

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

SEPTEMBER 26, 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 26, 2021

*"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." - Marcel Proust*

**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: *Adagio* from *Symphonie no. 3*

Louis Vierne

Welcome and Announcements

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

Eileen Jones

One: If God had not been for us,

**Many: Calamity would have swallowed us whole.**

One: If Christ had not been on our side,

**Many: We would have fallen like birds shot from the sky.**

One: If the Spirit had abandoned us in our need,

**Many: We would have dried up like blooms in the desert.**

One: Come to the Lord in prayer.

**Many: Come find healing and peace.**

**All: Come, let us worship the Lord.**

\*Hymn 485: To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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

To God be the glory, great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that we may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he has done!

**CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

Strength for the journey, you salt us with fire as we journey the course of our lives. How we wish we could avoid the tribulations. Like Esther before us, we would rather keep our heads down than risk the wrath of the powerful, even if our courage might save others. We would rather shut out the advice of the wise than be instruments of prophetic challenge. We would rather be left alone in our fear and despair than face the demands of faithful living. Forgive us, Holy One. Help us remain salty in courage and faith, that we may maintain salt among ourselves and keep peace with one another.

\*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

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

Zaria Cuffee

The First Lesson: Psalm 124

Page 540 OT

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side let Israel now say—if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

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: *It is Well with My Soul*

John Ness Beck

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."  
It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul.

The Second Lesson: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Pages 427-428 OT

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther

said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **FROM FEAR TO FAITH**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 383: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

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

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine: now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; as thou hast died  
for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness  
turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll, blest  
Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

\*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've Come this Far by Faith*

Albert Goodson, arr. Mary McDonald

We've come this far by faith,  
Leaning on the Lord,  
Trusting in His holy Word,  
He's never failed us yet.  
oh, oh, oh, can't turn a-round,  
We've come this far by faith.  
Don't be discouraged  
With trouble in your life..  
He'll bear all your burdens,  
And move all discord and strife.  
Just remember  
The goods things he has done.  
Things that seemed impossible.  
Oh, praise him for the victories he was won.

\*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 332: Live Into Hope

TRURO

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

Live into hope of captives freed, Of sight regained, the end of greed. The oppressed shall  
be the first to see The year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope the blind shall see With insight and with clarity, Removing shades of pride  
and fear--A vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, The right to speak the right to be, The right to have one's daily  
bread, To hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed From chains of fear or want or greed. God now proclaims  
our full release To faith and hope and joy and peace.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Praeludium in E Major*

Dietrich Buxtehude

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Cherese Akers at [communications@fpcgermantown.org](mailto: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 Cherese.

**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.

**FILAMENT CONCERT:** Friday, October 1 at 7:30pm, Philadelphia-based baroque ensemble Filament presents "O Marvelous Art," a free, hour-long concert in the sanctuary. This program with soprano Rebecca Myers and a team of eight instrumentalists (including Director of Music Ministry, John Walthausen, at the harpsichord) will feature celebratory music of J.S. Bach, including Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 and the Wedding Cantata, "O Holder Tag." More information is available at [filamentbaroque.com](http://filamentbaroque.com).



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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
- 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

# 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

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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

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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](http://www.fpcgermantown.org)