

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

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## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Service for the Lord's Day*

January 16th, 2022 | 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

"Yoruba Lament"

Fela Sowande

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 60

**We gather to worship God,  
who creates us and loves us;  
who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;  
who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;  
who inspires children, youth, young adults,  
and people of all ages,  
to seek justice, share power,  
and live together in love and equality;  
who invites us to join the struggle  
for wholeness and wellbeing for all,  
and whose presence, grace, and love  
sustain us in our living.  
We gather to worship God.  
To God be all glory, honor, and praise!**

## HYMN

## "Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race"

TALLIS' CANON



1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we come to -  
 2. God, let us be a bridge of care con - nect - ing  
 3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O Ho - ly  
 4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with gifts of



geth - er by Your grace. God, let us be a  
 peo - ple ev - ery - where. Help us con - front all  
 Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like  
 love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,



meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.  
 fear and hate and lust for power that sep - a - rate.  
 steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.  
 grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of justice,**  
**we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires,**  
**we have not always been civil, not always humane,**  
**not always right.**  
**Guided by your Spirit,**  
**may we become instruments of your kingdom.**  
**Help us to be your witnesses,**  
**by fighting for better conditions,**  
**by crying out unceasingly for the rights of others,**  
**so that we can, with your help, change the world.**  
**Enlarge our hearts to love each other,**  
**to love our neighbor...**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## RESPONSE

Mark Miller



Dark-ness \_ can-not drive out dark-ness, \_ ha-tred \_ can-not drive out hate.



Dark-ness can-not drive out dark-ness, ha-tred \_ can-not drive out hate. On-ly



love, \_ on-ly love, \_ on-ly love can do that. On-ly love, \_ on-ly



love, \_ on-ly love, \_ on-ly love can do that. On-ly love.

## 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**

**and the power**

**and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## HISTORY PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

### ANTHEM

O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the morning when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home, just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

Moses Hogan

-Moses Hogan

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 6:1-6

When people began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that they were fair; and they took wives for themselves of all that they chose. Then the Lord said, "My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—

when the sons of God went in to the daughters of humans, who bore children to them. These were the heroes that were of old, warriors of renown.

The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

SERMON

“You can’t choose your past, but...” Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around us.**

**We refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war, and injustice.**

**We believe those around us are our siblings.**

**We believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed.**

**We believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to it.**

**This means we seek to reject revenge and retaliation.**

**We remember, “Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can.”**

**This we believe.**

#### OFFERTORY

Tom Trenney

Father, Mother, God, thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days. For then we have you to lean upon. Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days, for then we can share that which we have with those who have less. Thank you for your presence during the holy days, for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends. For those who have no voice, we ask you to speak. For those who feel unworthy, we ask you to pour your love out in waterfalls of tenderness. For those who live in pain, we ask you to bathe them in the river of your healing. For those who are lonely, we ask you to keep them company. For those who are depressed, we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope. Father, Mother, God, you, the borderless sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—peace.  
—“Prayer,” Maya Angelou

#### 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 339

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LIFT EVERY VOICE

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Passacaglia”

David Hurd

## LEADING THIS MORNING

Hannah Faye Allred, M.Div., *Staff Associate for Mission and Social Justice*  
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

First Church Choir  
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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