

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

NOVEMBER 21, 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 21, 2021

Pledge Sunday

"Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present." - Albert Camus

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: Prelude on *Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

Minute from Session

Minute for Generosity

David Wolford

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: Our God is Alpha and Omega.

Many: We are a people of many beginnings and endings.

One: Sovereign God who is and was and is to come is the Almighty.

Many: Within God's time we each find our little times—our memories, our concerns for today, our hopes for the future.

One: This is the hour we set aside to worship God in deep reverence through great praise.

All: With our human hearts and bodies, with our reason and our spirit, we rejoice in God's presence with us here and find ourselves within God's presence.

*Hymn 559: *We Gather Together*

KREMSER

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

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens His will to make known; The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, Sing praises to His Name- He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine; So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant, And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be; Let Thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

Rock of Israel, you are the bedrock of our lives, the foundation of our hopes and

dreams, yet we seldom trust or rely on your strength. We have stopped looking up to see your appearance coming in the clouds. Instead, we have all turned to our own devices, only to discover that our lives are built upon sand. Forgive us, Lord. Help us affix our gaze on Christ's kingdom, that our future might be built on a solid foundation with Christ as our king and cornerstone.

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

Duane Horne

The First Lesson: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Page 172 NT

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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: *If I can Help Somebody*

Alma Bazel Androzzo, arr. Andre Thomas

If I can help somebody, as I pass along

If I can cheer somebody with a word or song;

If I can show somebody he is travelling wrong.

Then my living shall not be in vain;

If I can do my duty as a Christian ought;

If I can bring back beauty to a world upwrought;

If I can spread Love's message that the Master taught;

Then my living shall not be in vain.

The Second Lesson: Revelation 1:4b-8

Rev. Rebecca Segers

Page 230 NT

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be.

Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **A CALL TO GENEROSITY**

Rev. Rebecca Segers

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 145: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

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

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest, the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

*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: *Rise, Shine!*

Marques L.A. Garret and Tom Trenney

Rise and shine, for the light is a coming!
Yes, my Lord says, he's coming by and by.

This is the year of jubilee.
My Lord says he's comin' by and by.
My Lord Has set his people free.
My Lord says he's comin' by and by.

Wet or dry, I intend to try
To serve the Lord until I die.

I intend to shout and never stop
Until I reach that mountain top.

Rise and shine, for the light is a coming!
Yes, my Lord says, he's coming by and by.

*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 376: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

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

Love divine, all love excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art; Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart!

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast; Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find the promised rest; Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be; End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive; Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore thy temples leave; Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above, Pray, and praise Thee, without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure, and spotless, let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly secured by Thee; Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Rebecca Segers

*Choral Response: *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious.
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you.

Amen

Postlude: Prelude on *Hyfrydol*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: The USDA says food-at-home prices have increased 25%. 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.

MUSIC NEWS: 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.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT: Christmas is the time when we tangibly show our appreciation to our staff for all they do during the year to serve our congregation and the community. Most of us have experienced the "extra" each of these staff members put into their job. Staff Appreciation Christmas Gifts will be given to Kevin, Eileen, Christian, John, Chereese, Cindy, Bill, Tony, Robert and Kevin just prior to Christmas. You can share in these appreciation gifts beginning next Sunday, November 28, when a member of the Personnel Committee will be available during the coffee hour to receive your contribution. *Please be generous.*

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 11:15 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



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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

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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