

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service for the Lord's Day

December 5th, 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

PRELUDE

Partita on "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Bruce Neswick

Chorale
Meditation
Bicinium
Aria
Trio
Toccata

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Kathie Young and Joan Ryan

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle for peace.

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

May the God of peace shine in this world.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 96

Please stand in body or in spirit.

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

WINCHESTER NEW

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments
and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom.
Hear our prayer, O Lord...**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-8
pew Bible, Old Testament page 667/large print, Old Testament page 816

ANTHEM

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
George Frideric Handel
—Isaiah 40:5

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:1-6
pew Bible, New Testament page 60/large print, New Testament page 72

SERMON

“My Christmas To-Do List: PREPARE THE WAY”
Rev. Dr. Robert E. Dunham

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Allan Boesak, *Advent Credo*

Please stand in body or in spirit.

It is not true that creation and the human family
are doomed to destruction and loss—

**This is true: For God so loved the world
that He gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish
but have everlasting life;**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity
and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

**This is true: I have come that they may have life,
and that abundantly.**

It is not true that we are simply victims
of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

**This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,
and lo, I am with you, even until the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted,
who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

**This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions
and your old men shall have dreams.**

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice,
of human dignity of peace are not meant
for this earth and for this history—

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now,
that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit
and in truth.**

**So, let us engage Advent in hope, even hope against hope.
Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.**

**Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ – the life of the world.**

OFFERTORY

Abbie Betinis

Peace and grace be to this house where all are welcomed in; receive the guest, receive this heart: tell the Stranger, tell. *Tell the Stranger what you cannot tell those who love you and desire your joy: Tell.* Make tall your walls, make long these beams, who once believed alone; make wide the circle, feed the fire: tell the Silence, tell. *Tell the Silence what you cannot tell those who love you and desire your joy. Tell.* Blessings be upon this place, let every wound be healed, let every secret, every dream: tell the Angel, tell. *Tell the Angel what you cannot tell those who love you and desire your joy. Tell.* Peace and grace be to this house, all will be returned; let every soul be called your own, tell the Mystery, tell. *Tell the Mystery what you long to tell those who love you and desire your joy. Tell.*

—Michael Dennis Browne

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

**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.**

Sharing the Elements
Prayer after Communion

SENDING

HYMN 102

“Savior of the Nations, Come” NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Please stand in body or in spirit.

BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661”

J. S. Bach

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

The cross is dedicated
"In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community."
Our cross-bearer today is Rich Korchak.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Hannah Faye Allred, M.Div., *Staff Associate for Mission and Social Justice*

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Dunham, *Former Interim Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

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 tithes 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.

PERMISSIONS *Partita on "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry."* © 2000 Bruce Neswick. Used by permission. *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry.* Public domain. *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You.* Public domain. *And the Glory.* Public domain. *Carol of the Stranger.* Music © 2014 Abbie Betinis Music Co. (ASCAP). Words © 2013 Michael Dennis Browne. *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow.* Inclusive Words © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg. *Savior of the Nations, Come.* English Trans. Sts. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Psalm 150.* Public domain. *Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661.* Public domain.