

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

OCTOBER 10, 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 10, 2021

Mourning into Dancing Month

"People see God every day, they just don't recognize him." - Pearl Bailey

**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: *Fantaisie sur les Duretez*

Louis Couperin

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Alabanza*

Pablo Fernandez Badillo

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: In times of trouble, in times of joy...

Many: We call upon the name of God.

One: With steadfast faith, with wavering doubt...

Many: We call upon the name of God.

One: Basking in God's presence, aching in God's absence...

All: We call upon the name of God.

*Hymn 487: When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

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

When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries, May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer, To Jesus I repair; May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round In joyful notes resound May Jesus Christ be praised! Let air, and sea, and sky From depth to height reply, May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine, May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this this eternal song Through all the ages long, May Jesus Christ be praised!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Where are you, God? Why have you abandoned me? Why are you placing obstacles in our way? Why do you demand so much? Forgive us, O God, when we dwell on these negative questions. Help us see that you are with us always and always have been. From the womb you have kept watch over us. Forgive us when we doubt whether you really care for us or if you even exist at all. Help us to see you, to experience you, and to feel your love.

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

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Marney Hague

The First Lesson: Psalm 22:1-15

Pages 473-474 OT

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

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: *Jesus Walked the Lonesome Valley*

Gilbert Martin

Jesus walked his lonesome valley,
He had to walk it for himself;
Nobody else could walk it for him,
He had to walk it for himself.

Jesus went to stand his trial
He had to stand it for himself;
Nobody else could stand it for him.
He had to stand it for himself

I must walk my lonesome valley,
I have to walk it for myself.
Nobody else can walk it for me.
I must walk it for myself

The Second Lesson: Mark 10:17-31

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Pages 43-44 NT

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said

to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **IT'S NOT FAIR!**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 303: Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH

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

Jesus, lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none, Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

*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: *City Called Heaven*

trad. arr. Josephine Poelinitz

I am a pilgrim, a pilgrim of sorrow
I'm left in this wide world, this wide world alone.

Ain't got no hope, got no hope for tomorrow
Trying to make it, make heaven my home.

Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord.
Heard of a city, a city called heaven
Trying to make it, make heaven my home.

Laurice Kennel, 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

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 276: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

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

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou
changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses
above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Ciaccona in C minor*

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, 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
- 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, however, Bibles and hymnals have been deemed low risk for viral transfer and have been returned to the pews for your usage if preferred.
 - * **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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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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org