

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day

August 29, 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

“Fugue on a Bird's Song, Op. 64, No. 3”

Rachel Laurin

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 139

Please stand in body or spirit.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

HYMN 14

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amazing God, you give us more than we could ever imagine.

**You give us our own bodies, the skills we have to use,
people who care for us, and your infinite love.**

We confess that you give us so much,

and yet we do not always choose to use your gifts to us for good.

**Help us to use what you have given us to share our love,
commit to justice, and spread your unbelievable peace.**

**May our anger and frustration not overcome us,
but may we rest in the comfort that**

swaddled our very beings today and always...

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

SOLO

Lois Henry

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, help me to pardon; where there is doubt, let me sow faith; where there's despair, hope; where there's darkness, light; where there's sadness, joy.

Light of the world, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

—adapted from a prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 1:17-27
pew Bible, New Testament page 229/large print, New Testament page 278

SERMON

“Using Our Birthday
Presents from God”

Audrey Webber, MDiv

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. Mark Hижle

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth; by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth. Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing, an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing, as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory! —Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.

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 708

Please stand in body or spirit.

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

SCHUMANN

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà in D Minor, BWV 538”

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today is Poppy Ruthe Bruce,
daughter of Katie Allen Bruce and Robert Michael Bruce.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Audrey Webber, M.Div., *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

Christina Angelopoulos, *soprano*
Dr. Raymond Nagem, *Guest Musician*

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 A New York City native, Christina Angelopoulos has been singing since the age of eight, when she joined the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus. Since then she has sung in over a dozen volunteer and professional choruses around the city, including serious appearances with the New York Philharmonic, and silly appearances with PDQ Bach at Carnegie Hall. A graduate of Fordham University, she also regularly sings in their University Church for special services and weddings. She is delighted to call First Presbyterian Church Choir her musical home since 1997. When not singing or working full time in publishing, she lives in Westchester with her husband and twin 11-year-old girls.

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