

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

FEBRUARY 21, 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 21, 2021

Lent 1

*"Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of
inestimable value." - Desmond Tutu*

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

Prelude: *O Gott du Frommer Gott*

Johannes Brahms

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: God of rainbow promises, we seek to know your ways of love and truth.

**Many: As we walk with Jesus in this season of Lent through our wilderness
journeys, your Holy Spirit is with us, as it was with Jesus at the Jordan
River.**

One: Help us clearly perceive the pathway that proclaims your kindness and your
kingdom.

**Many: Help us undertake the journey within to the source of our best selves,
that we may remember anew that you are with us, in us, and near us,
on every step of life's journey.**

All: God Emmanuel. Amen.

*Hymn 676: *Wade in the Water* (African Heritage Hymnal)

Wade in the water, wade in the water children, Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

See that host all dressed in white, God's gonna trouble the water. The leader looks like the
Israelite, God's gonna trouble the water. Wade in the water, wade in the water children,
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in red, God's gonna trouble the water. Looks like the band that
Moses led, God's gonna trouble the water. Wade in the water, wade in the water children,
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

If you don't believe I've been redeemed, God's gonna trouble the water. Just follow me
down to Jordan's stream, God's gonna trouble the water. Wade in the water, wade in the
water children, Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Divine Spirit, you drive us into the wilderness of our lives. In the solitude of our
desert experiences: our thoughts rage out of control; our fears transform minor
hills and obstacles into insurmountable mountains and impenetrable terrain; our
sleep descends into nightmares that threaten to overwhelm us. Renew us in the
healing waters of our baptism, and send your angels to minister to us, that we
may know that we are not alone. Set your bow in the clouds once more, Holy
Dove, that we might see the sign of your grace, and behold the promise of your
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

Dhyan Cassie

The First Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

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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: *I Dream a World*

André Thomas

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

Text- Langston Hughes

Rachael Lipson, Soprano

Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano

Jason Brocious, Tenor

Rob Phillips, Bass

The Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Rev. Rebecca Segers

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Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **THE BOW THAT BINDS**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 389: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

NYLAND

O Jesus, I have promised To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, My Master
and my friend; I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side, Nor wander from the path-
way If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near: I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear. My foes are ever near me, Around me and within; But, Jesus, draw thou nearer, And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking In accents clear and still, Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will. O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised To all who follow thee That where thou art in glory There shall thy servant be. And, Jesus, I have promised To serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, My Master and my friend.

*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: *Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee*

Johannes Brahms

Let nothing ever grieve thee, distress thee, nor fret thee;
Heed God's good will, my soul, be still, compose thee.
Why brood all day in sorrow?

Tomorrow will bring thee God's help benign and grace sublime in mercy.

Be true in all endeavor and ever ply bravely;
What God decrees brings joy and peace, He'll stay thee.
Amen

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

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 438: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the

sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Mein Jesu, der du mich*

Johannes Brahms

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.

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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