

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

OCTOBER 03, 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.*

October 03, 2021

World Communion Sunday

*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."*

- Coretta Scott King

**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: *Yoruba Lament*

Fela Sowande

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Alabanza*

Pablo Fernandez Badillo

Al caer la lluvia resurge con verdor  
toda la floresta. ¡Renueva la creación!  
Mira el rojo lirio; el duende ya brotó.  
¡Bella primavera que anuncia su fulgor!  
Toda flor silvestre, la maya, el cundeamor,  
¡Todo manifiesta la gloria de mi Dios!  
¡Cómo se te alaba en toda la creación!  
Yo quisiera hacerlo en forma igual, mi Dios.

As the rain is falling, the forest is reborn,  
all the fields are verdant; creation is renewed.  
Look at the red lily; the 'duende' now has bloomed:  
Beautiful the springtime, its brilliance showing forth.  
Now all of the wildflowers are singing new songs of love,  
All manifest surely the glory of my God!  
Now all of creation reflects the glory of God!  
I also would offer my songs in praise to God.

†\*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: From troubled times and difficult walks,

**Many: We come to the arms of Christ.**

One: From separate journeys and diverse experiences,

**Many: We gather to worship as one.**

One: As brothers and sisters in Christ,

**All: We come to God, who welcomes us here.**

\*Hymn 367: *Jesu Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

CHEREPONI

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

Kneels at the feet of His friends, Silently washes their feet, Master who pours out himself  
for 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 neigh-

bors 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.

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, it is foolish to presume that you will intervene every time we are in trouble, but sometimes we do. We live as though misery should never find our home address, that sorrow should never sit at our doorstep. Forgive us, God, for those times: we have taken you for granted; we have taken credit for your interventions; we have blamed you, blamed one another, or even blamed ourselves for the suffering in our world. Forgive us, God, and teach us how to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice.**

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

Ingrid Harris

The First Lesson: Genesis 2:18-24

Page 2 OT

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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: *Salmo 150*

Ernani Aguiar

Laudate Dominum in sanctis ejus; laudate eum in firmamento virtutis ejus.

Laudate eum in virtutibus ejus; laudate eum secundum multitudinem magnitudinis ejus.

Laudate eum in sono tubae; laudate eum in psalterio et cithara.  
Laudate eum in tympano et choro; laudate eum in chordis et organo.  
Laudate eum in cymbalis benesonantibus; laudate eum in cymbalis jubilationis.  
Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum!  
Alleluia.

Praise ye the Lord in his holy places: praise ye him in the firmament of his power.  
Praise ye him for his mighty acts: praise ye him according to the multitude of his greatness.  
Praise him with the sound of trumpet: praise him with psaltery and harp.  
Praise him with timbrel and choir: praise him with strings and organs.  
Praise him on high sounding cymbals: praise him on cymbals of joy:  
let every spirit praise the Lord.  
Alleluia.

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Rev. Rebecca Segers  
Pages 204-205 NT

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **GOD'S WORLDWIDE FAMILY**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 379: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

SOLID ROCK

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

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

\*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.**

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory: *Siyahamba*

Zulu Traditional

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.  
We are marching in the light of God

***LaTreice Branson, Percussion***

\*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: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Eternal God, by your Holy Spirit, you breathed life into human form, and set us all upon the earth to praise and serve you. When we wander from your ways and are lost, you call your people to return to you. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son to be our deliverer, the One who promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. This day we join together with those who worship and serve you around the world, acknowledging our brothers and sisters in Christ in this sanctuary, on the livestream, in this community, this country, this hemisphere, this world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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. When he was baptized by John, he was not alone, but surrounded by people, all coming to repent and be blessed together. In Jesus' life and ministry, he reached out to all people: he called fishermen and tax collectors, he served the poor and the friendless, he healed the synagogue leader's daughter and the Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter and the hemorrhaging woman and the ten lepers and many more from all walks and nationalities, and announced freedom from sin's bondage to everyone. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of death and led the way to eternal life. This is the mystery of faith:

(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 your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may nurture us and strengthen us as the body of Christ. As we celebrate this meal with Christians around this wide world, may we never forget your covenantal love, shared in the meal, binding us to you and one another everywhere. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever:

A men, A men, A men.

## 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

*Let us Break Bread Together*, traditional

LaTreice Branson, percussion

(We will come to the table to receive the elements of bread and juice. Remain masked and socially distanced to come forward using the center aisle, take the elements and return by the side aisle to your seat to eat and drink.)

## Prayer After Supper

**God of all might and power, we praise you that you came for all people, and humbly pray that these in this sanctuary, along with all who are celebrating your supper today, might be the body of Christ together. May we who have received this sacrament be shaped according to your will, in the service of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, now and forever. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn 432: *Canto de Esperanza; Song of Hope* (2x)

ARGENTINA

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

¡Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz! Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad. Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz, Luz y esperanza en la oscuridad. Oremos por la paz, cantemos de tu amor, luchemos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.]

May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all, Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

\*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Jubilate*

Fela Sowande

**GUEST MUSICIANS:** **LaTreice V. Branson**, is an award-winning educator, speaker, vocalist, interdisciplinary artist, disability advocate and radical wellness practitioner who enriches her community through interactive, performance lectures and wellness programming. With musical performances at the Kimmel Center, The Barnes Foundation, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, the African American Museum, surrounding churches and universities, LaTreice has welcomed audiences from around the Tri-State to participate in a soundscape that uplifts, encourages and inspires. In 2010, LaTreice was honored as one of Philadelphia's Top Women Professionals, and in the same year, she was awarded the Presidential Service Award, signed by President Barack Obama. In 2016, LaTreice was awarded the prestigious Leeway Transformation Award for her outstanding service and impactful, collaborative work in Philadelphia. To read her full bio, visit [www.latreicebranson.com](http://www.latreicebranson.com)

**NOTES ON MUSIC:** This week, I have attempted to choose music that reflects the global community of Christianity, in particular highlighting selections from Latin America and Africa. I am so grateful to choir singer Sheila Heyer-Rivera for suggesting the music for our Introit, Alabanza, a beautiful celebration of God's appearance in nature by Pablo Fernandez Badillo. This is one of the most appreciated songs for choirs in Puerto Rico, and I am so pleased to have had this opportunity to discover it. Our Anthem, Salmo 150, is a work by leading Brazilian Composer Ernani Aguiar, and Our Offertory, Siyahamba, is an internationally beloved song from South Africa in the Zulu language.

The hymns today also reflect a global heritage. Our opening hymn, "Jesu, Jesu" has its origins as a Ghanaian folk hymn, and our final hymn, "May the God of Hope," comes to us from Argentina. Our middle hymn "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand," was a suggestion from Annie Kotto. Though this hymn comes from 18th century England, it is beloved by Christians the world over, including in Annie's native Cameroon. Thank you, Annie, for suggesting this hymn that brings so much joy around the globe.

Both the organ prelude and postlude are by Fela Sowande, the "father of Nigerian art music." His music brings together a number of diverse influences including Yoruba folk music, music of the Anglican Church, Highlife and popular forms.

**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](https://www.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.

## **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

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