

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

MAY 16, 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.*

May 16, 2021

Ascension Sunday

*"The one thing that can solve most of our problems is dancing." - James Brown*

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

Prelude: *Aria*

Andrew Carter

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Let Us Make A Joyful Noise*

Douglas Wagner

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Praise, O praise the Lord!

And make a joyful noise evermore!

†\*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Sing to God with songs of exaltation.

**Many: Clap your hands, you people of God.**

One: Sing praises to the Lord, sing praises.

**Many: Shout with joy, you people of promise.**

One: See the power of the Most High God.

**Many: Look to the heavens, you people of Spirit.**

One: Sing to God with songs of exaltation.

**All: Clap your hands, you people of God.**

\*Hymn 472: *O Sing to the Lord*

O sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.  
O sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. O sing to our God, o sing to our God.

By His holy power our God has done wonders. By His holy power our God has done wonders.  
By His holy power our God has done wonders. O sing to our God, o sing to our God.

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets. So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.  
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets, And sing to our God, and sing to our God.

**CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Holy One has set." Yet we keep searching for signs and omens, trying to predict the future instead of living fully each day. Jesus said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Yet we are more concerned with following the proper procedures, than with opening our hearts to those around us. Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Forgive us, Holy One, when we try to shape the world according to our desires, instead of asking for the power to do your will.**

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

Rosemary Williams

The First Lesson: Psalm 47

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Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah* God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

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: *Siyahamba* (South African Traditional)

Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',

Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',

Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',

Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',

Siyahamba, siyahamba, oh,

Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'.

Siyahamba, siyahamba, oh,

Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'.

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching, ooh,

We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching, ooh,

We are marching in the light of God.

***Ryan Battin, Bass***

***Jason Brocious, Tenor***

***Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano***

***Rachael Lipson, Soprano***

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying<sup>[a]</sup> with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **UP, UP, AND AWAY!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*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. Away with gloomy doubts 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!"

\*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: *Christ whose Glory Fills the Skies*

Healey Willan

Christ, whose glory fills the skies  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near,  
Daystar, in my heart appear.  
Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till Thou inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

***Ryan Battin, Bass***  
***Jason Brocious, Tenor***  
***Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano***  
***Rachael Lipson, Soprano***

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication

**GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*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 tempt-  
ing 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.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fugue in G*, BWV 541

J.S. Bach

## GUEST MUSICIANS:

**Ryan Battin** is a singer and public school teacher in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. As a choral vocalist, Ryan has performed with choirs throughout the Greater Philadelphia area, Delaware, and in cathedrals across Europe.

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 Bohème*), 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.

## Notes on Music:

Siyahamba is a traditional South African song in the Zulu language. It was first recorded in the 1950s and first became popular in schools in South Africa. It was later published in the anthology *Freedom is Coming: Songs of Protest and Praise from South Africa*, at which point its acclaim spread worldwide.



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*Welcome Back*

MEMBERS & FRIENDS!

**Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown! We are so delighted to have you worshipping with us. We would like for you to be as safe and comfortable as possible as we enter this new season together. Here are a few guidelines to ease your way:**

- Reservations
  - \* There is no need for pre-registration
  - \* All who come are welcome
    - ◇ Masks must be worn at all times (will be available if you don't bring one)
    - ◇ Hand sanitizer will be at each entrance
    - ◇ There will be no temperature checks
    - ◇ No proof of vaccination required
    - ◇ If you are a visitor, you will be asked to fill out a contact card in case of need of contact tracing
    - ◇ If you are a member, your attendance will be noted by a member of the Re-opening Task Force in case of need of contact tracing
- Parking
  - \* You may park in all the usual spots: east parking lot, west parking lot, street, etc.
- Arrival/Entry
  - \* There will be locations where you may enter
    - ◇ Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry entrance is the handicapped entrance
    - ◇ One of the sanctuary doors
    - ◇ Office door
  - \* There will be signs posted to direct you to other areas of the church when necessary
  - \* An usher will be at each entrance to welcome & to seat you
- Seating
  - \* You will be seated in organized socially-distanced spacing
  - \* Spacing is organized in pods of 1, 2, 3 & 4
  - \* You may sit with others not in your own family if agreed upon by the entire pod
- Order of Worship
  - \* Your bulletin will include scripture lessons & hymn lyrics, so there will be no need to use the Bibles or hymnals
  - \* No congregational singing
  - \* There will be a masked four person "choir" that will sing anthems and all hymns
  - \* Liturgists (Revs. Rebecca & Kevin, and the Lay Reader) will not be masked when leading, but will be while seated
    - ◇ They will be at least 12 feet away from anyone in the congregation
    - ◇ The exception is the Children's departments
      - Children will be invited to the front pew socially-distanced
      - All including Rebecca will remain masked for this portion
  - \* Direct physical contact is discouraged (e.g. no handshaking, hugging, touching during passing of the peace, etc.)
  - \* Offering plates will be located by each entrance/exit and you are invited to give your gifts as you depart
- Restrooms
  - \* To minimize traffic, please try to use the restroom, if necessary, before or after the service
  - \* Please follow signs to use restrooms
  - \* Only the first floor restrooms will be open
  - \* Only one person in any restroom at any time
  - \* If the door is closed, do not use the restroom
- Exiting
  - \* Each row will be dismissed by an usher and leave before the next row's dismissal
  - \* Please do not congregate in the building or on the sidewalks
  - \* Maintain social distancing as you exit

# 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

OPEN  
Dolores Shanks  
Stephanie Garrett

### 2023

John Orandosh  
Chris Scott Jr.  
Carolyn Tarver

## First Church Staff

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Pastor	Rebecca Segers
Director of Congregational Care	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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