

# The Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2018

11:00 a.m.

“If any would come after me, they must deny themselves.” Just as in denying Christ Peter said, “I do not know the man,” those who follow Christ must say that to themselves. Self-denial can never result in ever so many single acts of self-martyrdom or ascetic exercises. It does not mean suicide, because even suicide could be the expression of the human person's own will. Self-denial means knowing only Christ, no longer knowing oneself. It means no longer seeing oneself, only him who is going ahead, no longer seeing the way which is too difficult for us. Self-denial says only: he is going ahead; hold fast to him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,  
*Discipleship*



*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 SP+ Parking, 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](https://twitter.com/firstpresphilly), and join our hashtag campaign [#firstchurchlove](https://twitter.com/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

Prelude in C minor

J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jesse Garner

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross and follow me.

*Mark 8:34*

\*HYMN 87

The Glory of These Forty Days

*Erhalt uns, Herr*

\*SENTENCES

Elder Susy Christensen

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
**and all the families of the nations shall worship God.**

For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
**who rules over the nations.**

To the Lord, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow;  
**all who go down to the dust shall bow down, and live for the Lord.**

*Psalms 22:27-29*

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION



\* \* \*

WELCOME

Rev. Jesse Garner

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Susy Christensen

Merciful God, we confess that we have not been faithful. We claim to follow Jesus but have not taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-denial, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, free us for lives of sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Hear now the prayers we offer in silence...

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

TRISAGION (*insert*)

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

**ANTHEM**

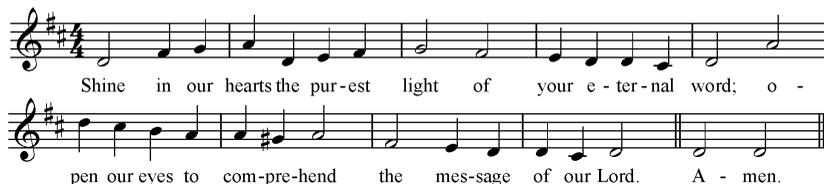
**My Eyes for Beauty Pine**

Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddes grace; no other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face. One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above: 'tis named when God's name is said, 'tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love. And every gentle heart that burns with true desire, is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

\* \* \*

**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 17:1-7, 15-16

(p. 12)

**EPISTLE**

Romans 4:13-25

(p. 151)

**NEW TESTAMENT**

Mark 8:31-38

(p. 43)

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

**\*GLORIA PATRI (*insert*)**

**SERMON**

**The Problem with the Law**

Rev. Jesse Garner

*For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.*

*Romans 4:15*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED (*insert*)**

**I Believe in God the Father**

*Psalm 42*

**OFFERTORY**

**My Song is Love Unknown**

Mark Schweitzer

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take, frail flesh and die?  
Christ came from heaven's throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But people scorned, and none  
the longed for Christ would know:  
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend.  
Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King!  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in Whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

**\*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. Jesse Garner

**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 84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Rathbun

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C minor

J. S. Bach

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*We thank the Parish Choir for leading the music this morning. Persons interested in singing with the Parish Choir should contact Andrew Senn in the church office.*

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## SUNDAYS @ FIRST

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### CELEBRATION!

*Celebration!* is a worship service that engages Christians of all ages through singing, interactive Bible lessons for children, prayer, preaching, and the Lord's Supper. Join us in Old Buttonwood Hall at 9 a.m.

### 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 MacColl Room at 9:45 a.m.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Each Sunday immediately following 11 o'clock 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 liturgist today is Elder Susy Christensen. The Greeter is Jack Melvin, and the ushers are Don Williams, Captain, Philip Amoa, Reggie Amoa, Fred Barfoot, and Rebecca Yep.

### MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, February 26	Missions Committee	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 27	PNC	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 1	Deacons Meeting	6:45 p.m.

### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

This Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m., we will gather at First Church (enter on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street side) for discussion-based fellowship. Join us next Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, for Young Adult First Sunday Brunch after the 11 o'clock service Meet in Old Buttonwood Hall and we'll walk to the Irish Pub together to enjoy good food and fellowship. 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.

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY ON SUNDAYS IN LENT

Each Sunday during Lent the Rev. Barbara Chaapel will offer guided spiritual direction from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. in the Whitefield Room. This is an opportunity to learn and experience a spiritual practice for Lent, and to share silence and guided reflection.

### GUIDE FOR A LENTEN JOURNEY

The season of Lent is a time for reflection, repentance, and soul-searching in the Christian life. A guide to assist in the practice of a spiritual discipline for Lent was prepared by the Rev. Barbara Chaapel; copies of the "Daily Examen for the Lenten Journey" are available in the narthex and in the church office.

### MOVING FIRST FORWARD UPDATE

A gift to First Church helps to support a broad range of ministries here at 21<sup>st</sup> & Walnut, throughout the city of Philadelphia, and beyond. We are grateful for your faithful generosity. The following is an Annual Giving update for January 2018:



Average weekly attendance January 2018 (9 a.m. & 11 a.m.)	170
Budgeted giving for January	\$35,307
Total giving for January	\$39,208

(continued)

## MARGARET SOMERVILLE

On Sunday, February 25, at 4 p.m., there will be a service at Gladwyne Presbyterian Church to commission Rev. Margaret Somerville for her pastoral work at that church. Dr. Bob Robinson of United Seminary will preach.

## WOMEN OF WIT & WISDOM

For their next gathering, Women of Wit & Wisdom will enjoy an elegant *prix fixe* tea at Sofitel's Liberté Lounge, 120 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street, on Wednesday, March 7, at 2:00 p.m. Please RSVP no later than Monday, March 5, to the church office (office@fpcphila.org; 215-567-0532). We will meet inside the Sofitel entrance. Join us for a delightful afternoon.



**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*

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

Ms. Suzanne Riemann, *Church Administrator*

The Rev. Jerry K. Foote, *Director of Congregational Care*

The Reverend Barbara A. Chaapel

The Reverend Kenneth J. Ross

The Reverend Herbert D. Valentine

*Parish Associates*

Mrs. Patti Sassoli, *Director of Communications*

Ms. Annie LeCluyse, *Young Adult Leader*