

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JULY 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.*

July 12, 2020

"*The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all.*" - The Emperor, Mulan

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Chorale-Prelude on RHOSYMEDRE*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Call to Worship

One: We are like seeds on the wind, set free by the Sower.

Many: **The hand of God saves us from the rocky pathways and the thorny ground.**

One: In Christ, we find good soil.

Many: **The Holy Spirit nourishes us as we grow.**

All: **Come! Let us worship the Sower, who plants us in the fields of life.**

*Hymn 476: *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*

LYONS

O worship the King, all glorious above, O gratefully sing God's power and God's love; Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunder clouds form, And bright is God's path on the
wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree, And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; It
streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail; Thy
mercies how tender, how firm to the end, Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

All-knowing God, we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves. You know how much the cares of this life weight us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to value the wonder of life all around us, the gift of family and friends, the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us. We want to be like good soil, receiving the seed of your word with understanding that nourishes roots of trust and joy. Free us from all that keeps us from bearing fruit for you.

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Sara Greene

The First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-13

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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!

A Time for Children

Anthem: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

Spiritual/arr. Margaret Bonds

Evelyn Santiago, soprano

The Second Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Rev. Rebecca Segers
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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.
People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **WEED IT AND REAP**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 306: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

CRUSADERS' HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature! O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight, And all the twinkling starry host; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

*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

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 Our Gifts

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 473: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies, For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful
praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight, For the mystic harmony Link-
ing sense to sound and sight, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth, and friends
above, For all gentle thought's and mild, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of
grateful praise.

For Thy church that evermore Lifteth holy hands above, Offering up on every shore Her
pure sacrifice of love, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Promenade in G Major*

Robinson

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
Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorable Retired	David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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