

The Service for the Lord's Day

August 26, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Love people even in their sin, for that is the semblance of Divine Love and is the highest love on earth. Love all of God's creation, the whole and every grain of sand of it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky
The Brothers Karamazov



The **FIRST**
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
in PHILADELPHIA

est. 1698

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Grace and peace to you as we gather for worship! Here in this place, the seasons of our lives are marked: the children of God of every age are baptized, marriages are celebrated, and when one grieves, the whole body grieves together. We are a family of faith.

And just as Christ Jesus has welcomed each person to this church for over three hundred years, we extend our word of welcome in his name. Christ loves all, calls all, and welcomes all, and so members and guests alike enter to worship with the same profound welcome.

This congregation is steeped in history – three members of the church signed the Declaration of Independence. We are a part of the history of this city from its earliest days. But make no mistake about it: this is a living, breathing congregation seeking in real and tangible ways to make the grace of God known to our very modern world.

We would love to know you, and for you to know us. Please stay after the service and join in our fellowship time together where we enjoy refreshments, and most importantly, share our lives together. And if in getting to know us, you feel God is calling you to join together with us in living God's grace in this place, it would be our joy for you to become a part of this community.

Baron Mullis, Pastor

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 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 21st Street entrance.

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex.

Parking is available for worship services on the west side of 21st Street from Chestnut to Locust Streets and on the north side of Locust from 20th to 23rd. 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). 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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Improvisation

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Megan LeCluyse

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Psalm 84:1-2

*HYMN 462

Christ, Whose Glory

Ratisbon

*SENTENCES

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; God bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Psalm 84:4, 10-12

*PRAYER OF ADORATION



A - - men.

* * *

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you are the same from age to age. In every age, your people have sought to know you and to know your mind and your will for us. And in every age, we have had times when what we have said and done reflected the way you would have us live, and we have had times when what we have said and done did not reflect the way you would have us live. Through it all, you are faithful to us. And so, we confess our failures knowing that we rest in your abiding goodness, assured of your love for us all. Hear our prayers even as we offer them in the silence of our hearts...

**Those who are able may stand.*

KYRIE

Healey Willan

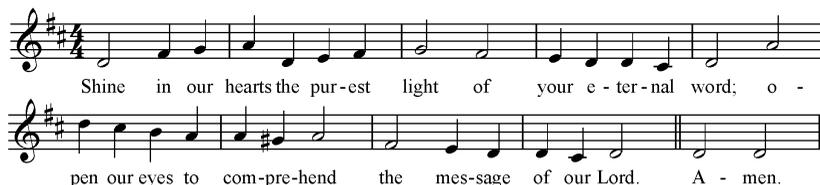


ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

* * *

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



OLD TESTAMENT

1 Kings 8:22-30

(p. 308)

EPISTLE

Ephesians 6:10-20

(p. 191)

GOSPEL

John 6:56-69

(p. 97)

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

*GLORIA

Westminster Abbey

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, ever three and ever one.
As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be. Amen.

SERMON

To Whom May We Go?

Dr. Mullis

*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."
John 6:68*

*HYMN 340

Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart

Jacob

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
(from Five Mystical Songs)

R. Vaughan Williams

Come, my way, my truth, my life:
such a way, as gives us breath;
such a truth, as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.

Come, my light, my feast, my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

***PRESENTATION & DOXOLOGY**

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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 (*Insert*)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Blaenwern

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Litanies

Jehan Alain

* * *

Soloist: Brian Chu

SUNDAYS @ FIRST

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

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 Dr. Mullis'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 the Rev. Megan LeCluyse. The Greeter is Rebekah Horowitz, and the ushers are Jim Schreyer (Captain), Joshua Banks, Andrea Bowman, Judy Callan, and Jennifer Gay.

The chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God by Judy Callan, in loving memory of my funny Irishman. Happy birthday!

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

There are no meetings this week.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS

Sidewalk repairs began last week and work is ongoing. This week the work will limit access to the church entrance on 21st Street. Access on Walnut Street and on Chancellor Street will NOT be affected, and should be used for Sunday worship services. For access to the church during the week, please use the ADA accessible entrance on Chancellor Street. Changes to accessibility will be posted as repairs progress. Thank you for your patience.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

This Wednesday, August 29th, at 7:30 p.m., we will meet at First Church for games and a movie. Enter through the ADA accessible entrance on Chancellor Street. Due to Labor Day, our September's monthly brunch will be moved to the second Sunday, September 9th. For more information on the Young Adult Group contact Annie LeCluyse (youngadults@fpcphila.org), and join the Young Adult fellowship group on Facebook.

WELCOME BRUNCH!

The Deacons invite everyone to our annual Welcome Brunch on Sunday, September 16th, at 10 a.m. The brunch is being held this year between our 9 a.m. Celebration! worship service and our 11 a.m. traditional service in Old Buttonwood Hall. Come and get to know First Church worshippers from both services and to enjoy fellowship with friends old and new! All are welcome--new members, visitors, returning members, and friends. Please join us!

MOVING FIRST FORWARD UPDATE

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



Average weekly attendance July 2018 (9 a.m. & 11 a.m.)	145
Budgeted giving through July	\$217,748
Total giving through July	\$243,665

(continued)

BIBLE STUDIES

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the church. For information contact Jerry Foote (jerry.foote@fpcphila.org).

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets the **second** Saturday of the every month at 9 a.m. at DiBruno Brothers, 1730 Chestnut Street. The next meeting is September 9. For information contact Mac McLarin (mac.mclarin@fpcphila.org).

A **COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY**, led by Delores Brisbon, meets on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. at the Old City Presbyterian Apartments (25 N. 4th Street). For information contact Delores Brisbon (deloresbrisbon2201@comcast.net).

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Copies of the new First Church photo directory are available in the church office. If you would like to receive an electronic (pdf) version of the directory, please call or email the church office (office@fpcphila.org; 215-567-0532). If you did not submit a photo and would like to be included in the directory, please send jpg files to communications@fpcphila.org to be included in the next printing.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

201 South 21st Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-567-0532
www.fpcphila.org

The Reverend Dr. Baron A. Mullis, *Pastor*

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 Rev. Sarah Weisiger, *Director of Membership Development*

Mrs. Patti Sassoli, *Director of Communications*

Ms. Annie LeCluyse, *Young Adult Leader*

The Reverend Barbara A. Chaapel

The Reverend Kenneth J. Ross

The Reverend Herbert D. Valentine

Parish Associates