

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

FEBRUARY 14, 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 14, 2021

Transformation Sunday/Valentine's Day

*"Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope." - Maya Angelou*

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

Prelude: *In Christ there is No East nor West*

Richard Proulx

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!

**Many: The light of God transfigures familiar faces!**

One: At the heights of our worship, may God's presence shine through the commonplace.

**Many: At the depths of our pain and struggle, may God's presence give us courage and peace.**

**All: May God's light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days!**

\*Hymn 138: *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

AMAZING GRACE

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee, Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy! there is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

**CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**God of mystery, the mountaintop seems so far away as we stand in its shadow. In our journey of faith, we yearn to have the courage of Elisha, who followed Elijah with a hope and faith that did not falter; we long to hear answers to questions that are only known at the end of the road. Will we see your presence in the whirlwind? Will we see the fiery chariot connect heaven and earth? Will we even have the courage to look up? Will we inherit a double portion of spirit from those who brought us up in the faith? May it be so, O God. May it be so.**

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

Jason Greene

The First Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-14

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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: *Invocation*

Rollo Dilworth

Lord, Send Your anointing to this place.  
Lord, send us Your mercy and Your grace  
Send us Your love, let it rain from above.  
Hear our prayer today.

Lord, Send your anointing to this place.  
Lord, send us your mercy and Your grace  
Send us Your peace, so that all pain will cease.  
Hear our prayer today.

Lord, Send it, Send your anointing.

Lord, send Your anointing to this place.  
Lord, send us Your mercy and Your grace  
Send us Your love, let it rain from above.  
Hear our prayer today.

***Rachael Lipson, Soprano***

***Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano***

***Jason Brocious, Tenor***

***Rob Phillips, Bass***

The Second Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

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

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

Sermon: **GOD'S LOVE LETTER**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 73: *Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory*

WHITFIELD

<https://digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/10447#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

Offertory: *Waymaker/ Made a Way*

Leeland/Travis Greene

Waymaker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness, my God, that is who you are.

You are here turning lives around. I worship you, I worship you. You are here, mending every heart. I worship you.

You move mountains, you cause walls to fall. With your power, perform miracles. There is nothing that's impossible, and we're standing here, only because you made a way.

***Sara Blanford, piano and vocals***

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

\*Hymn 563: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet Come to the place for which our people sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered; Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, God who have brought us thus far on the way; God who have by your might Led us into the light; Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met You; Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget You; Shadowed beneath Your hand, May we forever stand, True to our God, true to our native land.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: Fanfare and Trumpet Tune on *Nicea*

Christopher Tambling

### **GUEST MUSICIANS:**

**Sara C. Blanford:** Sara is a sought after vocalist, musician and workshop clinician. She has been in music ministry all of her life. Her experience has not been limited to just local church music ministry, but has taken her across the country where she has shared the stage with well known Gospel artists. She is the former Music Director of Philadelphia's own Joy Unlimited Youth Mass Choir, a recording choir where she has had the opportunity to write several songs that were featured on their second album, "God Is There". Sara is a member of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, where she serves as the director of the Cathedral

Choir, Chancel Choir and the Praise and Worship team. Sara is married to the love of her life, Elridge Blanford and they reside in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia.

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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## NOTES ON MUSIC

**Rollo Dilworth** is one of today's leading lights in choral music and choral music education. He is chair of the Music Education and Music Therapy Department of Temple University and serves as organist at St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, the oldest Black Episcopal Church in the country. His choral works have earned him national recognition as concert music and as educational resources. His music is influenced both by his love of classical music, Chopin and Beethoven in particular, and the Gospel and Spiritual composers Robert Ray and Moses Hogan. Dilworth is also notably influenced by the Poetry of Langston Hughes and Paul Laurence Dunbar, whose works he has set a number of times in his compositions.



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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  
OPEN

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
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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