

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

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## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Service for the Lord's Day*

July 25, 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 worship.*

PRELUDE

"Tu es Petrus"

Franz Liszt

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

INTROIT

*Oculi omnium in te sperant, Domine, et tu das escam illorum in tempore opportuno. Gloria tibi, Domine, Amen.*

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. Glory be to you, O Lord. Amen. —Psalm 144:15, sung in Latin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

**This place for us is Holy Ground.**

**The place where we sing songs of praise to the Lord,  
and repeat the stories of faith**

**that inspire us to respond to Christ's love.**

**God called us here,**

**in whispering winds and in burning flames,**

**and with his presence disarms us of the barriers we have placed around us.**

**Instead, God meets us in our vulnerability;  
our humanity.**

**Let us worship the Lord.**

HYMN 667

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

LAUDES DOMINI

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty Lord,**

**no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid.**

**That foundation is Jesus Christ.**

**We admit that we have not always been able to continue building on this foundation in such a way that we may become the dwelling place of God.**

**We have sometimes chosen what is easy**

**and obscured your love for this world.**

**Even when our work is lacking,**

**save us Lord.**

**Forgive us,**

**and guide us through your Spirit to work as a church.**

**Create in us an ardent love for this world**

**and enable us to work for your kingdom...**

## 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.**

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### SERMON

“Grounded”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6

**This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved,  
if we hold it fast:  
that Christ died for our sins  
according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end;  
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

### OFFERTORY

Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the morning when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home, just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

—Moses Hogan

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## SENDING

### HYMN

### “Praise the God Beyond Our Seeing”

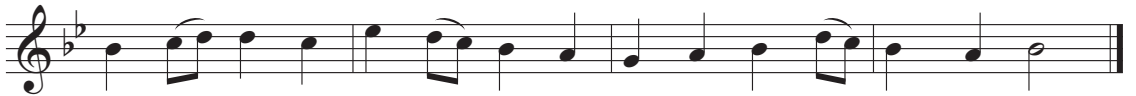
INMAN



1. Praise the God be - yond our see - ing, ar - chi - tect of time and space,
2. Praise the Word with - in our hear - ing: Christ the way, the door, the key,
3. Praise the Breath that pow - ers our prais - es: Liv - ing Spi - rit, Wind and Fire,
4. Ho - ly God, your three di - men - sions, each with mu - sic clear and strong,



weav - ing ev' - ry thread of be - ing, au - thor of the hu - man race,  
teach - ing, heal - ing, per - se - ver - ing, tor - tured, killed by law's de - cree,  
sow - ing gifts whose wealth a - maz - es, quick to com - fort and in - spire,  
in - ter - weave, re - solv - ing ten - sions, sound - ing one un - fold - ing song,



sin for - giv - ing, cap - tives free - ing, well of jus - tice, truth, and grace.  
new cre - a - tion pi - o - neer - ing, par - a - digm of what will be.  
soar - ing high a - bove earth's ra - ges, Dove of Peace, our heart's de - sire.  
You have made us, loved and saved us. May our prai - ses be life - long!

### BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

### “Grand-Choeur”

Théodore Dubois

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

### LEADING THIS MORNING

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

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** The sending hymn was created for Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta, on the dedication of its new Sanctuary in 2002. The hymn text is by celebrated hymn-poet Brian Wren, professor emeritus of worship at Columbia Theological Seminary. Wren writes, *The hymn follows the traditional sequence of praising the Three who are One (God/architect, Word/Christ, Breath/Spirit). The final stanza suggests that, just as in certain kinds of music, different melodies create one united composition, so God's threeness is a 'polyphonic' (many sounds) unity.* The hymn tune, named after the small Georgia hometown of the congregation's senior minister, was composed by Michael Shake, then Associate Organist of the church.

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