

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

FEBRUARY 07, 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.*

February 07, 2021

The Lord's Supper/Epiphany Sunday

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change we seek." - President Barack Obama

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

Prelude: *Récit de Tierce en Taille*, from *Messe pour les Couvents*

François Couperin

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Wait for the Lord...even when waiting isn't easy or comfortable.

Many: Wait, hope, wait.

One: Wait with hope and trust...even when God's presence isn't obvious or clear.

Many: Wait, hope, wait.

One: Wait for Christ to heal you...even when sickness and sorrow overwhelm you.

Many: Wait, hope, wait.

One: As we worship our God this day, know that the Spirit is with us now.

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

HYMN TO JOY

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 gloom 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

O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of stress, and pain, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us and we turn against you, too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you. Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you again. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; through Jesus Christ 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

Marc DiNardo

The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:21-31

Pages 628-629 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: *Beautiful City*

André Thomas

Three gates in the east!
Three gates in the west!
Three gates in the north!
Three gates in the south!
Twelve gates in the city, Hallelu!

Oh what a beautiful city!
Oh what a beautiful city!
Oh what a beautiful city!
Twelve gates to the city, Hallelu!

In bright mansions above, in bright mansions above!
Lord, I want to live up yonder in bright mansions above.

Three gates in the east!
Three gates in the west!
Three gates in the north!
Three gates in the south!
Twelve gates in the city, Hallelu!

My mother lives up in glory, I want to live there too.
My father lives up in glory, I want to live there too.
My sister lives up in glory, I want to live there too.
My brother lives up in glory, I want to live there too.
Beautiful city, city of God!

I want to be in that number. Beautiful, beautiful city!

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

The Second Lesson: Mark 1:29-39

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Page 33 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **THE WEIGHT OF WAITING**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 63: *You Who Dwell In the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle's Wings)*

<https://lyricsplayground.com/alpha/songs/o/oneagleswings.html>

*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

Offertory: *Keep your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

André Thomas

Keep your lamps, trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps, trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps, trimmed and burning
The time is drawing nigh.

Children don't get weary
Children don't get weary
Children don't get weary
'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over
Christian journey soon be over
Christian journey soon be over
The time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps, trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps, trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps, trimmed and burning
The time is drawing nigh.

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

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 379: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All oth-

er ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux*, from *Messe pour les Couvents*

François Couperin

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 Collegetown 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.

André Thomas is one of today's most performed choral composers, noted especially for his sensitive arrangements of spirituals. He is professor of Choral Activities and Choral Education at Florida state university and is a distinguished conductor, appearing frequently with choirs across America, and in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Australia. He is one of today's leading experts on concert spirituals, and many of his compositions address his struggles working as a black man and classical musician. His anthem "Beautiful City" brings together the text and melodies of several spirituals with elements of Gospel music and classical harmony into a piece that is uniquely his own.

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