

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Service for the Lord's Day

January 3, 2021 | 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 “Prelude on ‘O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright’” David Bednall

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia!

Come and praise, you servants of God!

Praise the name of the Lord!

May God's name be blessed

both now and forever,

from east to west, from north to south.

May God's name be blessed

both now and forever.

Who can compare to our God?

Seated high above the nations of the earth,

God's glory fills the skies.

May God's name be blessed

both now and forever.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 827

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Covenant-making God,

you use every possible means to reach us,

breathing your Spirit in us,

calling us by name,

showing us symbols of your promise,

offering us a new way of life.

We confess that our hearts are hardened.

We choose certainty over faith,

anxiety over courage,

independence over compassion.

We get caught up in our own needs and desires,

and forget you have made us to be your people, together.

Engrave your word on our hard hearts again, O God.

Then break them open for what breaks yours,

that your word might sink in and become a part of us,

so we might truly live as if you are our God and we are your people.

We pray in the name of the One

whose love breaks all bounds,

Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

To God Cre - a - tor, heav'n - ly light, to Christ, re -
vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Spir - it
blest we raise an end - less song of thank - ful praise!

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

ANTHEM

Memmingen ms.; 17th cent.

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free; who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace. God from the house of David a child of grace has given; a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day. On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes. God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace. O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

—Michael Perry

Samantha Noonan, Hannah Nacheman, Brandon Hynum, and Andrew Martens

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:5-13

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.”

SERMON

“The Lord’s Prayer: Your Name”

Rev. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN 4

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

GROSSER GOTT, WIR
LOBEN DICH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of the saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Eric Nelson, arr.

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather. Nestling bird nor star in
heaven such a refuge e'er was given. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy
courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears
them. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever. Unto them his
grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth. Praise the Lord in joyful numbers:
your Protector never slumbers; at the will of your Defender every foe must then
surrender. No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

—Carolina Sandell Berg; Ernst W. Olson, trans., and Isaac Watts

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
Words of the Institution
Sharing of the Elements
Prayer after Communion

HYMN 151

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

KINGS OF ORIENT

SENDING

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“In Thee Is Gladness, BWV 615”

Johann Sebastian Bach

*The congregation is invited to continue worshiping through the postlude,
which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.*

STAFF CONTACTS

The Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, Pastor/Head of Staff - gstovell@fpcnyc.org
The Rev. Dr. Barbara E. Davis, Executive Minister - bdavis@fpcnyc.org
The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Hostetter, Associate Pastor - fpcnyc@fpcnyc.org
Michael Shake, Director of Music - mshake@fpcnyc.org

The Rev. Dr. Jon Walton, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. J. Barrie Shepherd, Pastor Emeritus

Hannah Faye Allred, Staff Associate of Congregational Care - hallred@fpcnyc.org
Sophia Canfield, Online Streaming Coordinator - fpcnyc@fpcnyc.org
Kathleen Cook, Nursery School Director - kcook@fpcnyc.org
Tony Feliciano, Sexton - frontdesk@fpcnyc.org
Jon Harris, Family Music Ministries Coordinator - jharris@fpcnyc.org
Lisa Polite, Administrative Assistant - lpolite@fpcnyc.org
Paul Schnabel, Director of Finance and Facilities - pschnabel@fpcnyc.org
Nicole Stansifer, Director of Outreach - nstansifer@fpcnyc.org
Babs Smith, Assistant Director of Finance and Facilities - bsmith@fpcnyc.org
Audrey Webber, Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts - awebber@fpcnyc.org

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