

The Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday after Christmas

December 30, 2018

11:00 a.m.

“Religious students travel the globe to find tests of will, patience, deprivation, and selflessness. Parents live them every day. Anyone looking for a mysterious, contradictory and fulfilling religion couldn't do much better than child-rearing. All the components are there: rituals, generosity, penance, guilt and desperate prayer, all punctuated by moments of transcendent clarity and unmatched joy.”

—Joan Ryan

A Shortcut on the Path to Enlightenment
San Francisco Chronicle, November 24, 1996



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

Noel Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis Claude d'Aquin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sarah Weisiger

Lift up your hearts in prayer: lift up your voices in praise.
Let your eyes rise in expectation and your hands in exultation,
For the Lord has drawn near and dwells among us.

*HYMN 23

Angels We Have Heard

Gloria

*SENTENCES

Praise the Lord in the highest heavens!
Praise the creator of the stars and sun and moon!
Praise God, every hill and valley, fruit trees and cedars!
Praise God, sea monsters and cattle, young and old people together!
Let all of creation praise the name of the Lord,
For God commanded and they were brought to life.
Let us praise the name of the Lord,
For God's name is exalted, and God's glory is above heaven and earth.
Praise the Lord!

Psalm 148

*PRAYER OF ADORATION



WELCOME

Rev. Sarah Weisiger

* * *

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord

**Those who are able may stand.*

KYRIE

Andrew Senn

Organ *mp*
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
mf
Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ANTHEM

O This Night is Born Noel

traditional

Arr. Gerald Cockshotts

O this night is born Noel, as the prophets did foretell, in a stable by the way poorly carpeted with hay, hush! Do not wake the Little One, hush! Choirs of angels sang on high, music echoed from the sky as the angelic symphony sounded His nativity, hush! Do not wake the Little One, hush! Now the shepherds presents bring, humble tributes to their King, offerings from their simple store to the Babe whom they adore, hush! Do not wake the Little One, hush!

* * *

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

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

(p. 243)

EPISTLE

Colossians 3:12-17

(p. 198)

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

(p. 58)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Regent Square

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

This is Not What We Expected

Rev. Weisiger

*Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father
and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.*

Luke 2:48

***HYMN 53**

What Child is This

Greensleeves

***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

Rejoice and Be Merry

traditional

Arr. Andrew Parnell

Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth! O praise our redeemer all mortals on earth!
We sing of the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation, his praises we'll
sing! A heavenly vision appeared in the sky, vast numbers of angels the shepherds did
spy, proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation, his praises
we'll sing! Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear, which led the wise men from the
East to draw near; they found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King, who brought us
salvation, his praises we'll sing. And when they were come, they their treasures unfold,
and unto him offered myrrh, incense and gold. So blessed for ever be Jesus our King,
who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing!

***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

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.

***HYMN 58**

While Shepherds Watched

Winchester Old

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

* * *

Calli Graver and Rachel Nemer, Soloists

The liturgist today is Andrea Bowman. The Greeter is Delores Brisbon, and the ushers are Michael Smith (Captain), Jeannie Boehner, Edna Dick, Anten Kraemer, and Don Williams.

The chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Tom and Cathy Lever.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, January 2	Budget Committee	4:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 3	Deacons	6:45 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.

TWENTIES & THIRTIES (T&T) GROUP

This Wednesday, January 2nd, at 7:30 p.m., we will gather at First Church for discussion surrounding the new year. (Enter at 21st Street.) Next Sunday, January 6th, after the 11 o'clock service, join us for our monthly brunch at the Irish Pub. For more information on the Twenties & Thirties Group, contact Annie LeCluyse (youngadults@fpcphila.org), and join the Young Adult fellowship group on Facebook.

ADULT EDUCATION PLANNING MEETING

If you are interested in Adult Education at First Church, please attend a meeting on Sunday, January 6, during the 9:45 hour in the MacColl room for the purpose of developing a Sunday school program for adults at First Church.

WOMEN OF WIT & WISDOM

Please join us for a brown bag lunch on Thursday, January 10th at noon and get better acquainted with our new pastor Baron Mullis. Baron has graciously agreed to participate in a Q&A session with us. No need to RSVP, just bring a lunch and come with some questions. Be part of a warm and informative conversation!

INTERESTED IN FIRST CHURCH?

If you would like to learn more about First Church and how you can be a part of the life and ministry of the church, you're invited to our new member class on January 20th. The class is informal and will explore what Presbyterians believe, what membership means, and how to get involved at First Church. Contact Sarah Weisiger (sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org) or Baron Mullis (baron.mullis@fpcphila.org) for more information.

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 Sunday School class for young children and their families is held at 10 a.m. in the Cochran Room. Contact Sarah Weisiger (sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org) for more information.

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 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 and Head of Staff*

The Reverend Megan LeCluyse, *Celebration Team Leader*

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

Ms. Suzanne Riemann, *Church Administrator*

The Reverend Jerry K. Foote, *Minister for Congregational Care*

The Reverend Sarah Weisiger, *Minister for Membership and Faith Formation*

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