

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

FEBRUARY 28, 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 28, 2021

Lent 2

*"Though we are not fully free, and (Martin Luther King, Jr.)'s dream not fully realized, yet, we are not  
what we used to be and not what we will be." - James H. Cone*

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

Prelude: *Nicht schnell und sehr Markiert*, from Vier Skizzen für Orgel Robert Schumann

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Gather together, all who are as good as dead.

**Many: Gather together, all who are beyond hope.**

One: Gather together, all who have made mistakes.

**Many: Gather together, all who seek God's promises.**

One: We have been gathered together by God.

**All: We have been blessed by the Holy One!**

\*Hymn 76: *My Song Is Love Unknown*

LOVE UNKNOWN

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love for me: love to the loveless shown that they  
might lovely be. O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Christ came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow. But people scorned, and none the longed  
-for Christ would know. But O my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way and his sweet praises sing, resounding all the way hosannas  
to their King. Then "crucify" is all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.

They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away; A murderer they save, the Prince of  
Life they slay. Yet steadfast he To suffering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine: Never was love, dear King, Never was grief,  
never like Thine. This is my friend in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

**CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**God above every name, when our vision dims, and we prefer human thoughts to  
your thoughts, heal our eyes of faith. Grace above every grace, when our suffer-  
ing closes us off from the joy on the other side of suffering, grant us your  
strength to follow Christ in hope and promise. Wisdom of the ages, when we  
seek to save our lives in destructive ways, love us back onto the right paths and  
restore us to life, In your holy name, 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

Rhonda Highsmith

The First Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

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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: *Elijah Rock*

arr. Jester Hairston

Elijah Rock, Shout, Shout!  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up Lord.  
Elijah Rock, Shout, Shout!  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up Lord.

Elijah! Elijah!

Elijah Rock, Shout, Shout!  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up Lord.  
Elijah Rock, Shout, Shout!  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up Lord.

Satan's a liar an' a conjurer, too.  
If you don't mind out, he'll conjur you.  
If I could, I surely would  
Just stand on the rock where Moses stood.

Rocka, Elijah Rock  
Shout, Shout about  
Elijah, Elijah, Elijah Rock  
We're gonna shout, shout!  
Rocka, Elijah Rock  
Shout about  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up,  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up,  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up,  
Lord!

Elijah Rock, Shout, Shout!  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up Lord.  
Elijah Rock, Shout, Shout!  
Elijah Rock, Comin' up Lord.

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

The Second Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **WAR OF THE WORLDS**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 96: *Calvary*

Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Surely He died on Calvary.

Every time I think about Jesus, Every time I think about Jesus, Every time I think about Jesus, Surely He died on Calvary. Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Surely He died on Calvary.

Don't you hear the hammer ringing? Don't you hear the hammer ringing? Don't you hear the hammer ringing? Surely He died on Calvary. Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Surely He died on Calvary.

Don't you hear Him calling His Father? Don't you hear Him calling His Father? Don't you hear Him calling His Father? Surely He died on Calvary. Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Surely He died on Calvary.

Don't you hear Him say, "It is finished?" Don't you hear Him say, "It is finished?" Don't you hear Him say, "It is finished?" Surely He died on Calvary. Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Calvary, Surely He died on Calvary.

\*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: *Total Praise*

Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills  
Knowing my help is coming from You  
Your peace You give me in time of the storm

You are the source of my strength  
You are the strength of my life  
I lift my hands in total praise to You

You are the source of my strength

You are the strength of my life  
I lift my hands in total praise to You

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

You are the source of my strength

You are the strength of my life

I lift my hands in total praise to You

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

*First Presbyterian Virtual Choir*

Prayers of Dedication

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

\*Hymn 479: *I Shall Not Be Moved* (from the African American Heritage Hymnal)

I shall not be, I shall not be moved, Oh, I shall not be, I shall not be moved. Just like a tree  
that's planted by the water, I shall not be moved.

The church of God is marching, I shall not be moved. The church of God is marching, I  
shall not be moved. Just like a tree that's planted by the water, I shall not be moved.

King Jesus is our Captain, I shall not be moved. King Jesus is the Captain, I shall not be  
moved. Just like a tree that's planted by the water, I shall not be moved.

Satan had me bound, I shall not be moved, Satan had me bound, I shall not be moved. Just  
like a tree that's planted by the water, I shall not be moved.

On my way to heaven, I shall not be moved, On my way to heaven, I shall not be moved.  
Just like a tree that's planted by the water, I shall not be moved.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Lebhaft* from *Vier Skizzen*

Robert Schumann

### **GUEST MUSICIANS:**

Soprano **Francine Brocious** has a B.S. in Vocal Performance from Viterbo University and  
sings with the Reading Choral Society.

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 Per-  
formance from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Currently, Ms. Kennel studies pri-  
vately 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*), Vio-  
letta (*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

**Jester Hairston** was one of the 20th century's leading Black Composers. He was known in his lifetime as an expert on African-American folk music, and his arrangements of Spirituals are firmly ensconced in the repertoire of choirs across the country. He was also an actor and prepared choirs for Broadway musicals and wrote music for Hollywood films. He was named a Goodwill Ambassador by the Department and he took his own multi-racial choir, The Jester Hairston Chorale, to the People's Republic of China in 1985. Additionally, he was a cousin of our own Cherese Akers!



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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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