

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

OCTOBER 31, 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 31, 2021

All Saints Day/Mourning into Dancing Month

"I have been in Sorrow's kitchen and licked out all the pots. Then I have stood on the peaky mountain wrapped in rainbows, with a harp and sword in my hands." - Zora Neale Hurston

**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: *Andante Sostenuto*

Charles-Marie Widor

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: There are many who have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.

Many: We give thanks for them.

One: As they were called, so are we called to live as Jesus did, answering the call of God, saying, "Here I am! Send me."

Many: We come to ask for guidance and courage, for gratitude and grace.

One: We are, each of us, like those who have gone before us, a strange mixture of saint and sinner. God accepts us that way and fills us with the Spirit, who empowers us to act.

All: We come to worship the Holy God!

*Hymn 298: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

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

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; There is no place where earth's failings Have such kindly judgment given.

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

For the love of God is broader Than the measures of the mind; And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, We would gladly trust God's Word; And our lives reflect thanksgiving For the goodness of our Lord.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of new beginnings, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. Remove the shroud that separates us from your mighty presence, that we may see you as you are. Wipe away our tears and take away our disgrace, that we may come before your throne with hearts full of song and souls ablaze with joy. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die, and enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that whether living or dying, our hearts will always belong to you.

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

Emmanuel Heyer-Rivera

The First Lesson: Mark 12:28-34

Page 46 NT

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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: *The Road Home*

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong;
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

The Second Lesson: Ruth 1:1-18

Rev. Rebecca Segers
Page 230 OT

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **FROM MOURNING INTO DANCING**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 302: I Danced in the Morning

SIMPLE GIFTS

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

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; At Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, But they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; They came with me and the dance went on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, And they left me there on a Cross to die. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone; But I am the Dance and I still go on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leap up high; I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in Me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

*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: *I've Got a Robe*

Raymond Wise

I've got a robe,
You've got a robe,
All of God's children got a robe.
When I get to Heaven I'm gonna put on my robe
I'm gonna shout around Heaven all day.

I've got shoes,
You've got shoes,
All of God's children got shoes.
When I get to Heaven I'm gonna put on my shoes
I'm gonna shout around Heaven all day.
When I get there, how happy I will be.
When I get there, the Savior's face I'll see.
Walkin' around Heaven all day.
Walk and tell the Story.
Shout, of how I made it over.

*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

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

(A bell tolls three times, slowly.)

No person is an island, entire of itself. Each is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.
With thanksgiving, we remember those who have gone before.

This season, we lift up those members of our congregation we have lost in the last two years:

(A bell tolls after each name, with a moment of silence before the next name is read.)

Kevin Patterson
Peggy Garrett
Michael Brooks
Raymond Johnson
Faith Wolford
Grace Moragne
Bert Aiken

Helen Brown
Jessie Coleman
Anna Reimann
Louise David
Jack Roberts

Each person's death diminishes me, for I am involved in humankind. Therefore, ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for you.

(A bell tolls three more times, slowly.)

Death: be not proud, though some have called you mighty and dreadful, yet you are not so, for those whom you think you can overthrow die not, poor death — nor yet can you kill me. One short sleep past, we wake eternally, and death shall be no more; death, you will die.

Lord, we thank you for those who have gone before us, who have kept the faith, who have run their race, and gone on to their reward with you. We also thank you, that with your help, their memories guide us from mourning into morning, receiving

and living into a new day and new life. Amen.

(Litany adapted from the PC(USA) Mission website. Readings adapted from “For Whom the Bell Tolls “ and “Death Be Not Proud” by John Donne, 1572-1631.)

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

*Hymn 464: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

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

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays, Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise; Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea, Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began; Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all in heaven's plan. Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife; Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Placare Christe Servulis*

Marcel Dupre

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.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

- Sunday, October 31** 7:30 AM Online Bible Study—Gospel of Luke
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95470590052>
- 9:45 AM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 10:15 AM Sunday School K-5
- 11:30 AM Confirmation Class
- Monday, Nov. 01** 10:00 AM Uncle Bobbie's Online with Rev. Kevin Porter
Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/7217841109> or via phone by dialing 1-301-715-8592 and entering Meeting ID: 721 784 1109# when prompted to do so.
- Tuesday, Nov. 02** 7:15 PM Messiah Rehearsal
- Wednesday, Nov. 03** 10:00 AM Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
- 7:00 PM Session Meeting—Finney Room
- Thursday, Nov. 04** 8:30 AM Uncle Bobbie's Online with Rev. Rebecca Segers
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5907061661> or via phone by dialing 1-301-715-8592 and entering Meeting ID: 590 706 1661# when prompted to do so.
- 10:00 AM GACM Food Distribution (**10-12pm**)
- 12:30 PM Online Bible Study—Book of Ruth
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95470590052>
Via Phone 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 954 7059 0052#
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Friday, Nov. 05** 6:30 PM Elementary School Youth Group
- 6:30 PM Hot Topics
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5907061661>
- Saturday, Nov. 06** 9:30 AM CDFC Meeting—Finney Room
- Sunday, Nov. 07** 7:30 AM Online Bible Study—Gospel of Luke
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95470590052>
- 9:45 AM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Worship—Rev. Rebecca Segers preaching
- 10:15 AM Sunday School K-5
- 11:30 AM Confirmation Class

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



Internet song performances on this website are authorized by the WorshipCast License.

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

The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown

35 West Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Phone 215-843-8811

FAX 888-333-5032

www.fpcgermantown.org