

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JANUARY 10, 2021

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.*

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord

"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." - Seneca

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

Prelude: *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BWV 684*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: The voice of the Holy One calls to us, pouring out love in an endless stream.

Many: Let us worship the God who calls us.

One: The voice of the Holy One flashes forth, filling the world with awe and delight.

Many: The God of light sits enthroned in holy splendor.

One: The voice of the Holy One cries out, bathing the world in goodness and hope.

Many: The God of glory thunders, full of majesty.

One: The voice of the Holy One calls to us from the waters, pouring out love in an endless stream.

All: Let us worship the God who calls us.

*Hymn 288: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food; God formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eyes, if I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known, and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from thy throne; while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care, and everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, are present there.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Holy Maker, Holy Breath, Holy Word, you call us to turn toward your holy light. Instead, we close our eyes to what you would have us see, as we are lured into dark alleyways of selfishness and greed. You call us to care for our neighbors as ourselves, and to love the world that you have created. Instead, we look for reasons to hate and mistrust, putting our own desires ahead of the needs of others. You call us to put our faith in you, and know that everyone is your beloved child. Forgive us, Holy One, for we have forgotten our baptismal promises, looking to ourselves rather than to you for our salvation.

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

David Wolford

The First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

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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: *At the River*

arr. Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angel's feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.
Ere we reach the shining river
Lay we every burden down,
Praise our spirits will deliver
And provide our robe and crown.
Yes, we'll gather at the river.
The beautiful, the beautiful, river.
Gather with the saints at the river,
That flows by the throne of God.
Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.
Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

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

The Second Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

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

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **NEW BEGINNINGS**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 72: *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

DE EERSTEN ZIJN DE LAATSTEN

When Jesus came to Jordan To be baptized by John, He did not come for pardon, But as
God's Holy One.

He came to share repentance With all who mourn their sins, To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, Our utmost woe and loss, For us and our salvation To die
upon the cross.

So when the Dove descended On him, the Holy One, The hidden years had ended, The
age of grace began.

*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: *Deep River*

arr. Howard Helvey

Deep river, my home is over Jordan.

Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

Oh, don't you want to go to that Gospel-feast?

That Promised Land, where all is peace?

Rachael Lipson, Soprano

Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano

Jason Brocious, Tenor

Rob Phillips, Bass

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 467: *How Great Thou Art*

O STORE GUD

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander, And hear the birds sing sweetly in

the trees. When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art. Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing; Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art. Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art. Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Toccata Brevis*

Daniel Gawthrop

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 Boheme), 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 OperaDelaware .

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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