

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

MAY 23, 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 23, 2021

Pentecost/Baptism/Confirmation

*"I figure if I keep my spirit in shape, the bones will take care of themselves." - Rita Moreno*

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

Prelude: *Les Oiseaux et les Sources*, from Mass for Pentecost Olivier Messiaen

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 Mimi Ohemeng

One: In rushing wind, in cleansing fire...

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: In courage found, in strength renewed...

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: In visions born, in dreams restored...

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: In hopes rekindled, in fears released...

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: In the church's sudden birth, in possibilities untold...

**Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

One: In rushing wind, in cleansing fire...

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

\*Hymn 324: *Open My Eyes That I May See* OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear, and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere. Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession Amir Staten

**O God, we have heard your Pentecost story: your Spirit is here, your church is born, and the day of the Lord is coming. You have gathered all people together in your Spirit, and you have brought life to all valleys of death. Still, O Lord, we cannot trust, for we fear our bones are beyond repair. Still, O Lord, we turn away, for we fear our hope is lost. Still, O Lord, we imagine isolation, for we fear we are cut off from your presence. Forgive us, Holy One. As you did for your first church, breathe the fire of life into us. As you did for your prophet Ezekiel, reveal to us your life-giving presence.**

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.**

## **BAPTISM & REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT`**

**Presentation**

**Candidate Question**

**Congregational Question**

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Amir Staten, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

**We do.**

**Public Profession of Faith of Previously Baptized Persons**

**Renunciations**

**Question to the Candidates**

**Thanksgiving Over the Water**

**The Baptism**

**The Laying On of Hands**

**Welcome**

Through his baptism, Amir Lamar Staten has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church. Emanuel Christian Heyer-Rivera, Henry Valentine Hunsicker, Mirielle Ama Ohemeng, and Siena Jean Williams have reaffirmed the covenant into which they were baptized. As members of the household of God, God has called them to serve Christ in the world. Let us welcome them to this ministry.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

†\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Amir Staten

### **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

Siena Williams

The First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Page 490 OT

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were

sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

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: *Dry Bones*

arr. Mark Hayes

There was a man named Ezekiel  
Who lived many years ago.

He was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley full of old, dry bones.

Then Ezekiel was asked by the Lord Most High,  
"Can these bones ever be revived?"

After pondering this question,  
This is what he said, "Only the Lord God knows."

So the Lord commanded Ezekiel to speak unto these bones,  
"Now hear the word of the Lord!"  
Ezekiel cried, "Dem dry bones."  
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones.

So the bones were connected by the power of the Lord  
When Ezekiel spoke the command.  
But the bones had no breath, so Lord God said,  
"Call the winds from across the lands."

Then Ezekiel called to the spirit in the winds to revive those bones on the ground.  
With a mighty sound those bones rose up and began to walk around!

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones. Now hear the word of the Lord.  
The toe bone connected to the foot bone. The foot bone connected to the ankle bone.  
The ankle bone connected to the leg bone. The leg bone connected to the knee bone.  
The knee bone connected to the thigh bone. The thigh bone connected to the hip bone.  
The hip bone connected to the back bone. The back bone connected to the shoulder bone.  
The shoulder bone connected to the neck bone. The neck bone connected to the head bone.  
Now hear the word of the Lord.

Dem bones gonna walk around. Glory Hallelujah!  
Now Hear the Word of the Lord!

***Roxy Callan, Soprano***  
***Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano***  
***Dugan Morgridge, Tenor***  
***Tyler Propfe, Bass***

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine. "But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **DEEP IN OUR BONES**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 128: *On Pentecost They Gathered*

MUNICH

On Pentecost they gathered Quite early in the day,  
A band of Christ's disciples, To worship, sing, and pray.  
A mighty wind came blowing, Filled all the swirling air,  
And tongues of fire aglowing Inspired each person there.

The people all around them Were startled and amazed  
To understand their language, As Christ the Lord they praised.  
What universal message, What great good news was here?  
That Christ, once dead, is risen To vanquish all our fear.

God pours the Holy Spirit On all who would believe,  
On women, men, and children Who would God's grace receive.  
That Spirit knows no limit, Bestowing life and power.  
The church, formed and reforming, Responds in every hour.

O Spirit, sent from heaven On that day long ago,  
Rekindle faith among us In all life's ebb and flow.  
O give us ears to listen And tongues aflame with praise,  
So folk of every nation Glad songs of joy shall raise.

\*Affirmation of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

Henry Hunsicker

**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: *The Call*

Emanuel Heyer-Rivera  
Erik Routley

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
Such a Life, as killeth death.  
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light, as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.  
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

***Roxy Callan, Soprano***  
***Laurice Kennel, Mezzo Soprano***  
***Dugan Morgridge, Tenor***  
***Tyler Propfe, Bass***

\*Congregational Response 592: *Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Prayer of Dedication

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

\*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 word 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. Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life 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.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fanfare*

John Cook

## GUEST MUSICIANS:

Cincinnati soprano, **Roxy Callan**, graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Baldwin Wallace University ('16) and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College ('18). Since her schooling, Roxy has a diverse career teaching private voice and piano lessons, leading and creating curriculum for group acting classes as well as individual lessons, and directing musical theater productions.

**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.

**Dugan Morgridge** is excited to rejoin First Church today. Dugan appears regularly around the Philadelphia area as tenor section leader and soloist with Philomusica Chorale, The Choristers, and the Archdiocesan Choir of Philadelphia, among others. He was a treble chorister at the Little Church Around the Corner in New York City, and holds degrees in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory and Temple University.

**Tyler Propfe** is a bass/baritone living in West Chester. He graduated as a Performance & Education major from West Chester University. Currently he is an elementary music teacher for Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School.

## Notes on Music:

**Olivier Messiaen** was one of the most important French composers of the twentieth century, and his music for orchestra, piano, and the organ is still widely performed the world over. Much of his music is inspired by themes from his own Catholic faith and by the sounds and rhythms of the natural world. Messiaen was deeply fascinated by the song of birds, which he wove into much of his mature musical composition, including today's prelude, from the Mass for Pentecost. At the top of this composition the composer includes the note "Birds of the sky, bless the Lord, springs of water, bless the Lord."



*Welcome Back*

MEMBERS & FRIENDS!

We would like to offer you the opportunity to share your good wishes with the confirmands as they enter into the life of the church. Please feel free to write a card or note to support them in their journeys of faith.

Emanuel Heyer-Rivera  
6307 Greene Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Henry Hunsicker  
6730 Crittendon Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Mimi Ohemeng  
8311 High School Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Amir Staten  
5826 Baynton Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Siena Williams  
6343 Greene Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

## **I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord!”- Psalm 122**

The Reopening Task Force is continuing to adapt procedures and protocols as we gather together in the sanctuary for worship. These are our current guidelines:

- 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 Reopening 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
    - ◇ East Sanctuary door on Cheltenham Avenue
    - ◇ Office door
  - \* There will be signs posted to direct you to other areas of the church when necessary
  - \* An usher will be at the Cheltenham Avenue entrance to welcome you, indicate where you may pick up a bulletin and to “point” you to one of the interior sanctuary doors. At the interior doors there also will be ushers to provide any needed help on seating.
- Seating
  - \* You will be seated in organized socially-distanced spacing
  - \* Spacing is organized in pods of 1, 2, 3 & 4. An usher can assist if you are a larger group.
  - \* 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 sermon
      - Children will be invited to the front pew socially-distanced
      - All including Rev. 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 inside the sanctuary by each entrance/exit and you are invited to give your gifts as you depart
- Restrooms
  - \* 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
  - \* Using the FPCG communion protocol, each row, starting at the front, will be dismissed by an usher and move toward an exit before the next row's dismissal.
  - \* Please minimize congregating in the building or on the sidewalks. Both of the Chelton Avenue doors will be open after the service to help prevent congestion.
  - \* 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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[www.fpcgermantown.org](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)