

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

MARCH 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.*

March 28, 2021

Liturgy of the Palms

*"Life is strong and fragile. It's a paradox... it's both things, like quantum physics: it's a particle and a wave at the same time. It all exists all together." - Joan Jett*

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

Prelude: *O Lamm Gottes unschuldig*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

†\*Call to Worship

from *Psalms 118*

One: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Many: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Many: We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

One: Let us worship God!

\*Hymn 89: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!*

ELLACOMBE

Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang. To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd, the victory palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud. The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state, nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing, for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven, our King. O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice, and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

**CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we sing and shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" How easy it is to ignore what is to come—anger, betrayal, torture, and death. Forgive us, Holy One, when we move from the celebration of Palm Sunday to the celebration of Easter, without taking time to hear or experience the passion and depths in between. Forgive us for the times we have fallen short: when we have been the cause of anger or been angry without cause; when we have betrayed the innocent; when we have stood by and condoned torture in the name of national security; when we have rejoiced at the deaths of those labeled terrorists, radicals, and insurrectionists. Help us be faithful to your gospel of love and liberation. Surround us with your enabling grace. Bless us with a community to help us live a life of faithfulness—faithfulness to the one who came to teach us how to live and how to love; faithfulness to one for whom we are waving palms today.**

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

Heidi Mercado-Littles

The First Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Pages 534-535 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: *The Palms*

Jean-Baptiste Faure

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay  
Are strewn this day in festive preparation,  
Where Jesus comes, to wipe our tears away,  
E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare.

Refrain:

Join all and sing His name declare,  
Let ev'ry voice resound with acclamation,  
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord!  
Bless Him, who cometh to bring us salvation!

Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem,  
Of all thy sons sing the emancipation,  
Thro' boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem  
Brings faith the hope to thee forevermore.

Refrain

*Laurice Kennel, Soprano*

The Second Lesson: Mark 11:1-11

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Pages 44-45 NT

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **JC'S WIDE WORLD OF SUPPORT**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 145: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest, the pilgrims find their home at

last, Jerusalem the blest. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

\*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: *Ride On, King Jesus*, trad. Spiritual

arr. Howard Helvey

Ride on, King Jesus,  
No man can a-hinder me,  
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,  
No man can a-hinder me.

Jesus Christ, the First and Last;  
No man a-works like Him.  
He is King of Kings, He is Lord of Lords.  
Jesus Christ, the First and Last;

King Jesus rides on a milk-white horse,  
No man a-works like Him;  
The river of Jordan he did cross,  
No man a-works like Him.

Jesus rides in the middle of the air:  
No man a-works like Him.  
Calls the saints from evr'ywhere  
No man a-works like Him

Ride on, King Jesus,  
No man can a-hinder me,  
Ride on, King Jesus, ride on,  
No man can a-hinder me.

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

Prayer of Dedication

## GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn 82: *O Lamb of God, Most Holy*

O LAMM GOTTES

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer, And patient still and lowly,  
Yourself to scorn did offer; Our sins by You were taken, Or hope had us forsaken: Have  
mercy on us, Jesus!

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer, And patient still and lowly,  
Yourself to scorn did offer; Our sins by You were taken, Or hope had us forsaken: Have  
mercy on us, Jesus!

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer, And patient still and lowly,  
Yourself to scorn did offer; Our sins by You were taken, Or hope had us forsaken: Your  
peace be with us, Jesus!

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Postlude: *Litanies*

Jehan Alain

### 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 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

**Jeanette Threlfall** was a poet and hymn writer of the Victorian era. Suffering from poor health for most of her life, she devoted much of her time to writing, which she published under the pen name J.T. Her Palm Sunday hymn “Hosanna! Loud Hosanna!” remains popular to this day and is published in many major hymnals.

**Jehan Alain** was a French organist and composer. He was born into a musical family and served as organist at the church of St. Nicolas Maisons-Lafitte and the Synagogue of the Rue Notre Dame de Nazareth. He was killed in action at the Battle of Saumur during the second World War. Today’s postlude, “Litanies” bears the following inscription from the composer, a fitting message as we enter Holy Week: "When, in its distress, the Christian soul can find no more words to invoke God's mercy, it repeats endlessly the same litany....for reason has reached its limit; only faith can take one further...".

# 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

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