

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

NOVEMBER 07, 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.*

November 07, 2021

Stewardship Week 1

*"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." - Corrie Ten Boom*

**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: Elegy

Malcolm Archer

Welcome and Announcements

Minute from Session

Randy Clever

Minute for Generosity

Leah Hood

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

arr. John Carter

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee!

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Merciful and Mighty!  
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

†\*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Come to God's house with your songs and prayers.

**Many: We lift our voices to God.**

One: Come to God's house with your hopes and joys.

**Many: We bring our thanks and praise.**

One: Come to God's house with your needs and fears.

**Many: We lay down our burdens before Christ.**

One: Come to God's house with your gifts and treasures.

**Many: We offer our lives to Christ.**

One: Come to God's house with all that you have and with all that you are.

**All: Let us worship together this day.**

\*Hymn 554: *Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

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Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving To God our Creator triumphantly raise; Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, By guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night; Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, As forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses, The sun in its orbit, obediently shine; The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine, We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing, With glad adoration a song let us raise, Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

**CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD**

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God of compassion and justice, take pity on us as we confess our sin.**

\*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

**We are not the stewards Christ calls us to be. Riches possess us while others go hungry. We mismanage creation with our pollution and strife. Your goodness is betrayed by our lust for power. We abuse your provision for us by our selfish desires. Help us hear once again Christ's call to be faithful, and through him forgive us as we repent of our sins and turn from it.**

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

Annie Kotto

The First Lesson: I Kings 17:8-16

Page 309 OT

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

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: *Open My Eyes*

Gilbert Martin

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear, and while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev'rything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere. Open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

The Second Lesson: Mark 12:38-44

Rev. Rebecca Segers  
Pages 46-47 NT

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **A CALL TO TRUST**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

\*Hymn 282: *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

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

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, With hopeful heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, To bear thee through the evil days. Who trusts in God's unchanging love Builds on the rock that nought can move.

Only be still, and wait God's leisure In cheerful hope, with heart content To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure And all-discerning love hath sent; No doubt our inmost wants are clear To One who holds us always dear.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, But do thine own part faithfully; Trust the rich promises of grace, So shall they be fulfilled in thee. God never yet forsook at need The soul secured by trust indeed.

\*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: *Thanks be to God*

Thomas Matthews

Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us to Triumph,  
And through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.

For we are the aroma of Christ to God.

As commissioned by God,

In the sight of God we speak in Christ.

We preach not ourselves:

But Jesus Christ as Lord,

With ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God who said, "let light shine out of darkness"

Has shone in our hearts to give light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

In him all the promises of God find their yes!

That is why we utter the Amen through him to the glory of God!

\*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: It is indeed right, our duty and highest joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. You made us in your own image; and in countless ways you show us your mercy. Therefore with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, and forever sing to the glory of your name:

Congregational Response: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Richard Proulx

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord. God of pow-er and might. heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est." The score includes measure numbers 6, 11, 16, and 20.

Leader: All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God, for in your great mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. He took our human nature, and suffered death on the cross for our redemption. Therefore, remembering his incarnation and holy life, his death and glorious resurrection, we claim his eternal sacrifice and celebrate with these your holy gifts. Great is the mystery of faith:



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, may we never forget your covenantal love, shared in the meal, binding us to you and one another. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever:



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

(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

**Holy God, may the peace that passes understanding fill us with all joy and peace, that receiving this meal, we abound in hope and love and share this grace with all we meet. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME**

\*Hymn 422: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

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

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by You, we turn to You, Offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are our for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son: All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone; Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, You have entrusted, Gain through powers Your grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred, And to spread the gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call, Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving You by loving all.

\*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

**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.

**COVID 19 VACCINE AND BOOSTER EVENT:** GACM in partnership with the Local Resource Center and Visiting Nurse Association of Philadelphia will host a COVID Vaccine and Booster Event, Thursday, November 18, 9am - 2pm. Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID 19 vaccines will be available. Anyone wanting a booster shot or vaccine is welcome. To get a booster, you must provide documentation of your initial vaccination. To register, call Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry, 215-843-2340.

**THANKSGIVING BASKETS:** The USDA says food-at-home prices have increased 2.5%. While this may be an inconvenience for some, families already stressed with increasing utility and housing costs will immediately feel the impact of rising prices. GACM provides holiday baskets help lighten the food burden for these households. Baskets contain everything needed to prepare a traditional holiday meal easily saving these families \$45 or more. Throughout November your donations can be placed in the wheelbarrow at the front of the sanctuary. Every item given will help stock the cupboard or help prepare a Thanksgiving meal. A list of specific Thanksgiving basket items is available on the literature table.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Congregational Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, in the County of Philadelphia, PA, will be held on Sunday, November 21, 2021, in the sanctuary following the worship service at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of:

The following will be presented:

- Dissolving the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Rebecca Lynne Segers and the First Presbyterian Church in Germantown effective Tuesday, November 30, 2021

No other business shall be transacted at this meeting.

Attest: Andrea Overton, Clerk of Session

Rev. Kevin Porter, Moderator pro Tem



## **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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