

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Service for the Lord's Day
May 2, 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

“Partita on HYFRYDOL”

Charles Callahan

Introduction and Chorale, Andante, Trio, and Adagio

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are gathered to worship our God.

Come Holy Spirit!

We come from many places, with many burdens.

May God's Spirit work among us.

We turn our hearts to God.

**May God's Spirit be upon us,
and use us to further God's kingdom.**

Let us worship God!

HYMN 485

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

ENGLEBERG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, you are always doing a new thing,
and yet we confess that we sometimes close our minds
against the leading of the Spirit,
against the sound of other people's worries,
against the winds of change.**

**God of every place and time,
we confess that we turn our sight
away from people who are different,
away from community concerns,
away from the pain of this world.**

**Forgive us.
Open up our lives,
lead us,
and let your Spirit guide us in the ways of Christ.
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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

SERMON

“Those Disruptive Presbyterians”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 737

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

LES PETITES SOEURS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God's grace, no other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face. One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above: 'tis named when God's name is said, 'tis love, 'tis heavenly love. And every gentle heart that burns with true desire is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire. –Robert Bridges

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

SENDING

HYMN 366

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

George S. Talbot

O praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him upon the timbrels and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him on the loud cymbals.

Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

-Psalm 150

POSTLUDE

"Partita on HYFRYDOL"

Charles Callahan

Finale

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

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor for Stewardship & Mission to the Corporate World*

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Audrey Webber, *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

Rachel Farrar, Samantha Noonan, Hannah Nacheman, Elizabeth Picker,
Ryan Bauer-Walsh, Sean Fallen, Andrew Martens, and Richard Storm, *Choral Octet*
Michael Shake, *Director of Music*

MUSIC NOTES The hymn tune HYRFYDOL (pronounced HUV-RUD-OL) was composed by an amateur Welsh musician and mill worker, Roland Prichard, around 1830. Translated, *Hyfrydol* means pleasant or melodious. The tune was incorporated into English-language hymnals early in the 20th-century, and is paired to three texts in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, including Charles Wesley's beloved "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." In his partita on the hymn tune, composer and organist Charles Callahan (b. 1951) treats the melody in various ways: straightforward in the *Introduction and Chorale*, ornamented in the style of Bach for the *Andante*, delicately in the *Trio*, tenderly in the *Adagio*, and rambunctiously in the *Finale*.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930) was Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom, 1913-1930. Originally a physician, Bridges retired in 1882 to devote his life to literature. A strong Christian faith imbued his writing, which included original hymn texts and translations, as well as poetic texts which lent to musical treatment. "My eyes for beauty pine" is one of several Bridges texts set by Herbert Howells (1892-1983). The anthem is mostly in unison – the choir singing the same notes at the same time – minus one phrase, *'tis love, 'tis heavenly love*, where the choir breaks into independent parts, gloriously proclaiming the text. –Michael Shake

STAFF CONTACTS

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