

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

AUGUST 29, 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 29, 2021

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Andante*

Louis James Lefebure- Wely

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: As we enter the last weeks of summer, and anticipate the changes that autumn will bring,

Many: We gather to worship the God who is with us in all seasons of life.

One: As we look forward to the opportunities and responsibilities that a new season can bring,

Many: We gather to worship the God who never changes and whose love is constant and steadfast.

One: The time for singing has come;

All: The time to rejoice in God's eternal love and abundant grace.

*Hymn 276: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, forgive us when we fail to listen for your voice in our noisy world. Forgive us when we fail to look for your acts of grace and mercy in our personal lives and in our larger community and world. Forgive us when we merely hear words of scripture, but do not absorb your love and become doers of the word and ambassadors of your love. Forgiving God, you offer us "pardon for sin and a peace that endureth," and for this we thank you. 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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Stephanie Garrett

The First Lesson: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Page 588 OT

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

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 Lone Wild Bird*

Southern Folktune
arr. David N. Johnson

The lone, wild fowl in lofty flight
Is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.
And I am thine! I rest in thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.

The ends of earth are in thy hand,
The sea's dark deep and far-off land.
And I am thine! I rest in thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.

Rachael Lipson, Soprano

The Second Lesson: James 1:17-27

Don Carlin
Page 215 OT

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their dis-

tress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **LOVE AND GRATITUDE**

Don Carlin

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 473: For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies, For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight, For the mystic harmony Link-
ing sense to sound and sight, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth, and friends
above, For all gentle thought's and mild, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of
grateful praise.

For Thy church that evermore Lifteth holy hands above, Offering up on every shore Her
pure sacrifice of love, Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

*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: *The Lord is my Light*

Frances Allitsen

The Lord is my light and my salvation
Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life
Of Whom shall I be afraid?

Though an host of men were laid against me,
Yet shall not my heart be afraid:
And though there rose up war against me,
Yet will I put my trust in Him.

For in the time of trouble,
He shall hide me in His tabernacle,

Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me,
Set me up upon a rock of stone.

The Lord is my light and my salvation
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life
Of Whom shall I be afraid?

Rachael Lipson, 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 367: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHEREPOHI

Kneels at the feet of His friends, Silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Neighbors are rich and poor, Varied in color and race, Neighbors are nearby and far away. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

These are the ones we should serve, These are the ones we should love: All these are neighbors to us and You. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Loving puts us on our knees, Serving as though we are slaves, This is the way we should live with You. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneel at the feet of our friends, Silently washing their feet: This is the way we should live with You. Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

*Charge and Benediction

Don Carlin

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Offertoire*

Louis James Lefebure-Wely

GUEST MUSICIANS: **Rachael Lipson**, a Philadelphia native, enjoys frequent collaboration with churches and professional choirs located throughout the Tri-State area. She received her Bachelor of Music at Westminster Choir College, and went on to graduate with her Masters of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Delaware in 2016, where she studied under Noël Archambeault. Since then, she has explored diverse repertoire as both a soloist and as a choral scholar, and is currently a staff singer at St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: The scale of the disaster facing Haiti after the Aug. 14 earthquake is becoming clearer. This catastrophe comes on top of Haiti's ongoing struggles with endemic hunger and poverty. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted area. The PC (USA) through PDA and together with regional World Mission colleagues, will remain

active throughout the entire recovery process.

GIVE - Gifts can be made at presbyterianmission.org/give-haiti, by phone at 800-872-3283 or by check, which can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (USA), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15264-3700

ACT - Share our Mobile Cause Campaign link (bit.ly/PDAHaiti) Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (Facebook.com/PDAcares), download resources at pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources and share updates with your congregation.

PRAY - As this earthquake continues to cause destruction and loss of life, please pray with us that the communities affected by this event and those offering assistance will be strengthened, have their needs met and be reminded of the hope found in God.



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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
 - * 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

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org