

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

AUGUST 08, 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.*

August 08, 2021

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." - Louis B. Smedes

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Prelude on Hanover*

James Aylward

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

Many: Here, we find refuge and strength. Here, we find forgiveness and joy.

One: Come! Let us worship the One who hears our cries and is attentive to our pleas.

All: Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

*Hymn 476: O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

LYONS

O worship the King all-glorious above! O gratefully sing God's power and God's love: Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form, and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;
Hath established it fast by a changeless decree, And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail. Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Holder of our grief, out of the depths we cry to you our hot tears. Amidst betrayal, we often cannot save the ones we love, and we are left alone in our sorrow. In our pain, we nurture anger and resentment, shutting ourselves off from paths of healing and wholeness. In our anguish, we speak words that are destructive and hurtful. Dry our tears, O God, and lead us anew in ways of kindness and love, mercy and compassion, that we may be called your beloved children.

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: Psalm 130

Page 182 NT

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

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: *King David*

Herbert Howells

King David was a sorrowful man:
No cause for his sorrow had he;
And he called for the music of a hundred harps,
To ease his melancholy.

They played till they all fell silent:
Played and play sweet did they;
But the sorrow that haunted the heart of King David
They could not charm away.

He rose; and in his garden
Walked by the moon alone,
A nightingale hidden in a cypress tree,
Jargoned on and on.

King David lifted his sad eyes Into the dark-boughed tree --
"Tell me, thou little bird that singest,
Who taught my grief to thee?"
But the bird in no-wise heeded;
And the king in the cool of the moon
Hearkened to the nightingale's sorrowfulness,
till all his own was gone.

Shane Tapley, Tenor

The Second Lesson: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Pages 91-92 NT

The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day

than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man. The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **BEYOND FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 184: *How Blest Are Those*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN

How blest are those whose great sin Has freely been forgiven. Whose guilt is wholly covered Before the sight of heaven. Blest those to whom our Lord God Will not impute their sin, Whose guilt ha been forgiven, Whose heart is true again.

While I kept guilty silence, My strength was spent with grief. Your hand was heavy on me; My life found no relief. But when I made confession And hid no sin from You, When I revealed my own guilt, You gave me life anew.

So let the godly seek You, When troubling times are near; No storm of flood shall reach them, Nor cause their hearts to fear. In You, O Lord, I hide me You save me from all ill, And songs of Your salvation My heart with rapture fill.

"I graciously will teach you The way that you should go, And with My eye upon you, My counsel you shall know. But be not then unruly, Or slow to understand; Be not perverse, but willing To heed My wise command."

The sorrow of the wicked In number shall abound, But those who trust our own God Great mercy shall surround. Then in the Lord be joyful, In song lift up your voice; Be glad in God, you righteous; Rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

*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: *If with all your Heart ye truly seek me*, from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

Ye people, rend your hearts and not your garments for your transgressions: the prophet Elijah hath sealed the heavens through the word of God. I therefore say to ye: forsake your idols, return to God; for He is slow to anger, and merciful, and kind, and gracious, and repenteth Him of the evil.

If with all your heart ye truly seek Me,
Ye shall ever surely find Me,
Thus saith our God.

If with all your heart ye truly seek Me,
Ye shall ever surely find Me,
Thus saith our God. Thus saith our God.

Oh, that I knew where I might find Him,
That I might even come before His presence.

Oh, that I knew where I might find Him,
That I might even come before His presence, come before His presence.
Oh, that I knew where I might find Him.

If with all your heart ye truly seek Me,
Ye shall ever surely find Me,
Thus saith our God.
Ye shall ever surely find Me,
Thus saith our God.

Shane Tapley, Tenor

*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 358: *Help Us Accept Each Other*

BARONITA

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Toccatta Settima*

Georg Muffat

GUEST MUSICIANS: **Shane Tapley**, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, is a vocalist and instructor based in Bordentown, NJ. His performances have included concert, opera, musical theater, and recitals throughout North America and Europe. Shane holds a Master of Music in vocal pedagogy and performance from Westminster Choir College. He is currently on voice faculty at Rowan University and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Prior to making his way to the Northeast, he completed his Bachelor of Music degree in Commercial Music from Belmont University and worked as a session singer and background vocalist in Nashville, Tennessee.

NEXT ARTICINIA CONCERT, TODAY AT 3:00PM: The final Articina concert will take place today at 3:00 p.m. in our church sanctuary. We will be welcoming Pyxis Piano Trio. Pyxis has been a vibrant presence in the mid-Atlantic region since 2009, and is ensemble in residence at the Delaware Art Museum and for Market Street Music Festival Concerts (Wilmington, DE). Pyxis' concert will feature virtuosic trios of Beethoven and Brahms. A brief time of fellowship with cookies and beverages in the East Parking Lot will follow. A free will offering to support the artists will be taken. All are welcome.

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
 - * Please observe the ropes to maintain social distancing between pews
 - * Please seat yourselves socially distanced at least six feet beside, in front, and behind those not with you
- 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



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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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