

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

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## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

*Service for the Lord's Day*

February 21, 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

"Passacaglia"

David Hurd

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

**As darkness gives way to light  
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,  
we come today to be reminded of God's love for this world.  
Like the green shoots of renewed life,  
stirring beneath the soil,  
we welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.  
In this time of reflection and repentance,  
we affirm our identity, we claim our security,  
as children of God.**

HYMN 167

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

AUS DER TIEFE RUFTE ICH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of revelation,  
this holy season of Lent,  
unveil your kingdom in our midst.  
Forgive what we have become.  
We have forgotten your ways,  
and distorted your image for this world.  
Show us who we truly are in you.  
Expose the illusions that cloud our vision.  
Deliver us from temptations that compromise our living.**

**Open our eyes in this season of preparation  
that holiness may be the secret of our joy  
and our joy a sign of your peace. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



*Traditional* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures  
*Inclusive* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple



here be - low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;  
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.  
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

## 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.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## HEARING THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Psalm 34:1-8

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
O magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.  
Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,  
and was saved from every trouble.  
The angel of the LORD encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
O taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

## ANTHEM

Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us, through Christ our Lord. Amen. – Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

Samantha Noonan, Hannah Nacheman,  
Arri Lawton Simon, and Andrew Martens

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 5:27-32

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

## SERMON

“A Carefully Planned Guest List”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 773

“Heaven Shall Not Wait”

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Belhar Confession

*The Belhar Confession has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in southern Africa. Formally adopted by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in 1986, it was one of the “standards of unity” for the new Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA). Belhar’s theological confrontation of the sin of racism has made possible reconciliation among Reformed churches in southern Africa and has aided the process of reconciliation within the nation of South Africa. The Presbyterian Church (USA) added Belhar to the Book of Confessions at the 2016 General Assembly.*

**We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation  
is made manifest in the church  
as the community of believers  
who have been reconciled with God  
and with one another.  
We believe that unity is, therefore,  
both a gift and an obligation  
for the church of Jesus Christ.  
We believe that,  
through the working of God’s Spirit,  
it is a binding force,  
yet simultaneously a reality  
which must be earnestly pursued and sought:**

**one which the people of God  
must continually be built up to attain.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Sally Collins

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to Thy mercy think Thou on me, O Lord, for Thy goodness. – Psalm 25:5-6

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SENDING**

HYMN 618

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

DEO GRACIAS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Deo Gracias”

Healey Willan

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

**MUSIC NOTES** David Hurd (b. 1950) is Organist and Director of Music of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in New York City. From 1976 to 2015, Hurd served General Theological Seminary as Director of Chapel Music, and later also as Professor of Church Music. As a composer, Hurd’s liturgical music and hymn tunes are found in many contemporary hymnals, including *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*. Born in Brooklyn, he studied at Oberlin College, and the University of North Carolina, and has been honored with three honorary doctorates for his contributions to church music. His “Passacaglia” is a set of variations based on a repeated musical phrase heard at the opening of the work. • Born in England, Healey Willan (1880-1967) emigrated to Canada in 1913, and from 1921 until two months prior to his death, was Organist-Choirmaster of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Toronto. Willan influenced generations of Canadian musicians as a professor at the University of Toronto, and, with over 800 works to his credit, is often called the “dean of Canadian composers.” At the age of 70, Willan began work on a large series of hymn preludes for organ, including the bold setting of the 15th century hymn tune, DEO GRACIAS.

## STAFF CONTACTS

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