

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day

September 19, 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

“Méditation,” from *Trois Improvisations*

Louis Vierne;

transcribed by Maurice Duruflé

“Méditation”

Maurice Duruflé

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Please stand in body or spirit.

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?

We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask.

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

HYMN 35

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We long for wisdom, O Lord,
but prefer to listen only to ourselves.**

**We turn away from the ideas of others
and ignore the possibility and promise
that come from life together with you.**

**Most of all,
we drown out your gift of Wisdom
as she seeks to get our attention,
for we believe that we know better.**

**Forgive us, loving God.
Bring an end to the self-righteousness that ignores you,
and awaken us anew to the Wisdom that comes only from you.
Show us how to walk in your ways
and listen to your promise each and every day...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

TULON



Our hope is in no oth - er save in thee; our faith is built up -
on thy prom - ise free; Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and
sure, that in thy strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 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.**

ANTHEM

Thomas Tallis

Hear the voice and prayer of thy servants, that they make before thee this day. That thine eyes may be open toward this house day and night, ever toward this place, of which thou hast said: "My Name shall be there." And when thou hearest have mercy on them. -I Kings 8:28-30

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 3:13-4:3; 7-8a
pew Bible, New Testament page 230/large print, New Testament page 279

SERMON

"Envy: Indeed One of the Deadliest" Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand in body or spirit.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Paul Langston

God of grace and god of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour. Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! Fears and doubts that long have bound us; free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set all free. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage, lest we fail our call from thee! Amen.

-Harry Emerson Fosdick

RESPONSE

OLD HUNDERETH



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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 459

“O Word of God Incarnate”

MUNICH

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

John Rutter

God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in mine heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and in my departing.

-Sarum Primer

POSTLUDE

“Marche Triomphale, Op. 65, No. 59”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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

LEADING THIS MORNING

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor for Stewardship and 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, *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 South Lawn after the Postlude to meet one another, say hello to new faces, and enjoy refreshments.

MUSIC NOTES In the late 1920's, Louis Vierne (1870-1937), the acclaimed organist of Notre-Dame de Paris, teacher of improvisation, and arguably the most well-known organist of the day, undertook several 78 rpm disk recordings of the Notre-Dame organ, including three improvisations. Due to the limited amount of music that could be recorded on a disk side, each improvisation was under four minutes. In 1953, Vierne's former student, Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986), transcribed the improvisations for publication. Though not displaying the depth and drama of Vierne's formally composed works, they do provide a glimpse into his skill as an improviser. The Vierne "Méditation," with long melodic arcs woven throughout, is paired with a composed "Méditation" by Duruflé from 1964. Duruflé won \$3,000 (in 2021 dollars) at an improvisation competition in 1929. It is not a great leap to imagine that his "Méditation" began as an improvisation which was later written down. • Well-known to the First Church community is the hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory." The text, by former First Church associate minister, Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), was written in the summer of 1930, and sung at the opening of The Riverside Church, where Fosdick was then pastor. In 1957, Paul Langston (1928-2013), long-time dean of the Stetson University School of Music, composed a choral setting, using three of Fosdick's original five stanza text.

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