

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”

Isaiah 40:31



The Presbytery of Philadelphia
Service of Worship * January 31, 2023
Oxford Presbyterian Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Order of Worship

— We Gather Around the Word —

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Elder Linda Rutkosky

One: As we enter a new year filled with hope and possibility,
Many: we give thanks for God’s presence that goes ahead of us.
One: As we look forward into an unknown future,
Many: we take the next faithful step,
trusting that God will be with us.
One: For God has called us in this time and place
to use our gifts to love our neighbor, care for the underserved,
and spread the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.
Many: God has called us in this time and place
to be the church in the world,
transforming our communities with peace and justice.
One: Let us worship God,
giving thanks for new beginnings.
Many: Let us worship God,
grateful for the holy work to which we are called.

*Opening Prayer

Elder Jim Ballengee

One: O God we praise you:
for the anticipation of the Messiah’s birth;
for Mary’s courage;
for the shepherds at the manger;
for the wise ones who came bearing gifts;
for the waters of baptism that fell from Jesus’ face;
for the way you called people long ago to be carriers of the vision, ambassadors of the dream—
brave folk who dared say yes and do something different, something divine.

All: May their spirits continue to inspire us to follow in their footsteps,
reaching beyond what we know to embrace your guidance.
Settle our fears and bind us up with one another, that together, as people of faith,
we may transform the world with your love and grace.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Elder Jim Ballengee Arch Street Presbyterian Church
Incoming Vice-Moderator, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Cara Cavicchia Associate Pastor, Lower Providence Presbyterian Church

Rev. Wonjae Choi Pastor, Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church
Former Moderator, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Tim Dooner Pastor, Valley Forge Presbyterian Church

Elder Zandra Maffett Valley Forge Presbyterian Church
Incoming Moderator, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Ted Mingle Pastor, Lower Providence Presbyterian Church
Outgoing Moderator, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Kevin Porter Director of Congregational Care, First Presbyterian Church in Germantown
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Elder Linda Rutkosky Doylestown Presbyterian Church
Former Moderator, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Dr. Ethelyn Taylor Oxford Presbyterian Church
Former Moderator, Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton President, Princeton Theological Seminary

Music Ministry:
Rev. Peter Ahn Pastor, Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church

Rev. Timothy Wotring Pastor, Memorial Presbyterian Church of Fox Chase

Technology:
Elder Oscar Payne Cedar Park Presbyterian Church

Remembering the Saints

Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace

Invitation to Gratitude and Reflections on God’s Blessings

Rev. Wonjae Choi

Today’s offering will be collected to support those seeking asylum in Philadelphia,
working with our colleagues providing food and clothing as folks arrive.

If you choose to donate online, please visit www.presbyphl.org/donation-opportunities.

Offertory

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Robert L. Edwards

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song

“Guide My Feet”

Rev. Dr. Ethelyn Taylor



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

*Charge and Blessing

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton

*Transition to the business of the church

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit.

*Opening Song

“Come, Let Us Worship God”

Come, let us worship God (Come, let us worship God)

Come, let us worship God (Come, let us worship God)

Welcome everyone (Welcome everyone)

to the love of God (to the love of God)

to the love of God (to the love of God)

Rest for the weary...

Food for the hungry...

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

Rev. Tim Dooner

God of abundant life: you are the author of each new day, blessing us with gifts of grace and love.

Yet we confess that at times we see only hardship and despair.

At times we are so overwhelmed with the work that lies ahead.

We become discouraged by the amount of violence, anger, and hatred that surrounds us.

We might even declare this work of peace and justice to be too much; an impossible task.

We might even begin to justify why we are giving up.

We might even begin to rationalize our own poor behavior because everyone else is doing it.

Forgive us, God of strength and God of glory, and encourage our spirits to be about the work of your reign.

Fill us with grace and endurance, that we might never tire of trying to make the world a better place.

Grant us a taste of your kingdom and fill us with your joy, that even as we face head-on the challenges of this sin-sick world, we may find delight in being your faithful people.

Assurance of Grace

Friends in Christ, believe this good news: Jesus came into the world not to condemn the world, but in order that the world may be saved through him. We are not bound by our short-comings or our past mistakes, but set free to live a new life in Christ.

Know in the depth of your soul that your sins are forgiven.

Let us go in courage and in faith, engaging in the work to which we have been called.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Installation of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Stated Clerk

Rev. Ted Mingle, Outgoing Moderator
Elder Zandra Maffett, Moderator
Elder Jim Ballengee, Vice-Moderator
Rev. Kevin Porter, Stated Clerk

- Words of Introduction
- Call to Discipleship
- Questions to the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Stated Clerk
1. Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, do you?

2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you, do you?

3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God, do you and will you?

4. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions, will you?

5. Will you be governed by our church’s polity and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among our colleagues in ministry working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit, will you?

6. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbor, and work for the reconciliation of the world, furthering the peace, unity, and purity of the church? And will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, will you?

7. Zandra (Jim, Kevin) will you be a faithful Moderator, (Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk) of this presbytery, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? And in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ, will you?

Questions to Presbytery:

1. Do we, the members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, accept Zandra as our Moderator, Jim as our Vice-Moderator, and Kevin as our Stated Clerk, chosen by God through the voice of this presbytery to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ, do we? (We do.)

2. Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to honor their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church, do we? (We do.)

Installation Prayer

Declaration of Installation

Words of Gratitude

Elder Zandra Maffett
Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace

— We Listen to the Word —

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Cara Cavicchia

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 40:30-31

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

One: The Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “A Worn Out Witness”

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lee Walton

— We Respond to the Word —

Musical Reflection

“Heaven Shall Not Wait”

John L. Bell and Graham Maule

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Elder Zandra Maffett
Rev. Kevin Porter

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Everyone is welcome to partake of the elements. We will be using pre-packaged wafers and juice.

Please come forward by the center aisle, take the elements from one of the baskets, and return to your seat.

Please hold your elements until all are served so we can partake together, as instructed by the presiders.

Containers at the ends of the pews are available for your empty cups and wrappers.

Partaking of the Elements

Closing Prayer