

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day

August 22, 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

“Fantasia, BWV 570”

Johann Sebastian Bach

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 84:1-5, 7, Common English Bible

Please stand in body or spirit.

How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD of heavenly forces!

My very being longs, even yearns, for the LORD's courtyards.

My heart and my body will rejoice out loud to the living God!

Yes, the sparrow too has found a home there;

the swallow has found herself a nest where she can lay her young
beside your altars, LORD of heavenly forces, my king, my God!

Those who live in your house are truly happy; they praise you constantly.

Those who put their strength in you are truly happy; pilgrimage is in their hearts.

They go from strength to strength!

HYMN 702

“Christ Be Beside Me”

BUNESSAN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you see us when we are most vulnerable.

No armor shields us from you or your love.

When we stand in the strength of your grace,

it is in full knowledge that you are our strength.

On our own, we are slow. On our own, we run from accountability.

On our own, we satisfy ourselves first.

On our own, we cry out at the slightest hurt,

yet we fail to see how our flailing hurts others.

In this moment, help us pull back and wait. Stop us from acting without thinking.

In this breath, embolden us to draw strength from you,

not to hide our vulnerability but to grow from it....

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.

SOLO

arr. Tom Fettke

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all. -Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne; vers. Eleanor Hull

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

pew Bible, page 195/large print, page 238

SERMON

“Stand Your Ground”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand in body or spirit.

from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39, NRSV

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

OFFERTORY

arr. Tom Trenney

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me; still all my song shall be nearer, my God to thee. Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! Yea, though the vale I tread, thou art with me. When shadows cloud my head, thou annoitest me. Thy rod and staff shall be comfort to shepherd me nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee. Though waters foam and roar, though mountains quake, thou art my refuge sure, though the earth should shake. Lord, strengthen and shelter me nearer, my God, to thee.

—Sarah Flower Adams; adapt. Tom Trenney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.**

SENDING

HYMN 737

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Fight the Good Fight”

DUKE STREET

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare-Processional”

David Bednall

*The congregation is invited to continue worshiping 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. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Audrey Webber, M.Div., *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

John Charles McLaughlin, *tenor*
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

Welcome to First Church!

We are so glad you are here.

Scan to give your tithe or offering.



Join us for Coffee Fellowship on the North Lawn after the Postlude to meet one another, say hello to new faces, and enjoy refreshments.

MUSIC NOTES John Charles McLaughlin is a New York based singer and actor. A member of the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players, he recently toured with their reimagined production of *The Mikado* as Nanki-Poo. Local performances include John Lawless in the 50th Anniversary concert of Disney's *The Happiest Millionaire* at Joe's Pub, *Crackskull Row* (Irish Repertory Theatre), *Hard Times*, *Peter/Wendy*, *McGoldrick's Thread*, and *The Biscuit Club* (the cell theatre). He has also recently co-starred in episodes of *FBI: Most Wanted* (CBS) and *The Plot Against America* (HBO). Originally from Hammond, IN, he is a graduate of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and a member of Actor's Equity Association. www.jcmclaughlin.com

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