

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JULY 25, 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 25, 2021

"Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value." - Desmond Tutu

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

Prelude: *Toccata per l'elevazione*

Domenico Zipoli

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: We come to this worship lonely or empty or frightened.

Many: We come to this worship sick or grieving or discouraged.

One: We come from households spiky with anger. We come from unfinished projects, ruined plans, and multiple irritations.

Many: We come from broken diets, hidden drinking, unanswered mail, and a week without bedtime prayers.

One: From inadequacy we seek God's wholeness; from delinquency we seek God's forgiveness; from isolation we hope to be freed for love and service by the gospel's power.

All: Come! Let us trust in and worship the Lord!

Hymn 470: *O Day of Radiant Gladness*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light, O balm of care and sadness, Most beautiful, most bright; This day the high and lowly, Through ages joined in tune, Sing "Holy, holy, holy" To the great God Triune.

This day at the creation The light first had its birth; This day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth; This day our Lord victorious The Spirit sent from heaven, And thus this day most glorious A triple light was given.

This day God's people, meeting, The Holy Scripture hear; Christ's living presence greeting, Through bread and wine made near. We journey on, believing, Renewed with heavenly might, From grace more grace receiving On this blest day of light.

That light our hope sustaining, We walk the pilgrim way, At length our rest attaining, Our endless Sabbath day. We sing to You our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son; The church its voice upraises To You, blest Three in One.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Holy Love, to you we pray. We pray to you, O Christ, for you show us the way of love. We pray to love, for God is love, We pray for love, for love is the root of grace and the foundation of mercy. Forgive us when we lose our grounding in love, and act in ways that separate us from you and from one another. Forgive us when hatred and enmity take root and weaken the love you have planted within us. Reclaim the foundation of our lives, Loving One, that we may grow in faith and strength from the root of love.

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

Delores Solomon

The First Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21

Page 182 NT

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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: *Come Unto Christ*

Sally DeFord

Come unto Christ ye penitent and meek
Seek this Jesus of whom the prophets speak
Seek this Jesus whose mercies never cease
Come unto Christ, and find in him eternal peace
Come unto Christ, who bore our griefs alone
Who will carry our burdens as his own
Seek this Jesus, and by his love be blessed
Come unto Christ, and find in him eternal rest
Come unto Christ ye sorrowful and frail
Seek this Jesus whose comfort cannot fail
Seek this Jesus and triumph in his might
Come unto Christ
Come unto Christ!
Come unto Christ, abide in him and live
He will bless you with every perfect gift
Seek this Jesus amid a world of strife
Come unto Christ and find in him eternal life.

Laurice Kennel, Soprano

The Second Lesson: John 6:1-21

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Pages 91-92 NT

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.-A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he

himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **AN EXTRAORDINARY DAY**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

Hymn 347: *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

DETROIT

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But You alone can grant us
grace To live the words we say.

How can Your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart,
That broods on wrongs and
will not let Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to
us, How great our debt to You!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, And bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

*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: *How I Love Your Word*

Mark Hayes

I love your word, it gives me light
It guides me through the darkest night.
Your law is perfect in every way.
How I love your Word.

Sweeter than the honey-comb
More precious than finest gold.
Rich with treasures new and old,
Your Word gives life to me.

When I am frightened, you calm my fears.
When I am troubled your word is clear
That in every moment you are here.
Your word brings peace to me.

I choose to follow your commands.
Your ways I want to understand.
I long to learn all that I can
from the wisdom in your world.

Your words I treasure deep with in
They comfort me and discipline
That I may have no more cause to sin.
Your words bring righteousness.

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 420: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glory, On Thy people pour Thy power; Crown Thine ancient church's story, Bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Thy control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal, Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places, Gird our lives that they may be Armored with all Christ-like graces, Pledged to set all captives free. Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, That we fail not man nor Thee, That we fail not man nor Thee.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fantasy in C*

William Byrd

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.

FAITH @ 5:00: There will be an in-person worship *today*, Sunday, June 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Jennings Room. This creative interactive service gives a second opportunity to ponder the story of Jesus Feeding the 5000 - the ways in which have been fed in this time of pandemic and the gifts we can carry into the season ahead.

NEXT ARTCINIA CONCERT, TODAY AT 3:00PM: Camerata Philadelphia, “an ensemble without boundaries” will present a program of music by Beethoven and Mendelssohn for strings and piano led by Venezuelan-born, Philadelphia-based violin virtuoso Luigi Mazzocchi. Come one, come all as we welcome musical performances back into our sanctuary.



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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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