

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

NOVEMBER 14, 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 14, 2021

Stewardship Week 2

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all." - Emily Dickinson

**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: *Elevation*

Marcel Dupré

Welcome and Announcements

Minute from Session

Contina Lundy

Minute for Generosity

Ernie Freeman

Introit: *Will there Really be a Morning*

Craig Hella Johnson, arr. Frank Van Atta

Will there really be a "Morning"?

Is there such a thing as "Day"?

Could I see it from the mountains if I were as tall as they?

Morning, Morning, Where does Morning lie?

Has it feel like water lilies?

Has it feathers like a Bird?

Is it brought from famous countries of which I have never heard?

Morning, Morning, Where does Morning lie?

Oh some Scholar, oh some Sailor, Oh some Wisemen from the sky,

Please tell a little Pilgrim where the place called "Morning" lies?

Morning, Morning, Where does Morning lie?

Morning, Morning, Where does Morning lie?

(sung by the Graduate Choir)

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: Giver of life, for sunshine and showers,

Many: We give you thanks;

One: For food and drink,

Many: We give you praise;

One: For clothing and shelter,

Many: We bestow our gratitude.

One: Gather our worries and our burdens this day, and shelter us from fear and despair.

Many: Help us rest assured in your arms, knowing that your loving care is enough.

One: It is enough.

All: It is more than enough. Amen.

*Hymn 485: *To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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

To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Source of all wisdom, who in Jesus Christ offers to teach us the way of love, we have asked for signals and signs of your presence and your leading but have often been led astray by our own desires and interpretations. Testify to us now that we may hear your counsel above the clamor of other voices and, hearing, respond as you intend.

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

Susan MacDonald

The First Lesson: Daniel 12:1-3

Page 786 OT

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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: *Al Shlosha D'Varim*

Allan Naplan

Al shlosha, al shlosha d'varim haolam kayam,

Al haemet v'al hadin v'al hashalom, hashalom

The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace

Sung by the Towne Choir

The Second Lesson: 1 Samuel 1:4-20

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Pages 233-234 OT

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her,

though the LORD had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?” After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: “O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.” As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.” But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.” Then Eli answered, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.” And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your sight.” Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the LORD.”

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **A CALL TO HOPE**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 399: *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP’S CREEK

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

We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod; but in His promise we rejoice and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call on You when You are near and seek where You are found.

That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light, may we behold You as You are, with full and endless sight.

*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: *Walk in Jerusalem*

arr. Rollo Dillworth

I want to be ready. I want to be ready. I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem jus' like John.

I want to be ready. I want to be ready. Oh, I want to be ready.

Are you ready? Are you ready to walk?

John said the city was jus' four square.

He declared he'd meet me there.

John, oh John, what do you say?

I'll be there in the comin' day.

Sung by the combined choirs

*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 280: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

AMAZING GRACE

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

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did
that grace appear The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me
safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my shield and
portion be As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to
sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Marche de Fête*

Henri Büsser, arr. Dale Wood

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.

KEYSTONE STATE BOYCHOIR Founded in 2001 with a rehearsal home at the **First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, Keystone State Boychoir (KSB)** is recognized as one of the finest community-based boychoir programs in the country. Led by Frank J. Van Atta, the choir channels the boundless energy of boys between the ages of 8 and 18 into unforgettable music-making experiences. KSB performs an enthralling repertoire from the classical to the contemporary. Major choral works that the Boychoir has performed include Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, *Rejoice in the Lamb*, and *St. Nicolas Cantata*, Fauré's *Requiem*, and Rutter's *Mass of the Children*. KSB prides itself in a diverse repertoire of world music from every corner and culture of the globe, including American traditions. Over the last 20 years, the choir has had the honor of singing for presidents, peace prize winners and popes. The Boychoir has sung with Philadelphia's most distinguished ensembles, including *The Philadelphia Orchestra* and *Opera Philadelphia*. They have appeared in our region's most beloved venues including the Kimmel Center, the Mann Music Center, the Academy of Music, and Carnegie Hall. Internationally, the Keystone State Boychoir has performed in major concert halls and venues throughout North and South America, across Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. In 2009, KSB made history as the first choir to travel to and perform in Antarctica and is the only choir to have sung on all seven continents! This summer, the boys will tour Portugal, Morocco and Spain. If you know a young person who loves to sing, visit cyc-choirs.org. Auditions for our Spring season will be happening soon!

MUSIC NEWS: Next Saturday, November 20, at 2:30pm, we welcome members of Singing City Philadelphia to our front steps for a free, 15 minute outdoor concert. This will be one of a series of short "pop-up" concerts around East Falls and Germantown. Please don't miss this opportunity to welcome to our church this remarkable and historic chorus. Attendees may also enter a drawing to win tickets to their December performance.

Sunday, November 28, at 3pm, The FPCG Oratorio Choir will present its annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* with professional orchestra and soloists. Come one, come all to this festive concert and FPCG tradition. The concert is free with a donation collected at the door. A festive dessert reception will follow.



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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

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

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