under heaven, lifting our voices in joyful praise:

Congregational Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Thurman

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly—
 Lord, God of pow-er and might. Hea-ven and earth are filled with your
 glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Bles - sed 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: We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world.

Congregational Response: *Memorial Acclamation*

Thurman

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with the living Christ, binding us to you and one another, so that as we receive your blessings, you receive our gratitude. We lift our prayer using the words Jesus taught us:

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.

Congregational Response: *The Great Amen*

Thurman



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 on the inside ring(s) contain wine.)

Prayer After Communion

God of all might and power, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 434: Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response

Wertsch

Nancy Wertsch



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Postlude: *Postlude in F Minor*

Luise Adolpha Le Beau

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: Pernell Jackson. Next week's host: Rev. Rebecca & Grace Segers. Many thanks to the CDFC 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.

THE MUSIC: Much of our music today was selected in honor of Women's History Month. Nancy Wertsch, a friend and colleague of our music director, composed a new choral introit and congregational response for us last year, which we will be using again this month. We give God thanks for this generous gift of new music to First Church! The Wisconsin native has built a career as a pianist, mezzo-soprano soloist, composer, teacher, professional chorister, and choral contractor and consultant in New York City. We also share her stirring arrangement of *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*, accompanied by concert pianist Gayle Martin.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY STARTS TODAY: "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life" will be the book we use, leading us through our walk with Jesus in this holy season. Books are available at a suggested donation of \$5.00 each, but available for free if this is a hardship. The study will occur twice weekly beginning the first week in Lent: on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. following worship in the Finney Room, and on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship with the study starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Reisse home, 812 E. Gravers Lane, Wyndmoor, PA 19038. Please join us for what is sure to be a meaningful time together as we grow closer to one another and the Lord.

MARCH CHALLENGE OFFERING: For three years in a row, FPCG has been supporting Puerto Rico's recovery after Hurricane Maria in 2017, by sending work teams to one of PDA's sites in the island. According to the Miami Herald in August 2019: "Puerto Rico's Housing Administration says anywhere from 25,000 to 30,000 people still don't have permanent roofs after Maria. And some cities and towns, particularly in the central highlands, are rebuilding roads that washed out two years ago". This year, we will be taking a team of 10 to 15 adults and young people to work in the community around the PCUSA camp El Guacio in San Sebastian, PR. This camp is not only a center of resources for this rural community, but they are also developing a garden that will offer fresh food for its neighbors and the surrounding communities. This month's challenge offering will not only help our team go to PR but will also allow us to leave a monetary gift so that the Presbyterian Churches in PR can continue assisting in the rebuilding and development of the island. As a Puerto Rican and a member of FPCG, I am honored and overwhelmed with gratitude as I have seen how our congregation in Philadelphia has come together to support my people as they try to get back on their feet. – Sheila Heyer-Rivera

PUERTO RICO 2020 WORK TEAM: We are officially on our way! We will be having a planning meeting today, at **11:30am**. During this meeting, we will be discussing the fundraising opportunities as well as answering any questions you may have about the work, the trip, and the island! If you're still unsure if you want to join us this summer or not, we encourage you to come to this meeting! Any questions, feel free to contact Sheila or Christian Heyer-Rivera.

PUERTO RICO SERVICE TRIP: The CE Committee is asking all persons interested in the upcoming trip to Puerto Rico for a commitment and a deposit of \$350 by Sunday, March 15th in order to secure reasonable airfare and travel reservations. Please reach out to Christian Heyer-Rivera by text 267-972-5662 or email cheyer-rivera@fpcgermantown.org to reserve a spot or for answers to any questions about the trip. The trip will happen on July 18, 2020 through July 26, 2020.

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 rarely performed *Choral Fantasy*, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. The concert is free and open to the public. Childcare will be provided. For those unable to attend, an Internet livestream of the concert can be found on the church website.

2020 MEMBERS DIRECTORY: We are working on publishing the members directory

for 2020. If you have an address change, phone number change or would like to update your directory photo please let us know. Information updates can be emailed to fpcg.germantown@gmail.com or can be called in to the church office any morning of the week, 9 - 1 Monday through Friday. If you would like a new photo you may send a selfie to Lois Bethea at 215-771-1469 or see her in coffee hour for a quick snapshot. We will also have a copy of the current directory available during coffee hour for the next few weeks if you want to double check your listing.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, March 1	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	Faith @ 5:00 Planning Meeting—Primary Room
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:30 AM	Lenten Bible Study—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Puerto Rico Planning Meeting—CE Classroom
	11:30 AM	Women’s Retreat Planning Meeting—Jennings Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—CE Classroom Upstairs
	1:30 PM	Basketball Practice—Gym
3:00 & 6:00 PM	KSB Annual Jack Asher Concert—Sanctuary	
Monday, March 2	9:00 AM	Piano Tuning—Sanctuary, Jennings (9-5p)
	1:00 PM	Ladies Teen Challenge
Tuesday, March 3	5:00 PM	Lenten Bible Study—The Reisse’s Home
	7:00 PM	Oratorio Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Wed, March 4	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
	3:30 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary, Longstreth, Choir Room
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting—Finney Room
Thursday, March 5	8:30 AM	Food Cupboard Grand Re-Opening—Jennings Room
	10:00 AM	Rev. Rebecca at Uncle Bobbie’s, 5445 Germantown Ave. (10-12 p.m.)
	5:00 PM	KSB Rehearsal—Jennings Room
	6:30 PM	Gospel Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
	6:30 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	7:30 PM	Voices in Bronze Rehearsal—Choir Room
Friday, March 6	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, March 7	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Longstreth, Choir Room (8-3pm)
	8:00 AM	KSB Rehearsal—Sanctuary (8-1pm)
	9:30 AM	CDFC Meeting—Finney Room
	10:00 AM	Open Gym—Gym
	1:00 PM	Organ Rehearsal—Sanctuary
Sunday, March 8	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	Lenten Bible Study—The Reisse’s Home
	11:30 AM	Praise & Evangelism Meeting—Finney Room
	11:30 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
	11:45 AM	Confirmation Class—CE Classroom Upstairs
	1:30 PM	Basketball Practice—Gym
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

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

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