

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

OCTOBER 24, 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.*

Good morning and welcome! If you come in here knowing that you are a flawed creature, sometimes smart yet often foolish, especially in hindsight, then you are in the right place. If you come feeling insignificant and inadequate in the presence of an awesome God who deserves the highest and most perfect praise, then you are in the right place. If you have come wanting to rest your weariness or shabbiness in the arms of an unconditional Lover, then you are in the right place. The joy of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

October 24, 2021

Mourning into Dancing Month

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."*

- James Baldwin

**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: *Flûtes*

Louis Nicolas Clérambault

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: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**Many: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

One: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

**Many: I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

One: Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**All: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. (Psalm 34:1-5,8)**

\*Hymn 220: *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.

\*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make; We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise, Approach with joy His courts unto; Praise laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good, His mercy is forever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure.

### CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

**On the timid who will not dare to be strong, and on the strong who refuse to acknowledge their many weaknesses; Lord, have mercy. On the foolish who cling to their ignorance, and on the clever who act with arrogance and despise the slow witted; Lord, have mercy. On the half-hearted who ignore new opportunities, and on the impatient who rush in where angels fear to tread; Lord, have mercy. On the people with few gifts who waste what they have, and on the very gifted who overstretch themselves with trying to do too much; Lord, have mercy. Holy and loving God, have mercy on us and your erring children everywhere. Bring us to a genuine repentance and restore us to your salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

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

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

(As worshipers, we come from diverse experiences and points of view. We have different racial, educational, and economic backgrounds. Yet we are all one in Christ. We symbolize this as we exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation such as, "The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.")

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Ted Walkenhorst

The First Lesson: Mark 10:46-52

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They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Leader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise  
I am bound for the kingdom,  
Will you go to glory with me?  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

I am bound for the kingdom,  
Will you go to glory with me?  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

The Second Lesson: Job 42:1-6, 10-17

The Rev. Dr. Allison Krahling Seed  
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Then Job answered the Lord: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **DAILY DOUBLE JEOPARDY?**

The Rev. Dr. Allison Krahling Seed

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Meditation on the Word

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

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

\*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: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Maurice Bevan

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
Are more felt than up in heaven.  
Here is no place where earth's failings  
Have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make God's love too narrow  
by false limits of our own,  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.

There is plentiful redemption  
In the blood that has been shed;

There is joy for all the members  
In the Sorrows of the Head

There is grace enough for thousands  
Of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations  
In that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should rest upon God's word,  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the presence of our Lord.

\*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 2236: *Gather Us In* (from Sing The Faith)

GATHER US IS

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

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away, but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

\*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Dr. Allison Krahling Seed

Minister: As you prepare to go your separate ways, take encouragement from an old Gaelic prayer: May God make safe to you each step. May God open to you each door. May God make clear to you each road. May God enfold you in loving arms. And grace, mercy and peace, from the Creator, the Savior and the Counsellor, will be with you now and always.

\*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Caprice*

Louis Nicolas Clérambault

**WELCOME:** If you are visiting with us today, we pray the hour will be meaningful to you and you will come and worship with us again. Everyone is cordially invited to a time of fellowship in the Longstreth Auditorium following the worship service.

**PREACHING TODAY** is the **Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed**, wife of Bob Seed. Allison joined the Board of Pensions as a regional representative in January 2011, deployed primarily in the Synod of the Northeast and Philadelphia, and she retired in 2019 after 41 years in ordained service. She continues to be employed by the Board of Pensions as finance/benefits faculty for the Credo program for ministers for week-long retreats around the country. Previously, she served 15 years as pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Independence, MO, as well as in congregations in Missouri, Colorado, and South Carolina and campus ministry in South Carolina. She was ordained by the Presbytery of Miami in 1977 in her home congregation, Southminster, Dayton, Ohio. Still a member of Heartland Presbytery, among her various assignments and appointments in the presbytery and Synod of Mid-America, Allison served as Moderator of Heartland Presbytery and two terms as Chair of the Heartland Presbytery Council. In the greater PC(USA) Allison served two years as Chair of the General Assembly Council, now known as the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. She was also on the Review Committee of the whole of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Six Agency Review Committee) Special Offerings Task Force, and the Review Committee for the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Allison holds a BA from Duke University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in religion and French literature, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a D. Min. from Erskine Theological Seminary. She and Bob are parents of adult children and currently share their Philadelphia home with a Great Pyrenees pup named Lizzy, aka Elizabeth Bennet. Still a classic rock fan, she would say “what a long, strange trip” her life has been!

**GACM WINTER WARMTH DRIVE** Friday Nov 12. It will be held in the large parking lot. We are in need of donations of new and gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks and blankets. Donations will be accepted the week of the event, 11/8 - 11/11. Volunteers are also needed. Stay tuned for more details.

**LIVESTREAM TRAINING** on Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. FPCG is building a Tech Team to support sharing its ministry beyond our walls through our new state of the art livestreaming system. If you would like to learn how to run the system: three cameras with pan, tilt, zoom capabilities and a sound platform, please join us in the East Transept on Sunday, November 7th after worship. Once trained, we will be setting up a schedule of support for this important ministry - for worship, concerts, and more!

## 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
  - \* A time of Fellowship is offered after worship in the Longstreth Auditorium
    - Please remain masked unless eating/drinking
    - Please observe social distancing
  - \* 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

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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

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