

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

SEPTEMBER 20, 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 20, 2020

"Above all the grace and gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self."

- Francis of Assisi

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *And Can it Be?*

Dan Forrest trans. Isaac Dae Young

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Coming from places that have seen better days,

Many: God bids us to celebrate this day, a day full of new possibilities.

One: Coming with our breath taken away by grief,

Many: the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us, renewing our connection with God and with one another.

One: Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

Many: Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death, speaking in word and sacrament, and building community for holy service.

One: Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

All: Coming together even as we are apart. Coming to worship the Lord!

*Hymn 464: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

FAITHFULNESS

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above, Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays, Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise; Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea, Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals join the happy chorus, Which the morning stars began; Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all in heaven's plan. Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife, Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of infinite patience, O how we love to complain: the journey is too long, we are hungry, we are thirsty, we are tired and want to go home, life isn't fair, this isn't what we signed up for....You've heard it all before, faithful One; you'll hear it again. Yet, do not forsake us in our grumbling, but shower us with your blessings of old, for we are weary of our own complaining and long to make a fresh start. Open our lips to sing songs of gratitude and we will be reborn. Open our minds to the glories of your love and we will shine like the sun. In your holy name, we pray.

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

Rev. Kevin Porter

The First Lesson: Jonah 3:10-4:11

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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 Lord's Prayer*

Alfred Hay Malotte

Julia Bokunewicz, soprano

The Second Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Pages 20-21 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **IT'S NOT FAIR!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 391: *Take My Life*

CWM RHONDDA

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love; Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee, Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing Always, only, for my King; Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold: Not a mite would I withhold; Take my intellect, and use Every power as Thou shalt choose, Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine: It shall no longer be mine; Take my heart it is Thine own: It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for 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 376: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

DENNIS

Love divine, all love excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart!

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast; Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find the promised rest; Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be; End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive; Suddenly return, and never, Never-more thy temples leave; Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above, Pray, and praise Thee, without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure, and spotless, let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly secured by Thee; Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Bless the Lord* (from *Godspell*)

Stephen Schwartz trans. Issac Dae Young



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GUEST MUSICIANS: Violinist, pianist, and conductor **Isaac Dae Young** began his musical training at age four studying violin, followed by piano at age seven. As a conductor, he founded the Waukesha Area Chamber Orchestra in 2008 and co-founded the Temple University Community String Orchestra in 2015. He made his professional conducting debut with the Wisconsin Philharmonic in May of 2014 where he was appointed the position of Principal Guest Conductor until 2017. In 2016 he simultaneously held positions as concertmaster and assistant conductor of the Temple University Opera Orchestra. Through this program he worked as a cover conductor for internationally renowned opera conductor Valery Ryvkin. He is very active in the field of church music and simultaneously holds positions as Acting Director of Music at Church of the Holy Family in Manayunk and Interim Director of Music at Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Havertown. He was recently appointed one of the music directors of the Delaware Valley Opera Company and is in extremely high demand as a collaborative pianist and opera coach throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York. He currently serves as Artist-in-Residence and Adjunct Professor in the departments of vocal arts and instrumental studies at Temple University Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance from which he holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance.

Regarded for her versatility as an artist, **Julia Bokunewicz** is in high demand for her work as a performer and educator in the greater Philadelphia region. A recent graduate of the music education department of the Esther Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University, she is currently an instructor of general music and choir at Henry H. Houston Elementary as well as an accomplished private instructor for all voice types. As a performer, she is currently a core member of Vox Ama Deus, and has sung with the Princeton Singers, the Philadelphia Symphonic Chorus, the Valley Forge Chorus, and the premiere Concert Choir of Temple University. Coupled with her work as a choral singer, she combines this with her work in religious institutions including consistent work at Church of the Holy Family in Manayunk and Main Line Reform Synagogue. In addition, she is a major advocate for contemporary music and has premiered several compositions including the role of La Lune in the United States premiere of the avant-garde opera Pacamambo and her participation in two brand new compositions in the online Festival. She recently made her regional debut in the Delaware Valley Opera Company's summer production of Carmen in August 2019 and will return for another season as Blanche in the company's July 2021 production of Dialogues of the Carmelites.

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David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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