

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

HOMEcomingsunday

Service for the Lord's Day

September 12, 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

“Praeludium, BuxWV 137”

Dietrich Buxtehude

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Anglican Chant, George S. Talbot

O praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him upon the timbrels and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him on the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. -Psalm 150

HYMN 687

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

Please stand in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy and grace,
you come to us in Jesus of Nazareth
to break down the dividing walls of hostility between us:
yet we maintain walls that separate and isolate.**

**You give us the ministry of reconciliation:
yet we nurse our wounds and withhold mercy and forgiveness.**

**You ask us to acknowledge and share our wealth:
yet we refuse to recognize and relieve the poverty around us.**

**You bless our lives with boundless love:
yet we fail to witness to that love,
and so keep others from knowing you.**

**Forgive our selfishness, we pray.
Transform us by your Spirit and your Word
into that which pleases you.
Hear us now as we confess our sins in silence...**

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.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER 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.

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Ecclesiastes 3:10-12

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live.

ANTHEM

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov; ed. Clarence Dickinson

Bless the Lord, O my soul, blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

God is gracious and plenteous in mercy. He crowneth thee with loving kindness. He will not always chide, nor keep His wrath forever.

-Psalm 103:1-6

SECOND LESSON

Luke 9:57-60

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

SERMON

"Longing for Home"

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

Anton Bruckner

Os justi meditabitur sapientiam, et lingua ejus loquetur iudicium.

The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.

Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius: et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.

The law of their God is in their hearts; their
steps do not slip.

—Psalm 37:30-31

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDEREDTH

Please stand in body or spirit.



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 725

Please stand in body or spirit.

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

NYLAND

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Grand chœur dialogué”

Eugène Gigout

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

The cross which leads the procession today is dedicated
"In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community."
Our cross-bearer today is Mark Robertson.

LEADING THIS MORNING

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

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

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*

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Bulletin art: Diane Palley, Psalm 42–43, 2005, Silkscreened and sandblasted glass panels, 121.92 x 213.36 cm, Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina, © Diane Palley.

SERMON NOTES

Thank you for celebrating Homecoming 2021 with us!

Immediately following the postlude you are invited to stay, have lunch and partake in festivities out on our North and South lawns.

Lunch has been prepared by James Hollander. Tables and chairs are set up on the North lawn. Upon exiting the 5th ave doors, you can find the buffet tables to your left. Please allow our volunteers to serve you.

The South lawn will have a bounce house, bubble machines, and other outdoor lawn games. We can't wait to fellowship with one another.

On behalf of the entire staff of First Presbyterian Church, welcome home!



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.