

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

AUGUST 22, 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 22, 2021

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Andante and Allegro*

Franz Joseph Haydn

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

David Cassie

One: The bread of heaven, the food of life, awaits us here.

Many: We are hungry and long for God's abundance.

One: The promise of deep forgiveness surrounds us here.

Many: We are lost and yearning to be found.

One: God waits to pour out the gifts of the Spirit,

Many: that we might live the life of faith.

All: Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn 326: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart, wean it from earth, through all its pulses move. Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art, and make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King, All, all Thine own: soul, heart and strength and mind? I see Thy cross there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek Thee and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear, to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh; teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame: the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove; my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your way. You show us the wrong we have done, yet we point fingers at others. You offer us the bread of heaven, yet we hunger for the things of the earth. Forgive us, God of grace. Speak your truth to us in love and renew a right spirit within us, so that we may return to you in peace, and grow more and more in grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Contina Lee Lundy

The First Lesson: Psalm 51:1-12

Page 558 OT

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

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 Woodcutter's Song*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

He that is down need fear no fall,
He that is low, no pride;
He that is humble, ever shall
Have God to be his Guide.

I am content with what I have,
Little be it or much;
And, Lord, contentment still I crave,
Because Thou savest such.

Fullness to such a burden is,
That go on pilgrimage;
Here little, and hereafter bliss,
Is best from age to age.

Robert Phillips, Bass

The Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

Rev. Kevin Porter
Pages 290-292 OT

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be chil-

dren, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **STAYING ON MESSAGE**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 2152: *Change My Heart, O God* (from Sing The Faith) 2x CHANGE MY HEART

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me, this is what I pray. Change my
heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me, this is what I pray. Change my
heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

*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: *Trust in God*

James Brighton

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
Lean not on your own understanding,
And in all your ways seek the Lord,
And the Lord will guide your paths.

Be not wise in your own eyes
But fear the Lord and turn from evil.
And the Lord will keep you safe and strong
All the days of your life.

Robert Phillips, 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 419: *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

REPTON

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed Your call: to live according to Your word, and daily learn, refreshed, restored, that You are Lord of all, and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear; if worldly pressures fray the mind, and love itself cannot unwind its tangled skein of care, our inward life repair.

We mark Your saints, how they became in hindrances more sure, whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear Your name, and by our faults obscure Your power to cleanse and cure.

In what You give us, Lord, to do, together or alone, in old routines and ventures new, may we not cease to look to You. The cross You hung upon—all You endeavored done.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Jesu, meines Lebens Leben*

J.S. Bach

GUEST MUSICIANS: **Robert Phillips** attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey specializing in Vocal Performance. After performing for several seasons with The Westminster Choir at The Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds he then continued his studies in New York City. Presently, Mr. Phillips has been a member of many musical groups in the Philadelphia region including Opera Philadelphia, Choral Arts of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Singers, and The Crossing. Church music has been a large part of Mr. Phillips musical life also having sung in choirs at First Presbyterian Chestnut Hill, St. Marks Church of Philadelphia and First Presbyterian Church Germantown.

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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