

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

SEPTEMBER 12, 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 12, 2021

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM

GATHERING AS GOD'S FAMILY

Prelude: *Offertoire*

Cesar Franck

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Jim Thompson

†*Call to Worship

One: Wisdom cries out in the street:

Many: Listen to my word and live.

One: Jesus calls out to the church:

Many: Take up the cross and follow me.

All: Let us worship God.

*Hymn 423: Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run, his kingdom stretch
from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head. His name like
sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song, and infant voices
shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to lose their chains, the weary find
eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring the highest honors to our King, angels descend with songs
again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your way. We protect what
is dear to us and neglect what is dear to you. We preserve our own way of life
and profit at the expense of others. Forgive us, God of grace. Show us the error
of our ways, and guide us back to your path of righteousness, justice, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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.

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Peter Smith

The First Lesson: Proverbs 1:20-33

Page 552 OT

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

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: *O Salutaris*

Cesar Franck

*Daniel Conner, soprano saxophone;
Matthew Reisse, alto saxophone*

The Second Lesson: James 3:1-12

Rev. Kevin Porter

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Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **A WISE WORD**

Rev. Kevin Porter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 426: Lord Speak that I May Speak

CANONBURY

Lord, speak to me that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone; As Thou hast sought, so
let me seek Thyne erring children, lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wandering and the wavering feet. O feed me, Lord,
that I may feed Thy hungry ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things Thou dost impart; And wing my
words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'er flow In kindling thought and
glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where; Until Thy blessed
face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

*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: *I will Arise*

arr. Alice Parker

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in his arms,
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming Love.

Come, Thou font of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.

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 335: Though I May Speak

O WALY WALY

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift of all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Kevin Porter

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fantasia in G*

Heinrich Scheidemann

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.

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	Bill Cleary
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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org