

# The Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2017

11:00 a.m.

A reliable way to make people believe in falsehoods is frequent repetition, because familiarity is not easily distinguished from truth. Authoritarian institutions and marketers have always known this fact.

Daniel Kahneman,  
*Thinking, Fast and Slow*



*The***FIRST**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**  
*in* PHILADELPHIA

*est. 1698*

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Whether you are visiting today for the first time, or are a longtime member of this church, we are glad you're here.

The symbol of our church has long been “the open door.” We strive very hard to be just that, a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike, and we certainly don’t all think alike. We come from many different faith traditions. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship together as one.

This is a very historic congregation. The first gatherings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met in our church. Three of our members signed the Declaration of Independence. But we are not a museum or a monument to the past. Today we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world and bring our faith to bear on the contemporary issues facing this city just as did the founders of this church over three hundred years ago.

After the service, please stick around. If you have questions about the church and its ministries, or our historic building, please ask. We’d love to tell you about them. So have a cup of coffee with us. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy. You never know—you just might be home!

*Jesse Garner, Pastor*

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### IF YOU ARE NEW HERE

Please fill out the pew pads in the black folders. You will find more information about our church on the Visitor’s Information Display in the Narthex and in Old Buttonwood Hall.

There are several ways to become involved at First Church, both in the church and in the community. We are committed to the city of Philadelphia and support a number of mission programs and agencies working in this community. To learn more or to get involved, contact [missions@fpcphila.org](mailto:missions@fpcphila.org) and check the announcements for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

### HELPFUL INFORMATION

**Childcare** is provided each Sunday morning for babies and toddlers from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the lower level of the building, reached by the stairs inside the 21<sup>st</sup> Street entrance.

**Large print bulletins** and **Children’s Bulletins** for ages 7-12 are available in the narthex.

**Parking** is available for worship services on the west side of 21<sup>st</sup> Street from Chestnut to Locust Streets and on the north side of Locust from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ushers will provide a placard to display on your vehicle dashboard. Parking is also available at Park America located at 2107 Sansom Street (next to Day by Day Restaurant). See ushers to validate your parking receipt for a reduced rate.

### BE SOCIAL!

Social Media users—Check in at First Church and like our Facebook Page ([facebook.com/FirstPresPhilly](https://facebook.com/FirstPresPhilly)). Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @firstpresphilly, and join our hashtag campaign #firstchurchlove.

Visit our website to learn more, and subscribe to our email list: [www.fpcphila.org](http://www.fpcphila.org)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**PRELUDE** **Fantasia of Four Parts** Orlando Gibbons

**CANTICLE** **The Lent Prose, Verse 2** Plainsong

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against thee. O thou chief Cornerstone, Right Hand of the Father: Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial: cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have sinned against thee.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Jesse Garner

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

**\*HYMN 488** **The God of Abraham Praise** *Leoni*

**\*SENTENCES** Mr. Clark Royle

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
**from where will my help come?**  
My help comes from the LORD,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in  
**from this time forth and forevermore.**

*Psalm 121:1, 2, 8*

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**



**WELCOME** Rev. Jesse Garner

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Drew Harrison

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves, clinging to the values of a sinful and broken world. We have failed to love you, we have neglected the needs of others, we have harmed your creation. Forgive us, Lord, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, raise us to new life that we may live with you and each other in peace.

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

## KYRIE

Richard Webster

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have  
mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
mor - tal One, have mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and  
Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy on us.

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## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PRAYER FOR GRACE

Brothers and sisters, believe the good news.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

## ANTHEM

## For God So Loved the World

Craig Phillips

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

*(John 3:16-17)*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine in our hearts the pur-est light of your e - ter - nal word; o -  
pen our eyes to com-pre-hend the mes-sage of our Lord. A - men.

## OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 12:1-4a

(p. 9)

## EPISTLE

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

(p. 150)

## GOSPEL

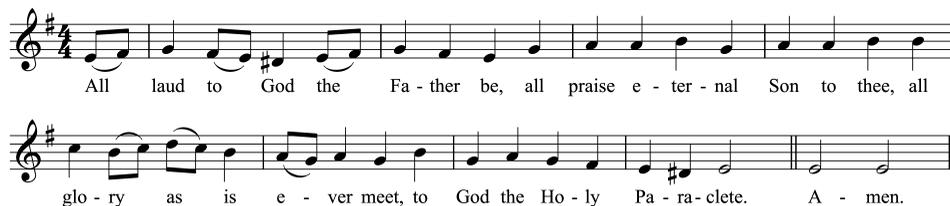
John 3:1-12

(p. 92)

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**\*GLORIA**

*Erhalt uns, Herr*



All laud to God the Fa - ther be, all praise e - ter - nal Son to thee, all  
glo - ry as is e - ver meet, to God the Ho - ly Pa - ra - clete. A - men.

**SERMON**

**The Familiar**

Rev. Jesse Garner

*Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred  
and your father's house to the land that I will show you."  
Genesis 12:1*

**\*HYMN 303**

**Jesus, Lover of My Soul**

*Aberystwyth*

**\*APOSTLES CREED**

Mr. Clark Royle

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**OFFERTORY**

**Deep River**

arr. Gerre Hancock

Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into  
campground. Oh don't you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land where all  
is peace?

## \*PRESENTATION & 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.

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Rev. Drew Harrison

## 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.

## \*HYMN 77

**Forty Days and Forty Nights**

*Aus der tiefe*

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**Improvisation**

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## SUNDAYS @ FIRST

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### CELEBRATION!

Celebration worship is held each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. Join us in Old Buttonwood Hall for this more informal service that is inclusive of all ages.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday school for children (ages 5 and up) is held on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Cochran Room. A Bible study of each Sunday's lectionary texts is led by Rev. Jesse Garner in the Penn's Village Office, and *Perspectives on Spiritual Transitions* is held in the MacColl Room, both at 9:45 a.m.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Each Sunday immediately following worship our Deacons lead a brief period of intercessory prayer in Rev. Garner's office. To request prayers, fill out one of the prayer requests and place it in the offering plate or join the deacons for the prayer time after worship.

The liturgists today are Rev. Drew Harrison and Mr. Clark Royle. The Greeter is Phil McMunigal, and the ushers are Don Williams, Captain, Fred Barfoot, Judy Callan, Edna Dick, Cynthia Olds-Greeley, and Rebecca Yep.

### MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Thursday, March 16

Membership & Evangelism

5:30 p.m.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation of First Church will be held **today, March 12**, in Old Buttonwood Hall following worship. This is an extremely important meeting with major decisions to be made. In addition to receiving several reports, and electing both officers for the Session, Deacons, Trustees and members of the Church Nominating Committee, we will also elect the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee that will search for the next pastor of this church. Please make every effort to attend. A light lunch will be served.

### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

In March the Young Adults will take a break from our regular Wednesday gatherings to take part in Lenten Wednesdays dinner and study @ 6:30 p.m. For more information on the Young Adult Group contact Annie LeCluyse ([youngadults@fpcphila.org](mailto:youngadults@fpcphila.org)), and join the Young Adult fellowship group on Facebook.

### LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

Our Lenten Wednesday programs will continue this week on March 15 with a simple supper in Old Buttonwood Hall at 6:30 p.m., followed by a period of study beginning at 7:15. The evening will conclude with a brief service of evening prayers at 8:00. On-street parking will be available (with placard).

### PERSPECTIVES ON SPIRITUAL TRANSITIONS

Our Adult Education series during Lent continues next Sunday, March 19, with Mary Jo Coll of Crosslands Hospice discussing the challenges of the final stages of life. Join us in the MacColl Room at 9:45 a.m.

### THE SANCTUARY DURING LENT

The season of Lent is a time of penance and reflection, a time when we look inward and prepare ourselves to accompany Jesus to the cross. The Worship Committee has prepared the sanctuary to help focus our Lenten journey. The purple cloth beneath the cross and on the pulpit and lectern signifies the color of mourning, and of royalty as we await a new kind of king. The grapevine wreath on the communion table suggests Jesus' crown of thorns. In each of the niches under the stained glass windows are bare branches, stones, and purple cloth to convey the wilderness where John the Baptist and Jesus journeyed.

The candles on the Communion table and in the niches remind us that we never journey without

*(continued)*

the light of Christ. On each successive Sunday in Lent, a pair of candles in the niches, beginning in the rear of the church, will remain unlit as the sanctuary, and our journey, darkens toward the cross. We await the renewed light of Easter's dawn.

We invite worshipers to spend a moment in silent reflection at the niches or the table after worship.

### **WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES**

Women's Bible study meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the church. A Community Bible study led by Delores Brisbon meets on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Old City Presbyterian Apartments (25 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street). Men's Bible study meets on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. at the café at DiBruno's (1730 Chestnut Street). All are welcome to participate. For information contact Drew Harrison (drew.harrison@fpcphila.org).



**PLANNED GIVING**  
*Planting Seeds for the Future*

***Become a member  
of the  
Buttonwood Circle!***

[www.fpcphila.org/planned-giving/](http://www.fpcphila.org/planned-giving/)

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### **THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA**

201 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-567-0532  
[www.fpcphila.org](http://www.fpcphila.org)

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The Reverend Jesse Garner, *Pastor*

The Reverend Megan LeCluyse, *Celebration Team Leader*

The Reverend Drew Harrison, *Membership and Congregational Care Director*

Mr. Andrew Senn, *Director of Music and Organist*

The Reverend Barbara A. Chaapel

The Reverend Ken Ross

The Reverend Herbert D. Valentine

*Parish Associates*

Ms. Suzanne Riemann, *Interim Church Administrator*

Mrs. Patti Sassoli, *Director of Communications*

Ms. Annie LeCluyse, *Young Adult Leader*