

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

MARCH 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.*

March 14, 2021

Lent 4

"Knowledge is love and light and vision." - Helen Keller

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

Prelude: *"No Darkness at All"* from A Quaker Reader

Ned Rorem

"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all..."

-Walt Whitman, recalling fifty years later how Elias Hicks thus quoted Christ.

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: From the east and the west,

Many: From the north and the south,

One: We come to dwell in God's steadfast love.

Many: God's love heals, forgives, and welcome all!

One: We are God's people, gathered from many places, to give thanks and to proclaim God's steadfast love.

Many: This gift of love has no end.

One: We receive this gift with open hearts and open hands.

All: We are ready to worship and to serve.

*Hymn 85: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDRIOUS LOVE

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the heavy cross for my
soul, for my soul; to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing, to God
and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll
sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing
on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of poisonous snakes and deadly crosses, your ways can be terrible to behold. When we complain about what we lack, rather than celebrating your sustaining gifts, forgive us. When we see only the bad in our lives, and fail to see the good, heal our vision. When we act as disobedient children, and turn away from your light, save us with your unfailing grace. In Christ's 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

Duane Horne

The First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

Page 134 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: *Sicut Moses*

Heinrich Schütz

Sicut Moses exaltavit serpentem in deserto, ita exaltari oportet filium hominis

Ut omnis qui credit in eum, non pereat sed habeat vitam aeternam.

Translation:

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up
So that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Rachael Lipson, Soprano

Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano

Jason Brocious, Tenor

Rob Phillips, Bass

The Second Lesson: John 3:14-21

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Page 88 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **LOOK AND LIVE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 84: *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

RATHBUN

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross
forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance
streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows
no measure, joys that through all time abide.

*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: *For God so Loved the World*

John Stainer

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish,
But have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,
But that the world through Him might be saved.

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

Prayers of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 364: *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

GRAND ISLE

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green: they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love made them strong; and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long. And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild beast: and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Lesbia Scott

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Fugue no. 2* on B-A-C-H

Robert Schumann

GUEST MUSICIANS:

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 Colledgeville 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 Opera Delaware.

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

Lesbia Scott was a noted British author of Children's hymns. Her collection *Everyday Hymns for Little Children* (1929) featured texts and tunes of hymns she had written to sing for her children as a young mother. The most famous of these hymns "I Sing A Song of the Saints of God" is little known in Britain, but very popular in the United States.



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