

# *The First Presbyterian Church* *in the City of New York*

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## NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Service for the Lord's Day*

October 11, 2020 | 11:00 a.m.

*The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.*

### GATHERING

*The peace candle represents our prayers for peace in a broken world. The congregation is asked to offer prayers of intercession for one another and for those who lead in these times of remote worship.*

PRELUDE "Adoration" Florence Beatrice Smith Price

WELCOME

INTROIT "What Does the Lord Require" Jim Strathdee  
What does the Lord require of you? To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God. -Micah 6:8, paraphrase

Christina Angelopoulos, Hannah Nacheman, Arri Lawton Simon, and Richard Storm

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 106: 1-3

**Praise the Lord!**

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

**Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,  
or declare all his praise?**

**Happy are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times.**

HYMN 624 "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" TOULON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Your love is greater than any love there is.**

**We know that you love each one of us more than we can ever imagine.**

**We know too that we live in a world that does not love all our neighbors.**

**We also know, Lord, that we too contribute to hurting others,**

**And we do not always lift up the voices of our brothers, sisters, and siblings.**

**We confess that we fall short of loving all people to the fullest,**

**And instead choose to put our own beliefs ahead of loving our siblings.**

**Teach us to stand for justice even when our words are not articulate.  
Forgive us, Lord, so that we might be doers of justice and spreaders of love.  
Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### DOXOLOGY

*Traditional*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

### OLD HUNDREDTH

*Inclusive*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore.  
Amen.**

### SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND 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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## HEARING THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God;  
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.  
For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.  
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.  
For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.  
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,  
the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.  
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

## SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.  
Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## SERMON

“What’s in Your Mailbox?”

Audrey Webber, MDiv

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 824

“Near to the Heart of God”

MC AFEE

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Belhar Confession* – PC(USA)

**We believe that God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



## STAFF CONTACTS

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