

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

DECEMBER 06, 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.*

December 06, 2020

The Lord's Supper/Advent 2

*"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."
- John F. Kennedy*

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship: Advent Candle lighting

The Lagunsad family

Reader 1: Our lists are long, even in this strange mess where we live these days. And we want to do it right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

Reader 2: The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, then healing is to be found, but we need to make the way; we need to open the door into our lives.

Reader 3: So, we light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far from us and that we can clear the way for that God to come and dwell with us. We light these candles in faith that company is coming.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

*Hymn 3: *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

PSALM

Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God; Comfort those who sit in darkness, Bowed beneath oppression's load. Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling In the desert far and near, Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away; Let the valleys rise in meeting And the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain; Let your hearts be true and humble, As benefits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad; And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Silent Word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love: we wait for you. To be precise, we are impatient for you to come and set things right. We are insecure with our world, fearful of crime in the streets, and anxious about ourselves. We refuse your guidance, but we often wish you would act according to our plans. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us: waiting for some genuine act of contrition; waiting for us to repent and change; waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion to your truth, your justice, and your mercy.

Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us through all the experiences of our lives.

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

Susan MacDonald

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Pages 627-628 NT

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: "Comfort Ye" and "Every Valley" from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Jason Brocious, tenor soloist

The Second Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Pages 32-33 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE COMFORT OF NEW BEGINNINGS**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 10: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh. Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: Make straight the way for God within, And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail You as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward. O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

*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.

Offering Our Gifts

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

The Words of Institution

Prayer After Communion

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 13: *Prepare the Way*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace. His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *A Solis Ortus: Point d'orgue sur les Grands Jeux*

Nicolas de Grigny

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Congregational Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, in the County of Philadelphia, PA, will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2020, via Zoom/Conference following the worship service at 11:30 a.m.

The following will be presented:

- Annual Report 2020
- Preliminary Budget 2021
- Pastor's Terms of Call 2021

Any other business which properly comes before the Congregation may be transacted at this meeting.

Attest: Robert Seed, Clerk of Session

Rev. Rebecca L. Segers, Moderator



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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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