

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

NOVEMBER 22, 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.*

November 22, 2020

Pledge Sunday

"Christ's flock is made up of sheep that not only listen to their shepherd, but are also able to recognize his voice, to follow him faithfully and with full awareness, on the pastures of eternal life."

- Pope John XXIII

**ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM
GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY**

Prelude: Nun Danket Alle Gott, BWV 657

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Generosity

Jim Thompson

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Make a joyful noise, a noise of love and care!

Many: Praise God with generosity and compassion!

One: Sing to the Lord with acts of kindness!

Many: Give God glory with missions of mercy!

One: Make a joyful noise, a noise of love and care!

All: Praise God with justice and righteousness!

*Hymn 559: *We Gather Together*

KREMSER

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens His will to make known; The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, Sing praises to His Name- He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine; So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant, And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be; Let Thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign Christ, Shepherd King, you seek the lost and the hurting, the strayed and the weary. We can see you kneeling beside the injured, and we ask for your strong and tender hands to bind up our injuries, and carry us to safety. We also ask for your forgiveness when we have injured others and scattered the weak, when we have forgotten that we are your strong and tender hands in this world. Forgive us, and renew us, that we may accomplish your saving work in the world.

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

Arlene Grace

The First Lesson: Psalm 100

Page 522 OT

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 King of Love my Shepherd is

Charles Gounod

Laurice Kennel, Soprano

The Second Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Pages 27-28 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **FOLLOW THE LEADER**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 436: *We Are Your People*

WHITFIELD

<https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/5655#tab-lyrics>

*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 555: *Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now thank we all our God With heart, and hands, and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom this world rejoices; Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God Thru all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in God's grace, And guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills, In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in highest heaven, To Father and to Son, and

Spirit it now be given. The one eternal God, Whom heaven and earth adore, The God who
was, and is, And shall be evermore.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: Now Thank We All our God

J.S. Bach

arr. Virgil Fox

WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY, JOHN WALTHAUSEN:

John is a sought-after organ and harpsichord soloist and ensemble artist with an expanding worldwide performance career. Accomplished as a recitalist in both Baroque literature and contemporary keyboard works, he has been heard in concert throughout Europe in Paris, Chartres, Poitiers, Toulouse, Hamburg, Milan, Treviso, Innsbruck, Basel, and Zurich. From 2015 to 2016, he served as Organist in Residence at Sapporo Concert Hall in Hokkaido, where he performed and recorded on the Hall's four-manual organ by Alfred Kern and in cities across Japan.

John is a collaborative artist who plays frequently in his home city of Philadelphia, as well as throughout the East Coast and the Mid-Atlantic region. He has recently appeared as a continuo player with ensembles such as the Washington Bach Consort, New York Baroque, Barock Band, and Variant 6.

In 2012, he won first prize at the Pierre de Manchicourt International Organ Competition in Béthune, France, a competition devoted particularly to North German music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, featuring an international jury chaired by Michael Radelescu. In 2009, he was awarded first prize in the American Guild of Organists' Regional Competition for Young Organists.

Most recently, John has served as Organist and Choirmaster at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Glenmoore, Pennsylvania. There, he has been responsible for building and directing the adult choir, collaborating with children's and youth ministries for special projects, and creating a spring chamber music concert series. In concert with the vestry (the Episcopalian version of the session), John applied for and received a grant from the Russel P. and Elizabeth Crimian Heuer Foundation, putting together a community-wide task force to raise money for a Choral Scholars Program. Through this initiative, they hired students from West Chester University and young professionals to work as section leaders while offering them a high-quality formation in stylistic sacred choral technique, both broadening the appeal and the outreach of the choir. Additionally, in the time of the COVID19 pandemic, John initiated gatherings to keep the choir communities connected, as well mobilized his Choral Scholars to provide virtual recordings for online worship.

Prior to this, John acted as Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral Choir School of Wilmington, Delaware, a choral music non-profit that serves primarily students in Title I Schools. There he developed choral singing and musicianship curricula while auditioning and managing a team of young professional choral scholars and planning, fundraising, and marketing a concert schedule of 40 performances per year. The training they offered was rooted in the classical tradition, but also gave pride of place to classic and contemporary choral settings of spirituals as well as gospel and music from global traditions.

Finally, John brings not only a level of expertise and musicianship which the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown values, but also has a deep commitment to service and community that connects with our church identity. As he wrote in his cover letter to the search committee: "At First Presbyterian, I look forward to working towards the congregation's mission of bringing together the finest possible music and worship in a true spirit of service. Faith has been the strongest motivating force in my life's dedication to music, and as a lifelong church member, I bring a faith-based approach to my mission, not just as a musician, but to my life as a colleague, neighbor and global citizen."

Church Officers

Elders

2021

Marc DiNardo
Robert Seed
Jason Williams

2022

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

2023

Drew Hood
Andrea Overton
Fatima Robinson

Clerk of Session:
Robert Seed

Deacons

2021

Dhyan Cassie
Rhonda Highsmith
Dani Howard

2022

Dick Liberty
Dolores Shanks
Stephanie Garrett

2023

John Orandosh
Chris Scott Jr.
Carolyn Tarver

First Church Staff

Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Adult Education and Community Life	Kevin L. Porter
Director of Urban Ministry	Eileen Jones
Director of Christian Education	Christian Heyer-Rivera
Director of Music Ministry	John Walthausen
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, Honorably Retired

David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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