

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

SEPTEMBER 19, 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 19, 2021

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." - Rainer Maria Rilke

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

"All are encouraged to join in singing our hymns and responses while remaining masked"

Prelude: *Prelude on "Nicea"*

Healey Willan

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Celebration

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Elder Ingrid Harris, Personnel Committee Chair

Elder Marc DiNardo, former Property Committee Chair

Introit: Sing, O Sing, this Wonderful Morn

Douglas Wagner

O Sing this wonderful morn.

Our highest praises now we bring;

To Christ, the morning light, we sing.

Alleluia!

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Almighty God, you have created a tabernacle for the sun, the moon, and all the lights of heaven and are present to all things in all times and yet never can be contained.

Many: **We know that you are not limited by the houses of worship which we build with our hands, but rather that your love always shelters our worshipfulness.**

One: Bless and consecrate our gathering in this place and the love we share in this time.

Many: **May your touch of peace be upon our restless hearts, and may we always in greater reverence find you in our midst, even when we find you in the least likely of our sisters and brothers.**

All: **Let us worship the Lord together.**

*Hymn 138: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee, Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see; Only Thou art holy! there is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, you teach us that those who would be first must be servants to all.
Yet we live our lives with bitter envy and selfish ambition in our hearts. Our**

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

cravings cause disputes and conflicts among us. We convince ourselves that material possessions will bring us peace. Our pride makes us blind to the needs of others. We seek our own pleasure, imagining that what we want is what we need. Forgive, Holy One, when we refuse to submit our lives to wisdom's correction and guidance.

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

Marc DiNardo

The First Lesson: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Pages 216-217 NT

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

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: *Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Allen Pote

Many gifts, one spirit

Many songs, one voice.

Many reasons, one promise,

Many questions, one choice.

O God, we pray for unity,

Give guidance from above.

In our differences unite us.

In the circle of your love.

O God, remind us

We are not alone.

Though we move on different pathways,

We are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other,
Show us ways to understand
We are members of one family,
growing strong by joining hands.
Take our many ways of working,
blend the colors of each soul
Into the beauty of a rainbow,
Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

The Second Lesson: Mark 9:30-37

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Page 42 NT

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

People: The story of your grace.

Sermon: **WELCOME!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 429: Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word." Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name, baptize and teach." That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward, asking that the world around us share your children's liberty: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive." Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give. May your care and mercy lead us to a just society: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end." Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

*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: *We are God's People*

John Leavitt

We are God's People joined by grace
And consecrated to God's will.
We face the future filled with hope
Devoted to Christ's mission still.
The past gives witness of God's love
As saints have walked the path of faith.
The Lord has always been our guide
And offered light to show the way.
The present brings a time of stress
That tests the Church in all our ways.
But as we come in broken-ness
We are renewed by God's true grace.
The future holds a dream so sweet
That Christ has given to us all.
God will fulfill our fondest hopes
When we as one obey Christ's call.

*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 430: Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWALL'S 148TH

Come sing O church in joy Come join O church in song! For Christ the Lord has led us
Through the ages long! In bold accord Come celebrate the journey now And praise the Lord!
Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns supreme, Empowering us to catch the
vision Dream the dream! In bold accord Come celebrate the journey now And praise the Lord!
Let courage be our friend, Let wisdom be our guide, As we in mission Magnify the Cruci-
fied! In bold accord Come celebrate the journey now And praise the Lord!

Come sing O church in joy Come join O church in song For Christ the Lord has triumphed
Over the ages long In bold accord Come celebrate the journey now And praise the Lord!

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Fantasy on Walk Together Children*

Andre Thomas

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.

MEMORIAM FLOWERS: If you would like to donate flowers in memoriam, please contact Communications Manager Chereese Akers at communications@fpcgermantown.org to reserve the date and give her the information to be listed in the bulletin. Donations may be mailed to the church or left in Bookkeeper Cindy Osborne's inbox after making arrangements with Chereese.

CHOIR: We are delighted to have the choir singing in person during worship. If you would like to join your voice in song, choir rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 7:15 p.m. and again on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m.

IN MEMORIAM

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Tytia Beverly

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
- Seating
 - * Please observe the ropes to maintain social distancing between pew
 - * 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	Bill Cleary
Communications Management Fellow	Cherese Akers
Bookkeeper	Cindy Osborne
Sextons	Tony Nixon, Robert Patterson, Kevin Gregory

Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Honorably Retired

David Cassie, Linda Jaymes, Allison Seed

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