

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

SEPTEMBER 13, 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.*

September 13, 2020

*"Heaven have mercy upon us all - Presbyterians and Pagans alike - for we are all somehow dreadfully
cracked about the head, and sadly need mending." - Herman Melville*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

John Innes

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Carl Dambman

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Welcome to you, the weak and the strong.

Many: Christ Jesus welcomes us here.

One: Welcome to you, sinners and saints.

Many: God's grace embraces us all.

One: Welcome to you, forgiven and forgiving.

All: The Spirit binds us in unity and love.

*Hymn 276: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou
changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses
above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**We bow before your judgment seat, O God. We have ranked our sisters and
brothers by the faulty standards of our society to decide who is worthy of our at-
tention. We have rejected those whom we dislike and have been harsh with
those we think do not measure up. We have been quite willing to overlook our
own faults as we look down on other people. O God, you have shown us a better
way. Save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of for-
giveness.**

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

Andrea Overton

The First Lesson: Psalm 103:1-13

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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:

The Second Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Rebecca Segers
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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **MERCY ME**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 420: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glory, On Thy people pour Thy power; Crown Thine ancient church's story, Bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Thy control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal, Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places, Gird our lives that they may be Armored with all Christ-like graces, Pledged to set all captives free. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, That we fail not man nor Thee, That we fail not man nor Thee.

*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 438: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like that to that above.

Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes; Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *To God Be the Glory*

Frederick Swann

GUEST MUSICIAN: Abigail LaVecchia is a pianist based in Philadelphia. She has been the organist and choir accompanist at Morrisville United Methodist Church since 2014. She is on faculty at Temple University's Boyer College of Music as a collaborative pianist, working for the Voice and Opera departments. She teaches piano at Friends Select School and is the principal pianist for the Pennsylvania Girlchoir and Montgomery County Chorale and Orchestra. Originally from Bucks County, PA, Abigail now lives in South Philadelphia with her husband, Patrick, and dog, Wolfgang.



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Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

2022

Ingrid Harris
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Delores Solomon

2023

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Andrea Overton
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Clerk of Session:
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2021

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Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

2022

Dick Liberty
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2023

John Orandosh
Chris Scott Jr.
Carolyn Tarver

First Church Staff

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Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired

David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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