

CELEBRATING



300
years



PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA EST. 1717



Born in **FAITH**

Rooted in **GRACE**

Living into **HOPE**

300TH Anniversary Celebration Worship Service • October 7, 2017

Born in Faith – Our Procession of Churches

First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, 1698
 Bensalem Presbyterian Church, 1705
 Abington Presbyterian Church, 1714
 Middletown Presbyterian Church, 1720
 Doylestown Presbyterian Church, 1725
 Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church, 1726
 Lower Providence Presbyterian Church, 1730
 Newtown Presbyterian Church, 1734
 Third, Scots and Mariners (Old Pine), 1768
 Frankford Presbyterian Church, 1770
 First African Presbyterian Church, 1807
 First Presbyterian Church in Germantown, 1809
 Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1811
 First Presbyterian Church in Kensington, 1814
 First Presbyterian Church of Norristown, 1819
 Marple Presbyterian Church, 1835
 Temple Presbyterian Church, 1835
 Bridesburg Presbyterian Church, 1837
 First Presbyterian Church of Glenolden, 1840
 Newtown Square Presbyterian Church, 1840
 Jeffersonville Presbyterian Church, 1843
 Lombard Central Presbyterian Church, 1844
 First Presbyterian Church of Port Kennedy, 1845
 Collenbrook United Church, 1846
 First Presbyterian Church of Pottstown, 1848
 Penn Wynne Presbyterian Church, 1848
 Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, 1852
 Southwestern Presbyterian Church, 1853
 First Presbyterian Church of Darby, 1854
 Roxborough Presbyterian Church, 1854
 Central Presbyterian Church of Norristown, 1855

First Presbyterian Church in Springfield (Flourtown), 1855
 First Presbyterian Church, Falls of Schuylkill, 1856
 Forest Grove Presbyterian Church, 1856
 Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1856
 Germantown Community Presbyterian Church, 1857
 Tree of Life Church (Princeton), 1858
 Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, 1859
 Morrisville Presbyterian Church, 1859
 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Kensington, 1861
 Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, 1863
 Aston Presbyterian Church, 1866
 Media Presbyterian Church, 1866
 Woodland Presbyterian Church, 1866
 Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1867
 Oxford Presbyterian Church, 1867
 Wayne Presbyterian Church, 1870
 Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 1873
 Holy Trinity-Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, 1873
 Tabernacle United Church, 1873
 Ridley Park Presbyterian Church, 1875
 First Presbyterian Church of Lower Merion (Gladwyne), 1877
 Elkins Park Presbyterian Church, 1878
 Leverington Presbyterian Church, 1878
 Berean Presbyterian Church, 1880
 Mount Airy Presbyterian Church, 1880
 Grace Presbyterian Church of Jenkintown, 1881
 Carmel Presbyterian Church, 1882
 Lawndale Holy Grace Presbyterian Church, 1883
 Memorial Presbyterian Church of Fox Chase, 1884
 Summit Presbyterian Church, 1884

Memorial Presbyterian Church of Boothwyn, 1885
 Disston Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1886
 Eddington Presbyterian Church, 1886
 First Presbyterian Church of Lansdowne, 1887
 Langhorne Presbyterian Church, 1888
 Wissinoming Presbyterian Church, 1888
 Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1889
 Olivet Presbyterian Church, 1889
 Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 1889
 First Presbyterian Church of Ambler, 1891
 Narberth Presbyterian Church, 1891
 Oak Lane Presbyterian Church, 1891
 Wallingford Presbyterian Church, 1891
 Calvary Presbyterian Church, Wyncote, 1892
 Wissahickon Presbyterian Church, 1894
 Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, 1895
 First Presbyterian Church of Olney, 1898
 Christ's Presbyterian Church of South Philadelphia, 1899
 Thomas M. Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1899
 Calvin Presbyterian Church, 1902
 Arch Street Presbyterian Church, 1907
 First Presbyterian Church of Ardmore, 1907
 Holmes Presbyterian Church, 1907
 Ivyland Presbyterian Church, 1908
 Tully Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1908
 Llanerch Presbyterian Church, 1909
 Cedar Park Presbyterian Church, 1917
 Christ's Community Church, 1917
 Wynnefield Presbyterian Church, 1922
 Roslyn Presbyterian Church, 1923
 First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, 1924

Yeadon Presbyterian Church, 1924
 Mayfair Presbyterian Church, 1929
 Rhawnhurst Presbyterian Church, 1929
 Glading Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1934
 Westminster Mayfair Presbyterian Church, 1940
 Woodside Presbyterian Church, 1946
 Bethel Presbyterian Church, 1948
 Trinity Presbyterian Church of Clifton Heights, 1949
 First Presbyterian Church of Levittown, 1952
 Macalester Torresdale Presbyterian Church, 1954
 Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1954
 Valley Forge Presbyterian Church, 1956
 Presbyterian Church of Deep Run, 1957
 Parkland Presbyterian Church, 1958
 Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church, 1959
 Supplee Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1959
 Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church, 1962
 Norriton Presbyterian Church, 1962
 Northampton Presbyterian Church, 1964
 Church on the Mall Presbyterian Church, 1966
 Japanese Christian Presbyterian Church, 1980
 Concord Liberty Presbyterian Church, 1982
 Suh Kwang Presbyterian Church, 1994
 The Anchor Presbyterian Church, 1996
 New Spirit Community Presbyterian Church, 1996
 Podowon Presbyterian Church, 1996
 United Ghanaian Community Church, 1997
 Crossroads Presbyterian Church, 1999
 Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, 2000
 Beacon Church, 2015
 First Presbyterian Church of Warminster, 2015



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The Presbytery of Philadelphia, 2017 300th Anniversary Celebration

Worship Service • October 7, 2017

About the cover art

“It Is Well,” Rev. Rebecca Blake, mixed media, 2017

The waters of the earth, be they lakes, rivers, or oceans, have long played significant roles in the stories of humanity interacting with God. From Creation to parting the Red Sea to Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan to the calming of the storm, God meets us by the water, and speaks to us through the power and beauty of the earth God created. As the Presbytery of Philadelphia celebrates 300 years, and as I serve Beacon, a church located in walking distance from the Delaware River, I couldn’t help thinking about how Philadelphia is bordered by rivers. They form a shape not unlike slightly opened, cupped hands, and the image of the rivers holding Philadelphia, much like God holds us in God’s hands, struck me as an apt starting place for an artwork for this celebration. I was also inspired by Rainer Maria Rilke’s poem and prayer, “All That Has Never Yet Been Spoken” and the ways in which God’s grace and generosity open us to allow God to flow through us, work through us, in ways surprising and new. The current of a river is always moving, always leading us onward, and yet there is constancy in its movement. As we look toward our next 300 years of sharing life and faith together, may we keep moving forward, trusting in the constancy of God’s love for us even in the midst of change.

All That Has Never Yet Been Spoken

I believe in all that has never yet been spoken.
I want to free what waits within me
so that what no one has dared to wish for

may for once spring clear
without my contriving.

If this is arrogant, God, forgive me,
but this is what I need to say.
May what I do flow from me like a river,
no forcing and no holding back,
the way it is with children.

Then in these swelling and ebbing currents,
these deepening tides moving out, returning,
I will sing you as no one ever has,

streaming through widening channels
into the open sea.

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The Presbytery of Philadelphia, 2017



Moderator: Rev. Dr. T. Janel Dixon
Vice-Moderator: Linda Rutkosky



Executive Staff:
Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter
Rev. Kevin Porter, Stated Clerk
Lawrence Davis, Business Administrator
Rev. Greg Klimovitz, Associate Presbyter

300th Anniversary Planning Committees

300th Anniversary Steering Committee

Vijay Aggarwal, Co-Chair	Mike Henry
Susan Aggarwal, Co-Chair	Lloyd Higgins
Rev. Wonjae Choi	Rev. Linda Jaymes
Barbara Cresswell	Rev. Greg Klimovitz
Larry Davis	Rev. Ken Ross
Rev. Ruth F. Santana-Grace	Bill Young, Jr.

Fundraising Committee

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Mary Alice Clear	Doug McBrearty
Ron Cronise	Ken McKeown
Larry Davis	Wanda McNeill
Rev. Jesse Garner	Rev. Pamela McShane
Rev. Bill Golderer	Rev. Mike Pulsifer
George Henisee	Carol Young

History Committee

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Rev. Shawn Hyska
Rev. Kenneth Ross
Bill Young, Jr.

Mission Committee

Mike Henry, Chair
Lloyd Higgins, Chair
Rev. Jade Bass
Julia Hill
Claire Jones
Peter Martin
Ken McKeown

300th Celebration Event Team

Worship, Program & Reception

Rev. Wonjae Choi, Chair
Beth Bauer, Commemorative Booklet Coordinator
Rev. Rebecca Blake
Barbara Cresswell, Reception Coordinator
Rev. Sarah Colwill
Dr. J. Donald Dumpson
Julia Hill, Procession Coordinator
Ken McKeown, Usher Coordinator
Cassie Paulk
Linda Rutkosky, Communion Coordinator
Rev. Ruth F. Santana-Grace
Rev. Ethelyn Taylor

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Rev. Cynthia Jarvis, Editor-in-Chief, Devotionals
Rev. Greg Klimovitz
Betsi Moise
Oscar Payne
Rev. Laurie Taylor Weicher

External Connections

Rev. Linda Jaymes, Chair
Rev. Kenneth Ross
Fred Tangeman, Presbyterian Historical Society
Ben Volta

The 300th Celebration Committee wishes to thank all the members of the Presbytery administrative staff for their expertise and their support.

Dear Companions on the Journey,

Grace and peace we bring you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the tradition of the Apostle Paul, we offer prayers of thanksgiving for your faithfulness to the Gospel. As we gather to formally celebrate our 300th Anniversary, we are reminded of that faithfulness in the many manifestations of ministry within the bounds of our Presbytery. 300 years after being formally established, we continue to wrestle with what it means to be a faithful people for this time and place. It is precisely that wrestling that prompts us forward; that stirs within us as a people of faith – causing us to reaffirm yet again who we are because of whose we are. Like our spiritual ancestors, we are called forth in faith to boldly create new models of ministry and service, responding to the needs and changing demographics in the city of our birth and throughout the four counties of which we are a part. Like our ancestors, we are called forth to be a people rooted in grace – a grace so abundant and rich that we freely and generously model and share it with a hurting world. Like our spiritual ancestors, we are called forth to carry that faith and grace with great hope into a future before us – a future yet unknown and unformed.

As we look to that future, we are hopeful. We believe the spirit of courage and faithfulness that birthed this presbytery will continue to shape a future of resurrection hope. We see that hope in our commitment to continue to worship and grow disciples who understand the importance of their Sunday faith in their Monday context. We see that hope in our commitment to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and care for the imprisoned. We see that hope in our commitment to embrace the alien and stranger in our midst. We see that hope in our commitment to engage in interfaith conversations. Above all, we see that hope in our refusal to allow our differences of race, culture or economic status to shape our vision for one another and all of God’s creation.

If history teaches us anything, it is that the path before us will likely be filled with a new generation of challenges. It was true 300 years ago as a new people strove to build a covenant community in a new land. It was true 2,000 years ago as the Holy Spirit birthed a new community on that first Pentecost. And like those before us, we will live into that future with the assurance and hope that God’s plans for each of us – as individuals, as ministries and congregations, as a presbytery – are far greater than what we can see today.

We are humbled by your faithfulness and all that brings us to this day! A special word of gratitude is extended to Vijay and Susan Aggarwal for their bold leadership of our amazing 300th Anniversary Team. And to all of you – members and friends of our presbytery – thank you for being who you are – a people open to the journey before us. “May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may ALL abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (adapted from Romans 15:13)

In the love of Christ,

Rev. Dr. Janel Dixon
Moderator

Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace
Executive Presbyter

Welcome and Congratulations!

Welcome and thank you for attending this special event celebrating 300 years of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. We are grateful for all the sponsors, donors and volunteers who have come together to make this anniversary year so special. The Presbytery staff, our planning committees, devotional contributors and editors, the worship team, our choirs, our reception hosts, ushers, and others who have worked behind the scenes have made this possible. Congratulations also to our Presbytery – which really means congratulations to our churches, our members and those saints who have gone before us. We honor and celebrate those that have been faithful witnesses in our past and those that are forging the bold future of Presbyterians in the Philadelphia area. In planning the celebration of this anniversary year, we have had the great privilege of traveling around the Presbytery and getting to know many of our congregations and pastors in our area. What a wonderful and gifted group of brothers and sisters in Christ. Our region is truly blessed by your time, talent and commitment.

There are many times in the Bible where celebrations occur that recognize special events, like the homecoming of the prodigal son or the building of the temple. God loves us to celebrate the good things in our lives. We praise and honor Him for what we are today. Hallelujah!

As a Presbytery, we are commissioning Mural Arts/Restorative Justice to involve our churches in a project that will create mural panels to be temporarily displayed at churches throughout the Presbytery. In partnership with the Presbyterian Historical Society, we are updating church histories to be available for all to see. Recognizing Presbyterians’ long history of addressing the needs we see in our communities, we are nearing our goal of \$300,000 to support eight vital mission partners as they launch new programs in their communities. These mission partners are the main reason we are celebrating. Every day they are in the streets, the schools, the shelters giving hope where hope can be lost. They are bringing us the hope of tomorrow. They have been and continue to be advocates for children and adults who are at risk of losing their way. We praise them and their work.

It is time for us to continue the work that was begun 300 years ago and find new ways to fulfill our mission in an unknown future just as our ancestors did. We are challenged as they were, conflicted as they were but faithful as they were, secure in the knowledge that God will guide us through this day and into our exciting future. Praise be to God!

We are privileged to be welcoming you to this service of worship, praise and celebration.

Vijay and Susan Aggarwal
300th Anniversary Co-chairs



The Presbytery of Philadelphia began when “the Presbytery,” the only general meeting of American Presbyterians, voted on Friday, September 21, 1716, to divide into four “subordinate meetings,” and reconstitute itself as an annual general synod. Six out of 17 ministers were assigned to the new presbytery and given wide freedom as to when and where they might meet. Meet they did, although the date, with the records, is lost. It was certainly before the first meeting of the Synod, September 17, 1717.

The mission of the presbytery in its first century was to perform the basic functions of a governing body. It organized congregations, examined and received new ministers, prepared and ordained candidates for the ministry, reviewed the work of the churches, supplied pulpits, disciplined the errant, and arbitrated local disputes. The sheer size of the area under its supervision—originally all of south Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania—meant that the presbytery had only such authority over its churches as the congregations were willing to give it. It is a measure of the power of moral suasion and their desire to be supplied by a learned ministry that they did submit to the written admonitions of a distant church court.



Map of Philadelphia County: Melish, 1819. Retrieved from the Library of Congress.

Growth was slow. The boundaries of the presbytery contracted to Philadelphia and its surrounding counties. Most of the New Jersey congregations, except those along Delaware Bay, were eventually assigned to New Jersey presbyteries while congregations to the west were placed under the Presbytery of Donegal. Philadelphia organized several new congregations in Lehigh, Bucks, and Montgomery Counties, but in 1800 only four Presbyterian congregations existed in a city of seventy thousand.

Philadelphia at the beginning of the nineteenth century was a booming seaport surrounded by farms. American expansion after 1812 began a long acceleration of the economy of the region. By mid-century Philadelphia was a city of a half million dominated by manufacturing, transportation, commerce, and banking. By the end of the century it was home to more than a million people and the “workshop of the world.” The churches, with no warning or preparation, had to respond to mass urbanization, industrialization, immigration, and cultural pluralism.

The presbytery did its work through standing committees, and met as a whole only four times a year—frequently over two days—to deal with core concerns. Initially it did mission jointly through ecumenical charities, but after several disagreements about how mission should be done, Presbyterians founded their own mission boards, three of them headquartered in Philadelphia. Locally, the presbytery supported an ever-expanding system of Sunday schools and charities for the poor, prisoners, and sailors.

Before the Civil War, Presbyterians founded congregations by “cloning.” A church would subsidize a worshipping community in a new area and send some of its elders to form a new session. By 1850, there were 37 churches in a city of 400,000. The presbytery divided itself twice in this period to accommodate this growth. Beginning in 1851 the presbyteries asserted some administrative control over church plantings with Committees of Church Extension. By 1880, there were 83 churches with a membership of 30,000 in a city of 847,000—almost one Philadelphian in thirty.



From Philadelphia in the Civil War, 1861-1865, by Frank H. Taylor. Courtesy of Presbyterian Historical Society.

After 1867, five Presbyteries of Philadelphia reorganized into three and entered their most ambitious era of expansion. Old churches were replaced with larger buildings. New congregations built handsome structures graced with Sunday schools, libraries, and gymnasiums. Together they founded major charitable institutions, including Presbyterian Hospital (1871), Presbyterian Orphanage (1874), Presbyterian Home for Widows (1876),

Berean Institute (1899), and the Philadelphia School for Christian Workers (1907). They responded to the flood of immigrants with settlement houses and ethnic missions. Yet as fast as the church grew, the city grew faster and became increasingly multicultural and non-Protestant.

Philadelphia, at the outbreak of World War I, was an industrial powerhouse and an international magnet for immigration. Presbyterians, identified with the expanding middle class of skilled factory workers, managers, industrialists, and professionals, prospered in this era and invested heavily in the causes that addressed their concerns. In the name of efficiency, the presbyteries consolidated, centralized, and professionalized their missionary and administrative staffs. In 1943, after more than twenty years of negotiation, they merged to form a “metropolitan presbytery”—176 churches with roughly 100,000 communicants covering Philadelphia and most of Montgomery, Bucks, and Delaware Counties. In 1944 an enlarged professional staff moved to new offices at 2200 Locust Street.

Midcentury was the high water mark both for the city and the presbytery. The city population hit two million and its urban culture dominated the surrounding counties, but the move to the suburbs had begun. The Baby Boom filled the suburban churches, even as city churches were losing members at an alarming rate. In 1943 city churches accounted for two thirds of the presbytery. By 1993, they were less than one quarter. Because much of this movement was within its new boundaries, the size and strength of the presbytery remained, but the presbytery’s priorities shifted to reflect the interests of a wealthier, family-oriented, suburban population. Newly enlarged congregations added modern education wings, gyms, wedding chapels, and parking lots. The presbytery added church camping to its mission program with the purchase of Pennington Island (1947) and Kirkwood (1961) and supported Christian education with the Krisheim Conference Center (1976) and a central resource library.

The presbytery looked to its professional staff and standing committees to redeploy its city mission dollars. Older institutions were merged, sold, or closed, while several senior residences were brought together under Philadelphia Presbyterian Homes (1955). Urban mission focused on supplying food, shelter, clothing, and education support to neighborhoods beset by poverty, poor schools, and few opportunities with programs like Chester Eastside Ministries (1981) and Learning Tree (1989).

Even when it appeared in the late twentieth century as if both the city and the presbytery were locked in a spiral of retreat and retrenchment, the seeds of renewal were already sprouting. The Philadelphia region began to grow again as it transitioned to a “knowledge economy” based on medicine, education, technology, and communication. After decades of depopulation, the region is now experiencing a net inflow of people, many of them younger and better educated. Center City hums with nightlife, cultural institutions are diversifying, and whole neighborhoods are repopulating and rebuilding. At the beginning of its fourth century, the Presbytery of Philadelphia is busy reinventing itself as a decentralized mission support movement, concentrating its energies on its congregations’ local initiatives, on innovative ministries, on repurposing old buildings, and on new worshipping communities—all served by a smaller and more affordable professional staff.



From Presbyterian Home for Aged Couples and Aged Men at 65th and Vine Streets, founded 1885. Courtesy of Presbyterian Historical Society.



From Berean Manual Training and Industrial School Records, 1914-1922. Courtesy of Presbyterian Historical Society.

October 7, 2017

Peace and Joy in our Lord Jesus Christ! Greetings from the staff and Board of the Presbyterian Historical Society to our Sisters and Brothers in Christ, members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

It has been an honor and delight for the Presbyterian Historical Society to assist members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia in the many historical inquiries necessary to prepare for this momentous 300th anniversary.

Three hundred years ago, colonial Presbyterians started the first denomination in the Americas that was independent of its parent church overseas. Exhibiting a fire for freedom to practice our religion, early missionary Francis Makemie fought legal authorities and won. Desiring a unified witness in worship, training, and governance, Presbyterians adopted a common confession in the Westminster Confession while leaving room for freedom of conscience. Believing in the calling of all believers to mission and ministry, Presbyterians created vibrant reform organizations and missionary movements that reshaped America and the world. Today, Presbyterians offer hospitality to the sojourners among us, feed those who hunger, and stand with those who thirst for justice. All of this began with the seed of Reformed faith brought to this land by women and men proud to be called Presbyterian.

The Presbyterian Historical Society rejoices in the three hundred years of witness by the great body of saints who have made up—and continue to constitute—the Presbytery of Philadelphia to the saving work of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the enduring sovereign mercy of our Creator. We celebrate with you every congregation in this presbytery, whether glorifying God for three hundred plus years or a brand new worshiping community. Our mission to collect, preserve, and share your precious records so that the world might know our story is of daily importance to us. Thank you for entrusting your records to our care.

May God continue to bless, lead, and re-form the Presbytery of Philadelphia and each congregation within its bounds in the year to come.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. Dr. Beth Shalom Hessel
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR


GREETINGS:

I am honored to join together with the members, churches, and congregations of the Presbytery of Philadelphia to celebrate its 300th anniversary.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia has served its members and its communities well over the years, leaving an indelible impact on the hearts and minds of everyone its work has touched. Founded in 1717, it is the oldest Presbyterian corporate entity in the United States and home to some of the oldest Presbyterian churches in the nation. The congregations within this Presbytery have provided for the needs of growing communities, cultivated fellowship amongst members, comforted the dispirited, served those in need, and united their communities in hope and peace. This Presbytery has set an example of principled faith, charity, and good citizenship in the Philadelphia area, and I am confident that Presbytery of Philadelphia will continue to grow and thrive for generations to come.

As Governor, and on behalf of all citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I extend my best wishes to the members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia for a memorable 300th anniversary celebration.




TOM WOLF
Governor
October 7, 2017



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 7, 2017

Presbytery of Philadelphia
915 East Gowen Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19150

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Congratulations on the 300th anniversary of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Three hundred years of continuous service as a presbytery is cause for thanksgiving and great joy.

Founded in 1717, the Presbytery of Philadelphia is the oldest Presbyterian corporate entity in the United States and home to some of the oldest Presbyterian churches in our denomination. Your story is deeply rooted in both American and Presbyterian history, illustrating faithfulness and courage throughout your 300-year heritage.

As you gather to celebrate your 300th anniversary, I pray that your ministry will be renewed and refreshed. May the grace of our Lord continue to bless your work and worship.

In the name of the Christ we serve,

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Leading Us in Worship Today

Proclaiming the Word



The Reverend T. Denise Anderson is Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church in Temple Hills, MD. Before being called to Unity, she served as a Pastoral Assistant at Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Washington, where she led the English Ministry. Denise serves the National Capital Presbytery on the Leadership Council and as a Vital Signs© interpretation consultant. She maintains her own blog, *SoulaScriptura: To be Young, Gifted and Reformed*.



The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes is President of Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Barnes has previously served as a pastor to three congregations, including National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. He is a frequent lecturer and preacher at conferences, academic gatherings, and in congregations across the country. He is also the author of eight books and serves as an Editor at Large and frequent contributor to *The Christian Century*. Dr. Barnes' writing and academic work reflect his deep commitment to the theological formation of pastors to lead the church in changing times.

300th Celebration Music Leadership Team

Dr. J. Donald Dumpson, Curator

Marlene Cooper, Director of Music - Oxford Presbyterian Church
Dr. J. Donald Dumpson, Minister of Music and the Arts - Arch Street Presbyterian Church
David J. Fitzpatrick, Director of Music and the Arts - Doylestown Presbyterian Church
Dr. Amelia Garblish, Director of Music - Mount Airy Presbyterian Church
Carrie Lessene, Director of Music - Berean Presbyterian Church
Jason Moore, Director of Music - Newtown Presbyterian Church
John Sall, Director of Music Ministries - Abington Presbyterian Church
Ting Ting Wong, Director of Music - Newtown Square Presbyterian Church



Instrumentalists

Curtis Bronson, Percussion
Tameka Ferebee, Organ
Norwood "BJ" Long, Bass Guitar
Wesley Parrott, Rodgers Organ
Raymond Rice, Drums
Austin Woodland, Keyboards

Voices of Hope Youth Choir Directors

Carrie Lessene, Berean Presbyterian Church
John Sall, Abington Presbyterian Church

With special gratitude

to all of the Liturgists, Communion Servers, Ushers, Vocalists and Reception Hosts who are representing their home churches from within the Presbytery

and also...

to the 300th Celebration Worship Planning Team
Rev. Wonjae Choi, Chair
Rev. Rebecca Blake, Beacon
Rev. Sarah Colwill, Church on the Mall
Rev. Ethelyn Taylor, Oxford Presbyterian Church

300th Anniversary Celebration Worship Service

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God
J.S. Bach

Wesley Parrott

Gathering in Faith

Call to Worship

One: Friends, God has been moving in the Presbytery of Philadelphia for more than 300 years. In faithful response, we gather together to celebrate and worship as the body of Christ.

All: We gather bound by thanksgiving in our hearts for God's faithfulness throughout time, and to every generation.

One: The God of eternity meets us where we have been and where we are, giving us the faith to believe, the grace to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the hope to respond to God's love and call upon our lives.

All: With grateful hearts, we are the young and the old; the certain and the skeptical. We are from urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods. We are a people of many races, cultures, languages and economic realities. Today, we are one people, a people empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim God's redemptive presence and resurrection power in a broken world.

One: In this spirit of unity, let us worship God.

*Hymn of Celebration and Processional

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, Composer

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Gathering Prayer

Welcome

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God, you hem us in, behind and before, showing us your path, announcing to us your love and justice. Yet we confess that we have painful moments in our history where we have turned away from your word.

All: We have turned to power and comfort over your call to enter into the brokenness of your world. We have disrespected the humanity of the other and denied their being made in your image.

One: We have mistreated our friends and neglected to show hospitality to strangers. We have surrendered to indifference and complacency, allowing our exhaustion to shape our inaction.

All: Forgive us, great God, for we know that through Jesus Christ you conquer all sin and brokenness. Urge us onward. Shape our hearts and minds with humility and a hunger for reconciliation. May we magnify your love and compassion in all we do, as we seek to bring about your mercy and abundant life made known to us in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people.

All: May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Choral Selection

Give Us Hope

Jim Papoulis, Composer

Voices of Hope Youth Choir

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Sung Response: Amen, Amen, Amen!

Messages of Grace

Proclaiming Grace

Choral Selection

"Hallelujah" from Mount of Olives

Ludwig van Beethoven, Composer

Celebration Choir

Scripture Reading

Psalm 1

Sermon

Rooted and Fruitful

Rev. Craig Barnes

*Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

John Hughes, Composer

God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-14

Sermon

Preparing for What's Next

Rev. Denise Anderson

Choral Selection

God's Grace

Rev. Luther Barnes, Composer

Celebration Choir
Carrie Lessene, Soloist

Living Into Hope

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving will be in the form of a bidding prayer in languages that are part of our corporate heart as a presbytery. After the phrase "Lord, in your mercy," please respond "Hear our prayer."

Words of Institution

*Distribution of Elements - by Intinction

Choral Selection

It Is Well

Philip P. Bliss, arr. Nathan Carter

Celebration Choir

The congregation will join their voices as communion is served:

Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

2 Come to the table of peace...

3 Come to the table of love...

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (Refrain)

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (Refrain)

Prayer

Messages of Gratitude

Invitation to Generosity

The offering this morning will be dedicated to the 300th Anniversary Mission Campaign Fund for the identified ministry initiatives to enable them to realize a new element in their ongoing response to the plight of children and education, the need to interrupt the school to prison pipeline, and the encouragement of restorative justice.

Offering Music

Music Ministry

Prayer of Dedication

One: God of abundant life, today we dedicate this offering to your work in and through these eight local initiatives: Broad Street Ministry, Chester Eastside, The Common Place, Kirkwood Camp, Rearing Successful Sons, Restorative Justice and the Arts, Rhawnhurst Turning Point and West Kensington Ministry.

All: We are grateful for their bold witness among the young, the hungry and homeless, and those seeking to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

One: As we lift them up today, we remember all efforts in our congregations and other ministry contexts that tirelessly work to bring your justice, mercy and love into the world.

All: May we together continue to find ways to bring the light of your hope and resurrection into those places where darkness prevails. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

*Affirmation of Hope and Charge *Adapted from the Confession of 1967*

With an urgency born out of hope, we the church apply ourselves to present tasks and strive for a better world. We the church do not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor do we despair in the face of all disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, we the church look beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to provide far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

*Blessing

*Sending

Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

- 2. Hold my hand...
- 3. Stand by me...
- 4. I'm your child...
- 5. Search my heart...
- 6. Guide my feet...

Postlude

Carillon Sortie
Henri Mulet

Wesley Parrott

*Share Your Joy!

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**Living Into Hope:
Celebrating Our Past and Present Witness Through
a Commitment to Children and Restorative Justice**

We give thanks for all who have thus far contributed to our campaign to raise \$300,000 for our local ministry partners. The entirety of this one-time offering will be equally distributed to eight local initiatives as they launch new efforts to **elevate the education of children, disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, and promote restorative justice**. Over the past year, we have been encouraged by the varied ways our congregations have engaged these ministries and strengthened their relational connections to those who live into the hope of the gospel in at-risk communities in the Greater Philadelphia and Chester area. This successful and faithful expression of stewardship, generosity, and mission reminds us that together we can do more than we could ever do alone.

Read more about the campaign and check out videos of each ministry partner:

www.presbyphl.org/300-mission-campaign/



Broad Street Ministry is a broad-minded Christian community that practices radical hospitality and works for a more just world through civic engagement. Broad Street Ministry is also a first-stop for folks re-entering society after incarceration and looking for community.

New Initiative: Build a program for returning citizens that walks with individuals in the first full year out of prison and connects returning citizens with job opportunities and intentional community to reduce the risk of recidivism.



Chester Eastside, Inc. works to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for young people in the city of Chester so they can meet their most basic needs, work towards a more just society, and achieve their full potential as citizens.

New Initiative: Expand an after-school mentor program from four to five days and include seventh and eighth grade students. These efforts will help nurture a safe learning environment, homework assistance, and cultural engagement to equip and empower young people in at-risk neighborhoods.



The Common Place offers a worshiping community and holistic care for children and families in Southwest Philadelphia through education, faith formation, social service support and collaboration with varied community partnerships.

New Initiative: Launch before-school nutritional programs that provide elementary children the food they need to have a productive school day and to be fully engaged in learning.



Kirkwood Camp is a summer camp and retreat facility nestled in the Poconos and provides opportunities for young people to develop relationships, deepen their faith, learn about peacemaking, and discover their leadership potential.

New Initiative: Provide 100 scholarships to children and youth in at-risk communities and afford them the opportunity to be a part of the Kirkwood community for a week.



Rearing Successful Sons builds resilience and empowers African-American males (ages 9-17) in the Point Breeze community through mentorship, education, and exposure.

New Initiative: Expand an enhanced mentoring program within a renovated house open four days a week to deepen the young men's skills in developing resilience.



Restorative Justice at the Church Studios is a collaboration between Mural Arts Philadelphia Restorative Justice Guild, Volta Studio, and the Church Studios at Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church. This partnership serves young men and women re-entering society after incarceration and provides a chance to give back to communities through public art projects that foster creativity, job training, leadership development, and reduce the risk of recidivism.

New Initiative: Create a classroom in vacant church space that could be used for leadership development, community formation, workshops, and life skills enhancement.



Rhawnhurst Turning Point is a center for 6-12th grade youth and young adults in Northeast Philadelphia that fosters a mutually-supportive community, provides homework assistance, and equips young people with essential life skills.

New Initiative: Expand their reach to current youth, to include increased space and computers, and develop a post-high school program for young adults in an at-risk community.



West Kensington Ministry provides safety and programming for children and youth in a neighborhood with high levels of hunger and poverty, a broken education system, and many who are vulnerable to the school-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately impacts young people of color and/or with learning disabilities.

New Initiative: West Kensington would become a referral site for those most at risk to the school-to-prison pipeline as they connect youth with trained and equipped adult mentors.

On behalf of our mission partners, The Presbytery of Philadelphia wishes to thank our loyal donors:

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