

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JULY 11, 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.*

July 11, 2021

"The thing is, I'll never know all there is to know about you just as you will never know all there is to know about me. Humans are by nature too complicated to be understood fully. So we can choose either to approach our fellow human beings with suspicion or to approach them with an open mind, a dash of optimism, and a great deal of candor." - Tom Hanks

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

Prelude: *Prelude on an Ancient Welsh Tune*

T. Tertius Noble

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Christian Heyer-Rivera

One: The Lord is in our midst.

Many: We will sing and dance to God's glory.

One: Let heaven and earth rejoice this day.

Many: Let all of creation sing God's praises.

One: The One who dwelt in the ark of the covenant is with us now.

All: Let us worship the Lord.

Hymn 487: *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries, May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer, To Jesus I repair; May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round In joyful notes resound May Jesus Christ be praised! Let air, and sea, and sky From depth to height reply, May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine, May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this this eternal song Through all the ages long, May Jesus Christ be praised!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to you with all our hearts. We have not been faithful to your word of love. We have hurt others and held grudges. We have been jealous and deceitful and ungrateful. We have turned from your Word and resisted the Holy Spirit. We have wanted our inheritance from you without the responsibilities that go with it. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and healing that we might respond with joy to the spiritual blessings you offer.

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

Leah Hood

The First Lesson: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Pages 720-721 OT

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

It was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

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 Greatest Among Us*

Sally de Ford

He came as a servant, this King among Men, to lift and to heal by the Power in his Hand.

He labored unceasingly, knowing our need, and he calls us to follow in Spirit and deed.

The greatest among us taught us to love, to serve one another as he willingly served.

And if I would follow him, such is my call, for the Greatest among us was the servant of all.

The greatest among us nourished the weak, Brought hope to the hopeless and joy to the meek. The sufferer never beseeched him in vain, may I follow the Master in kindness unfeigned. The greatest among us taught us to love, to Serve one another as he willingly served, And if I would follow Him, such is my call, for the Greatest among us was the servant of all.

Jesus, to whom all dominion is given, humbled himself in the service of man.

And he calls through the ages "Come, follow Me," I will follow the master wherever he may lead. The greatest among us taught us to love, to serve one another as he willingly served. And if I would follow Him, such is my call, for the Greatest among us was the servant of all.

Laurice Kennel, Soprano

The Second Lesson: Mark 6:14-29

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Pages 4-5 NT

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself

had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **IT'S COMPLICATED**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

Hymn 397: *O for a Closer with God*

DALEHURST

O for a closer walk with God, A calm and heavenly frame; A light to shine upon the road That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy dove, return, Sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn, And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known, Whate'er that idol be, Help me to tear it from Thy throne, And worship only Thee.

So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame; So purer light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

*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: *Guide my Feet*

arr. Jacqueline Hairston

Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.
Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.
Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain
Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Laurice Kennel, Soprano

*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 302: *I Danced in the Morning*

SIMPLE GIFTS

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; At Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, But they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; They came with me and the dance went on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, And they left me there on a Cross to die. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone; But I am the Dance and I still go on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leap up high; I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in Me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *When Morning Guilds the Skies*

Dale Wood

GUEST MUSICIANS: 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.

SESSION RETREAT: The session will be gathering *today* immediately following worship

in the Finney Room for lunch followed by a gathering led by Rev. Paul Rhebergen from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

ARTICINIA CONCERTS: The first Articina concert will be held *today* at 3:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. We will be welcoming soprano Renée Richardson and pianist Ting Ting Wong for this free one-hour musical feast followed by a brief time of fellowship with cookies and beverages on the front sidewalk. A free will offering to support the artists will be taken. All are welcome.

ANNA REIMANN MEMORIAL SERVICE: A celebration of the life and witness to the resurrection of Anna Katherine Reimann will be held next Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

FAITH @ 5:00: There will be an in-person worship service on Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. with the theme of Re-Entry/Re-vival or New Life. Location TBD (inside or outside) according to the weather. Plan to join us for this interactive service that acknowledges the challenges of the past season and celebrates its joys as well as the joy of being together again.

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

The Session continues to revise procedures and protocols for worship as we gather in this new season. Please review our current parameters here.

- 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
- 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 each entrance to welcome you & give you a bulletin and mask (if needed)
- 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 group
- Order of Worship
 - * Your bulletin will include scripture lessons & hymn lyrics, so there will be no need to use the Bibles or hymnals
 - * Masked congregational singing is permitted.
 - * Vaccinated Liturgists (Revs. Rebecca & Kevin, and the lay Reader) and Soloists 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.)
- 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
 - * Please minimize congregating in the building or on the sidewalks.
 - * Maintain social distancing as you exit

Church Officers

Elders

2022

Ingrid Harris
Joseph Leube
Delores Solomon

2023

Drew Hood
Andrea Overton
Sheila Heyer-Rivera

2024

Randy Clever
Duane Horne
Contina Lee Lundy

Clerk of Session:
Andrea Overton

Deacons

2022

Krista Hoekema-Boerman
Dolores Shanks
Stephanie Garrett

2023

John Orandosh
Chris Scott Jr.
Carolyn Tarver

2024

Arlene Grace
Rhonda Highsmith
William Lewis

First Church Staff

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 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, Robert Patterson, Clinton (CJ) Cotton |

Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired

David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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