

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



CHURCH IN GERMANTOWN

JANUARY 09, 2022

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.*

January 09, 2022

Epiphany of the Lord

**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: *Fantasia sopra "Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern"*

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Sing, O Sing this wonderful morn*

Douglas Wagner

O Sing, O sing, this wonderful morn.
Our highest praises now we bring.
To Christ, the morning light, we sing.

Alleluia!

†*Call to Worship

Rev. Kevin Porter

One: May the light of God's love push back the darkness.

Many: We come to the light from the four corners of the earth, from the north, from the south, from the east, and from the west.

One: But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

Many: We come from many nations and many cultures.

One: But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

Many: We come seeking the light that guides us to life.

One: But we are all one in Jesus Christ.

All: Let us lift up our many voices and praise the God of all people!

*Hymn 66: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

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We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, we are raising, worshiping God on high. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty

*congregation standing; †latecomers may be seated

bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

CONFESSING OUR SINS TO GOD

Prayer of Confession

God of light, we have been so blind when truth has been so clear. When we could have looked ahead, we fell behind. When we could have viewed the wider picture, we saw only a part. When we could have sensed the Spirit leading, we missed the way. Forgive our dim apprehension of love's clear leading. Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see, through the light that lingers when all else fails, even the bright Morning Star of our faith, Jesus Christ, the Savior. 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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Dhyan Cassie

The First Lesson: Isaiah 43:14-19

Page 632 OT

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation. I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

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: *Behold that Star*

Harry Burleigh

Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder, Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.

There was no room found in the inn. It is the star of Bethlehem. For Him who was born free from sin. It is the star of Bethlehem. Refrain

The wise men travelled from the East. It is the star of Bethlehem. To worship Him, the Prince of Peace. It is the star of Bethlehem. Refrain

A song broke forth upon the night. It is the star of Bethlehem. From angel hosts all robed in white. It is the star of Bethlehem

Laurice Simmons Kennel, soprano

The Second Lesson: Matthew 4:12-25

Rev. Bruce MacCullough

Pages 3-4 NT

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of

Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Leader: God, we thank you for your Word.

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

Sermon: **AFTER THE STAR IS GONE**

Rev. Bruce MacCullough

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

A Time for Meditation on the Word

*Hymn 69: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

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

O Morning Star, how clear and bright Thou beamest forth in truth and light! O Sovereign meek and lowly! Thou root of Jesse, David’s Son, My God and Savior, Thou hast won My heart to serve Thee solely! Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all-victorious, Rich in blessing, Rule and might o’er all possessing.

Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine, And make Thee an altar! Fill me with joy and strength to be Thy member, ever joined to Thee In love that cannot falter; Toward Thee longing for you Doth possess me; turn and bless me; Here in sadness Eye and heart long for Thy gladness!

*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 is a Star of Jacob*

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth and a Sceptre from Israel rise up and dash in pieces princes and nations. How brightly beams the morning star! With sudden radiance from afar. With light and comfort glowing! Thy Word, Jesus, only feeds us, Rightly leads us, Life bestowing. Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing.

*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 63: *As with Gladness, Men of Old*

DIX

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

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold, As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright, So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, To that lowly manger bed, There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore, So may we with willing feet Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger, rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure,
and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way; And, when earthly things are past, Bring
our ransomed souls at last Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Bruce MacCullough

*Congregational Response: #585

McNeil Robinson II

Postlude: *Postlude on Dix*

Craig Phillips

PREACHING TODAY: Rev. Bruce MacCullough is a Presbyterian minister (PCUSA) and educator. His roots are in Brooklyn, NY. He and his wife Noreen have 3 adult daughters and are expecting their fourth grandchild any day now. After attending Princeton Theological Seminary, Bruce served for four years in a large Presbyterian church in West Chester, PA. He then decided to pursue his vocation primarily through teaching in a faith-based school—the William Penn Charter School, teaching both mathematics and Bible courses, and has lived in northwest Philadelphia for over 3 decades. In the late 80s his family enjoyed worshiping here at FPCG. After that he went to worship and serve in a variety of ministerial capacities at Gladwyne Presbyterian Church.

FROM THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in GERMANTOWN PROPERTY COMMITTEE to the ladies of The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown. The FPCG ladies lounge needs a refresh! The structure of the Ladies Room will remain the same. however, your input and suggestions of how we can update this area will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Carolyn Ballard Freeman at carolyn.ballard3@verizon.net; call 215-438-2956 and leave a message; or you can send your comments in writing to: The First Presbyterian Church in Germantown (Attention: FPCG-Property Committee 35 West Cheltenham Avenue Philadelphia, Pa. 19144.) Please submit your comments by Tuesday January 11, 2022.

PLEASE PARDON OUR APPEARANCE!: In the same spirit of the signs you see when a building is under renovation, thank you for your patience with the staff of FPCG as we are in this time of transition in pastoral leadership! We are grateful for the addition of Cari States-Codding as our new Office Administrator and Don Carlin for taking on the ministry of reaching out to our FPCG members and friends to ask for your joys and concerns so that the staff may continue our ministry of sending you notes lifting you in prayer. David Cassie has stepped into leadership of the Thursday Bible study via zoom. In addition, our elders, deacons, and everyone listed as staff on the back of your bulletin has leaned into whatever is required to keep our ministry and witness for Christ strong during this Advent season. We covet your prayers and understanding when we might experience miscommunication or a missed deadline! Please feel free to reach out to Rev. Kevin via text or phone at 215-518-1675 or at statedclerk@presbyphl.org with any questions or concerns you may have.

MUSIC NEWS: During the month of January, the choir will be reduced to a quartet of section leaders to limit possibility for spread of contagion. At the end of the month we will reevaluate bringing back the full choir based on the status of the pandemic. We are thankful for your prayers and flexibility as our music ministry continues to adapt to ever changing circumstances.

WINDOW ON THE WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 09	8:45 AM	No Choir Rehearsal in January
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Bruce MacCullough preaching
	10:15 AM	Sunday School K-5
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class
Tuesday, Jan. 11	7:00 PM	Christian Education Meeting—Finney Room
Wed, Jan. 12	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting—Upstairs Office
Thursday, Jan. 13	10:00 AM	GACM Food Distribution (10-12pm)
	12:30 PM	Bible Study
	7:15 PM	No Choir Rehearsal in January
Friday, Jan. 14	6:30 PM	Middle/High School Youth Group
Sat. Jan. 15	10:00 AM	Mission & Outreach Meeting—Jennings Room
Sunday, Jan. 16	8:45 AM	No Choir Rehearsal in January
	10:00 AM	Worship—Rev. Kevin Porter
	10:15 AM	Sunday School K-5
	11:30 AM	Confirmation Class



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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 (Rev. Kevin, Guest Preacher, 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. Kevin 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

Acting Pastor/Head of Staff	Kevin L. Porter
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 Manager	Cherese Akers
Church Administrator	Cari States-Codding
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