

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

SEPTEMBER 05, 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.*

September 05, 2021

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

Prelude: *There is a Land of Pure Delight*

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

Welcome and Announcements

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Happy are those whose hope is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God

Many: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

One: Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

Many: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

One: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**All: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord**

*Hymn 421: *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

WAREHAM

The church of Christ, in every age beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, The victims of injustice cry For shelter and for bread to eat, And never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, Can cure the fever in our blood, And teach us how to share our bread And feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord, to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of infinite compassion, we confess that we have become callous to those in need, holding back compassion yet unsparing with judgment. We defend our motivations, rather than using all you have given us to love and care for the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed, for the least of these. God, in your great mercy, forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and contempt for one another. May we be people of mercy, as you are merciful, and people of love, just as you love us. May we choose your will and join you in working for a world that reflects your coming Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silent Meditation

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

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

Dhyana Cassie

The First Lesson: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Pages 60-61 OT

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

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: *Et Exultavit*, from *Magnificat*

J.S. Bach

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. And my Spirit Rejoices in God my Savior

Roxy Callan, Soprano

The Second Lesson: James 2:1-17

Christian Heyer-Rivera

Page 92 NT

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **HOW TO BE A “REAL ONE”**

Christian Heyer-Rivera

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 427: *Lord, whose Love through Humble Service*

BLAENHAFREN

Lord whose love in humble service Bore the weight of human need Who upon the cross
forsaken offered mercy's perfect deed We your servants bring the worship Not of voice
alone but heart Consecrating to Your purpose Every gift that You impart.

Still Your children wander homeless Still the hungry cry for bread Still the captives long for
freedom Still in grief we mourn our dead As O Lord in deep compassion Healed the sick
and freed the soul use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship grant us vision Till Your love's revealing light In its height and depth and
greatness Dawns upon our quickened sight Making known the needs and burdens Your
compassion bids us bear Stirring us to tireless striving Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go to the child the youth the
aged love in living deeds to show; Hope and health good will and comfort counsel, aid and
peace we give, that Your servants Lord, in freedom may Your mercy know and live.

*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 resur-
rection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory: *The Lord's Prayer*

Albert Malotte

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Roxy Callan, 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

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

People: God's love is everlasting.

Leader: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

People: Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

Leader: Eternal God, by your Holy Spirit, you breathed life into human form, and set us on the earth to praise and serve you. When we wander from your ways and are in need of healing and hope, you are there to love us and lead us back to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son to deliver us from sin and rescue us from evil. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Congregational Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Richard Proulx

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow-er and might.
6
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
11
high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the
16
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho -
20
san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Jesus was born into human form, to live as we live, and to experience our joys and our challenges, to show us the way to eternal life. He came to teach us, to guide us, to heal us, to forgive us. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of death and led the way to be with you eternally. Great is the mystery of faith:

Congregational Response: *Memorial Acclamation*

Proulx

(organ) Christ has died; Christ is ri-sen; Christ will come a - gain.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, now and forever.



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.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(We will come to the table to receive the elements of bread and wine/juice. Come forward using the center aisle, partake of the elements as you receive them, and return to your seat by the side aisle. Remember that the cups on the outside ring of the tray hold grape juice and the cups within the outside ring contain wine.)

Prayer After Communion

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, now and forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 343: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service Called to ministries of grace We respond with deep commitment Fresh new lines of faith to trace May we learn the art of sharing Side by side and friend with friend Equal partners in our caring To fulfil God's chosen end.

Christ's example Christ's inspiring Christ's clear call to work and worth Let us follow never faltering Reconciling folk on earth Men and women richer poorer All God's people young and old Blending human skills together Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission In a small or global sense Help us bear each other's burdens Breaking down each wall or fence Words of comfort words of vision Words of challenge said with care Bring new power and strength for action Make us colleagues free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow Ways to order human life That surround each person's sorrow With a calm that conquers strife Make us partners in our living Our compassion to increase Messengers of faith thus giving Hope and confidence and peace.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Let his Work Your Pleasure be*

Dan Locklair



GUEST MUSICIANS: Nathan Zullinger is an Assistant Professor at Haverford College and the Director of Choral and Vocal Studies. He is

also the Associate Conductor and Director of Community Engagement for Singing City. As an organist and choir director he has served Presbyterian, UCC, Episcopal, and Lutheran congregations.

Cincinnati soprano, **Roxy Callan**, graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Baldwin Wallace University ('16) and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College ('18). Since her schooling, Roxy has a diverse career teaching private voice and piano lessons, leading and creating curriculum for group acting classes as well as individual lessons, and directing musical theater productions.

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.

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

Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired

David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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