

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2020

ALIVE,

CELEBRATING

& SERVING

THE

LIVING LORD!



with other things. We spoke without thinking and hurt someone. We treated the gifts and greeting and meals as chores, leaving out the most important ingredient—love. We are sorry. Please forgive us, and accept our worship. Amid the bright colors that surround us this season—the red, the green, the gold—send the light of your Christ, that all that is good may be revealed more clearly and all that is wrong maybe exposed and changed. We pray in the name of Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, who lived and died for our sakes, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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

Lois Bethea

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Page 600 OT

Leader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: *Sussex Carol*

arr. Dale Wood

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
"Glory to God and peace to men,  
Now and for evermore. Amen."

***Rachael Lipson, Soprano***  
***Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano***  
***Jason Brocious, Tenor***  
***Rob Phillips, Bass***

The Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Rebecca Segers  
Pages 54-55 N

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: **The story of your grace.**

Sermon: **THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 23: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tiding be  
Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

\*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

Offertory: *Nativity Carol*

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare  
Born so long ago  
Born 'neath light of star  
He who loved us so  
Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day  
Cradled by mother so fair  
Tender her lullaby  
Over her son so dear  
Angel hosts fill the sky

Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day  
Wise men from distant far land  
Sheperds from starry hills  
Worship this babe so rare  
Hearts with his warmth he fills  
Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day  
Love in that stable was born  
Into our hearts to flow

*Rachael Lipson, Soprano*  
*Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano*  
*Jason Brocious, Tenor*  
*Rob Phillips, Bass*

\*Prayer of Dedication

### **GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Celebration of the Light Coming into the World

\*Hymn 60: *Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy  
Infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heavenly hosts sing "alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord,  
at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia  
to our King: Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.

\*Hymn 40: *Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive its king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven  
and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Noël Parisien*

Charles Quef

## GUEST MUSICIANS:

**Rachael Lipson**, a Philadelphia native, enjoys frequent collaboration with churches and professional choirs located throughout the Tri-State area. She received her Bachelor of Music at Westminster Choir College, and went on to graduate with her Masters of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Delaware in 2016, where she studied under Noël Archambeault. Since then, she has explored diverse repertoire as both a soloist and as a choral scholar, and is currently a staff singer at St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia.

**Laurice Simmons Kennel**, Soprano, was born and raised in Southwestern Michigan. She now resides in Philadelphia, PA with her Husband. She received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Michigan State University and her Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Currently, Ms. Kennel studies privately with Sharon Sweet. Laurice has performed a wide range of operatic roles. She has sung the role of Mimi (*La Bohème*), Micaela (*Carmen*), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Violetta (*La Traviata*) and Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*). Ms. Kennel has sung with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, New York City Opera at Lincoln Center, Lyric Opera Company Los Angeles and Opera Delaware.

Tenor **Jason Brocious** sings with the Christ Church Choir of Christiana Hundred, the Brandywine Singers, and the Reading Choral Society. As a soloist, he also performs arias and art songs in concerts and recitals.

Jason is a CPA and lives in Collegeville with his wife Francine and their canine pal, Theia.

**Robert Phillips** attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey specializing in Vocal Performance. After performing for several seasons with The Westminster Choir at The Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds he then continued his studies in New York City. Presently, Mr. Phillips has been a member of many musical groups in the Philadelphia region including Opera Philadelphia, Choral Arts of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Singers, and The Crossing. Church music has been a large part of Mr. Phillips musical life also having sung in choirs at First Presbyterian Chestnut Hill, St. Marks Church of Philadelphia and First Presbyterian Church Germantown.



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*Merry  
Christmas*

# 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

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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

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David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

## The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

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