

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Service for the Lord's Day

February 7, 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

"In Quiet Mood"

Florence B. Price

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

**This is a place of wonder, of mystery, of sacred presence,
of word and sacrament, of liturgy and music that calls us home.
We are all welcome to hear God's words that inspire and challenge.
Here we are called to open our lives to God and others
leading us to fully live with open minds, open hearts, open doors.
Christ welcomes us here. All are welcome here.
Let us worship God!**

HYMN 42

"Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure"

WINCHESTER NEW

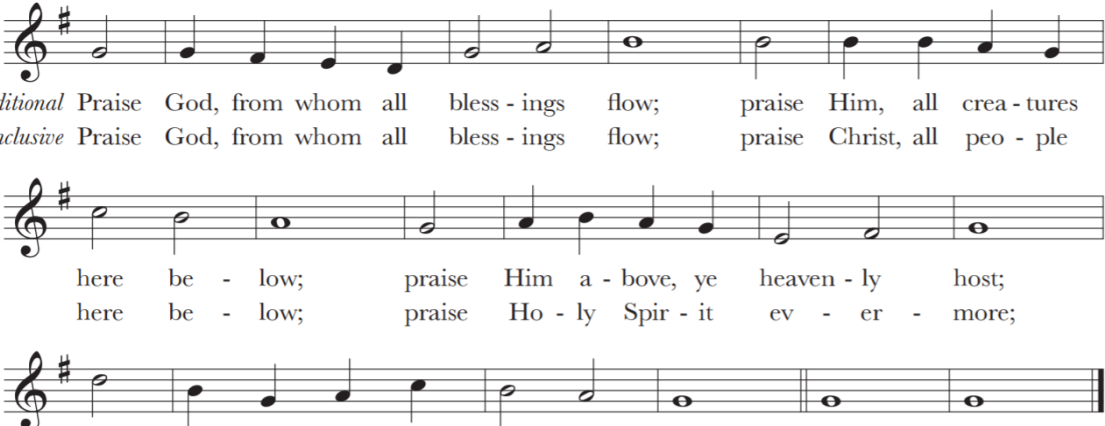
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace.
To serve each other in love and humility.
To serve your world with wisdom and energy.
Forgive us when we stumble over pride,
when our words and actions are not guided by love.
Turn our hearts when we act in folly.
Restore our energy when it is gone.
We confess often our efforts fail,
but your abundant grace is strong and eternal,
and you offer forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God. 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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Steven Wells

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

SERMON

“Giving Stories”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 697

“Take My Life”

HENDON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Presbyterian Confession of 1967

The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations. The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.

OFFERTORY

Johann Sebastian Bach

God is our hope and strength, all heaven and earth adore him. Renew eternal praise and all worship before him! For all things are of God and in all things is God. The works that aye have been and ever more shall be. Honor and thanks to God who wrought this world’s creation. To taste of heavenly joy in death and tribulation. We praise God while we live and on God’s will attend until we there arrive where song shall have no end.

Christina Angelopoulos, Alexandra Schleuderer,
Arri Lawton Simon, and Andrew Martens

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of the Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

HYMN 694

“Great God of Every Blessing”

AURELIA

SENDING

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”

Fela Sowande

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

MUSIC NOTES Florence Beatrice Smith Price (1887-1953) studied at the New England Conservatory, and taught at Clark Atlanta University. Forced to leave her native Little Rock, Arkansas due to racial tensions, she settled in Chicago, becoming the first black woman to have a symphony performed by a professional orchestra—the Chicago Symphony. Though Price’s music was overlooked in the decades following her death, a 2009 discovery of manuscripts and other papers in a dilapidated home in rural Illinois brought renewed attention. Composed in 1941, “In Quiet Mood” is one of several contemplative works for organ by Price. •Fela Sowande (1905-1987) was born in Nigeria; he studied and lived in London, and eventually settled in the United States. He became a US citizen in 1977. He was granted many honorifics in his lifetime, including Member of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as well as Member of the British Empire. Although his compositions owe much to a strong Nigerian influence, he also incorporated Western techniques; in this way, he emphasized his belief that nationalism should not go unchecked, but always be a part of the greater global community. [from *King of Kings: Organ Music of Black Composers Past and Present*, compiled and edited by James Abbingtion, GIA Publications, Inc.] “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” is a rhythmically vibrant setting of this 19th century African-American spiritual.

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 for 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 Engagement - 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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