

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/PRIDE SUNDAY

Service for the Lord's Day

June 27, 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

“At the Ballet,” from *Five Dances*

Calvin Hampton

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

INTROIT

Austin C. Lovelace

Beloved, let us love: for love is of God; in God alone love has its true abode. Beloved, let us love: for those who love, they only, are their children from above. Beloved, let us love: for love is light, and those who do not love still live in night. Beloved, let us love: for only thus shall we see God, the Lord who first loved us.

—Horatius Bonar, based on I John 4:7

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Teach us to be like trees planted near streams of water.

We come today thirsty and weary.

Make us like trees planted near streams of water.

We come today in all our diversity and joy.

Teach us to be like trees planted near streams of water.

We come today seeking justice and loving mercy.

Make us all like trees planted near streams of water.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 315

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

NEW DIMENSIONS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church,
Oklahoma City, OK. More Light Sunday, 2005

**We give thanks, merciful God, that in Christ,
you seek to unite all things in heaven and in earth,
and to reconcile all people to one another and to you.
We confess that the new creation is not yet complete in us,
and that we feel everywhere the barriers that separate humankind.
Forgive us, and fill us with your Spirit of oneness.
Reveal to us those places where pride and selfishness
rebuild the walls once torn down in Christ;
through the power of your Spirit...**

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.

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

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago? All these years I have wandered, oh, when will I know there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done. As I wake from a dream in the gold of day, through the air there's a calling from far away, there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call, with the love in your heart as the only song;
there is no such beauty as where you belong: rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.
–Michael Dennis Browne

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERMON

“I didn't know”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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.**

OFFERTORY

Alleluia. –Biblical word of praise

Calvin Hampton

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 490

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

BEACH SPRING

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“March for a Joyous Occasion”

Conrad Susa

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

The cross which leads today's Pride procession is dedicated "In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community."

Our cross-bearer today is Meg Harper.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Hannah Faye Allred, M.Div., *Staff Associate for Congregational Care*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

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 AIDS extinguished the life of Calvin Hampton (1938-1984), one who possessed a rare combination of gifts – dynamic composer, celebrated recitalist, organ-builder, and minister of music. During his twenty years at Calvary Episcopal Church, Gramercy Park, Hampton composed new service music and hymn tunes, and created a cultural phenomenon – the weekly “Fridays at Midnight” organ recitals. His *Five Dances* premiered at the inaugural concert for the Holtkamp organ of Park Avenue Christian Church in November, 1982. Each movement is based on a repeated pattern – an ostinato – which serves as accompaniment for the melody. In “At the Ballet,” the ostinato is played in quickly repeated notes by the hands (Hampton uses the ballet term “pointe” to indicate the thought) on two contrasting sounds, with the melody arcing underneath in the feet. The ostinato technique is also heard in Hampton’s simple and affirming, “A Repeating Alleluia,” where an eight measure accompaniment repeated through the anthem undergirds the sung “alleluias.” • Conrad Susa (1935-2013) composed music for film, opera, theater, chorus, and instruments. He was resident composer for the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, and served as dramaturge for the O’Neill Center in Connecticut. “March for a Joyous Occasion” was composed for the wedding of friends in 1985. It opens with fanfare that heralds the broad main theme, followed by a gentle trio (a la Sousa marches), then returns to the theme and a final fanfare. –Michael Shake

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