

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day

June 20, 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 "Praise to the Living God" Isadore Freed

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

INTROIT Jacques Berthier

Laudate Dominum, omnes gentes, alleluia!
Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

-Taizé Community; sung in Latin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 92

Please stand in body or spirit.

It is good to give God thanks, to sing praises to the Most High!

We will sing for joy to God who has made us glad.

Let us declare God's steadfast love in the morning,

and God's faithfulness by night.

So come to worship God with thankful, joyful hearts!

Let us praise God's holy name together. Let us worship God!

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and power, we listen to our Bible stories of miracles, and doubt that these things can happen today. We look at the waves of misfortune, distress, misery, distrust, and anger and wonder how we can still those waves. We feel the pressures of power and fear flooding into our lives, threatening to drown us and wonder where you are. Forgive us for the littleness of our faith. Forgive us for our doubts. Help us to place our trust in you, Lord. Help us to fix our eyes on you and on the ministries to which you have called us. For we ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

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!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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.**

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, 1549 *Book of Common Prayer*

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16

On David's return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved. The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice. Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul.

So Saul removed him from his presence, and made him a commander of a thousand; and David marched out and came in, leading the army. David had success in all his undertakings; for the Lord was with him. When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David; for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.

SERMON

“The Opportunity of Love”

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Belhar Confession

Please stand in body or spirit.

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peace-maker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. This we believe!

OFFERTORY

Heinrich Schütz

O all ye nations, praise the Lord. O praise the Lord, all ye people. Praise ye Jehovah in His strength; all that hath life and breath, praise Jehovah. God's loving-kindness unto us is great and merciful. With heart and with voice in God rejoice; for God's truth endureth evermore. Alleluia, sing praises! Alleluia, praise ye the Lord.

—Psalm 117; Seth Bingham, adapt.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 772

“Live into Hope”

TRURO

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Heraldings”

Robert Hebble

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

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this morning is
Eloise Quinn Houser, daughter of Eve Quinn Casey and John Davis Houser;
and William McNeur Kiernan, son of Christina McNeur Kiernan and Garvin Sean Kiernan

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor for Stewardship & Mission to the Corporate World*
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*
Audrey Webber, M.Div., *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

The First Church Choir
Michael Shake, *Director of Music*

MUSIC NOTES Isadore Freed (1900-1960) studied composition with Ernest Bloch and Nadia Boulanger. Though he pursued efforts as a composer of classical music, his voice blossomed in music for synagogue and temple. Freed served congregations in Philadelphia and New York, and was one of the first faculty appointed to the School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. The Milken Archive of Jewish Music entry on Freed begins: “[Freed] was one of the small coterie of influential composers whose gifts, beginning in the 1930s and 1940s, altered the course of music for American Reform worship. [He] was instrumental in raising modern American synagogue aesthetics to new levels of sophistication and in helping Reform worship gradually shed...its stale retention of long-outdated 19th-century musical practices and predilections.” “Praise to the Living God” is a prelude on the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, translated and adapted for the church in 1770 as the hymn, “The God of Abraham Praise” (*Glory to God* hymn 49). • Robert Hebble (1934-2020) earned degrees from Yale University and The Juilliard School. Though a generation removed from Isadore Freed, Hebble also studied composition with Nadia Boulanger. His work has been described as that of a colorist: a musician whose conception of beauty finds variety in musical sounds and harmonies the way an artist mixes colors. “Heraldings,” composed for the 1982 inauguration of the large organ at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, playfully juxtaposes trumpet fanfares with a jaunty, whimsical main theme, meshed to form a brilliant conclusion. –Michael Shake

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