

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

APRIL 18, 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.*

April 18, 2021

"A virtue achieves its potential only in its application and it ceases to have any use if it serves no purpose in daily life." - Mahatma Gandhi

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

Prelude: *Largo* from *Sonata in F*

C.P.E. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Gather us in, Creator God.

Many: That being close to you we will understand your intention for creation.

One: Weave us into one, Resurrected Savior of All.

Many: That living your ways we will create communities of faith and peace.

One: Open our hearts and liberate our minds, Holy Spirit of Renewal.

Many: That treasuring the past we will boldly shape the future.

One: Empower us, Holy One in Three.

All: Gather us this day that we might gather strength from You to become the signs of your presence, the weavers of your community, and the witnesses to your coming Kingdom in Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn 434: *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

KINGSFOLD

Today we are all called to be Disciples of the Lord, To help to set the captives free, Make plow-share out of sword, To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast, To serve the poor and homeless first, Our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth Ordained our human race To live as stewards of the earth, Responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud, We sow not peace but strife, Our discord spreads a deadly cloud That threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down As in a mighty stream, With righteousness in field and town To cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore An earth where conflicts cease, A world that was created for A harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God Act out the living word, And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we Give thanks in one accord To God who calls us all to be Disciples of the Lord.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. We fall short in carrying out the ministry you gave us in Jesus. We struggle to be faithful witnesses to what you've done and to all that You are in our lives. For these things we ask your for-

giveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us eyes to see you at work around us, and hearts that rejoice in joining you in that work. Transform us more and more into the image of Christ that our lives too may bear witness to your resurrection power. Remind us of who we are in you, children of a living Savior, that you called your disciples, that you've called us and that you are still calling all people to yourself. Equip us with love so that our lives may become a living invitation for others to join your family. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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

The First Lesson: Luke 24:36b-48

Pages 85 NT

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: *Witness*

trad. spiritual, arr. Victor Johnson

Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
Who'll be a witness for my Lord?
Who will be a witness for my Lord?

You've heard the story and you understand,
Samson was the strongest man.
Samson went out and at one time,
He killed a thousand of the Philistine!

Samson was a witness for my Lord,
Samson was a witness for my Lord,
Samson was a witness for my Lord,
Samson was a witness for my Lord!

The king at once for Daniel did send,
And then he threw him in the lion's den.
Then God sent angels, the lions to keep,
And Daniel laid down and went to sleep.

Daniel was a witness for my Lord,
Daniel was a witness for my Lord,
Daniel was a witness for my Lord,
Daniel was a witness for my Lord!
Who will be a witness for my Lord?

The Second Lesson: Acts 3:12-19

Christian Heyer-Rivera

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **CAN I GET A WITNESS**

Christian Heyer-Rivera

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 525: *Here I am, Lord*

I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them My hand will save.
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart.

*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: *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Julian Wachner

All Creatures of Our God and King
All creatures worship God most high,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O sing ye, O sing ye, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain,
By which all creatures ye sustain,

O praise ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice!
Ye lights of evening, find a voice.
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O Sister water flowing clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear.
Alleluia! Alleluia! O brother fire who lights the night,
Providing warmth enhancing sight.
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 415: *Come, Labor On*

ORA LABORA

Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain while all around us waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."

Come, labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share; to young and old the gospel gladness bear. Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.

Come, labor on. Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear! No arm so weak but may do service here. Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God's righteous will.

Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky, till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Well done, well done!"

*Charge and Benediction

Christian Heyer-Rivera

Postlude: *Allegro from Sonata in F*

C.P.E. Bach

GUEST MUSICIANS:

Tenor **Jason Brocius** 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 Collegetown 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.



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