

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

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2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER/EARTH CARE SUNDAY

*Service for the Lord's Day*

April 24th, 2022

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Sanford Robinson Gifford, *A Gorge in the Mountains (Katerskill Clove)*, 1862, oil on canvas.

# WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

*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.*

Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York. Over 800 members call this place our spiritual home and we are grateful you are worshiping with us today. We believe First Church is a community of people called to stand on the intersection of faith and life as we witness to the love, grace and justice of God for all people.

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, I pray today's service will be a blessing for you. If this is your first time here, a member of the pastoral staff would love to greet you at the door and answer any questions you may have about the life and ministries of this church.

We are glad you are here. May you experience God's welcome in this place today!

Greg Stovell  
*Senior Pastor*

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Join us for Coffee Fellowship on the North Lawn after the Postlude to meet one another, say hello to new faces, and enjoy refreshments.

## GET INVOLVED



## GIVE



## INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Variations on *Now the Green Blade Rises*”

Philip Moore

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Let us worship God together.

Let us sing to the Lord a new song;  
a song for and with all the creatures of the earth.

**Let us rejoice in what God has created. It is good!**

Let us marvel at the creatures that are wonderful in God's sight.

**Let us rejoice in God's handiwork.**

May the God who gathers us this day  
call us to stand in awe at the richness of the world.

**May every creature give God praise!**

**Let us worship God.**

HYMN

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

AUSTRIAN HYMN



1. God, you spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, fill the seas and spread the plain,  
2. You have called us to be faith-ful in our life and min-is-try.  
3. God, your word is still cre-at-ing, call-ing us to life made new.



mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.  
We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship joined in one com-mu-ni-ty.  
Now re-veal to us fresh vis-tas where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre-at-ed in your im-age, would a true re-flec-tion be  
When we blur your gra-cious im-age, fo-cus us and make us whole.  
Keep us clear of all dis-tor-tion. Pol-ish us with lov-ing care.



of your jus-tice, grace, and mer-cy and the truth that makes us—free.  
Healed and strength-ened as your peo-ple, we move on-ward toward your goal.  
Thus, new crea-tures in your im-age, we'll pro-claim Christ ev-ery-where.

# CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The earth, and all that is within it, is yours, Lord God.  
Every creature great and small,  
you made and cherish them all.  
We confess, Creator God,  
too often we have exploited rather than loved your good earth.  
We confess our selfishness,  
and lack of regard for the air and sea,  
the dirt beneath our feet,  
and the living beings dependent upon an unpolluted world.  
Forgive us gracious God. Have mercy.  
Turn our ways that we may fulfill our calling to care for your creation.  
May we join the beauty of the earth,  
in praising your holy name...

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## RESPONSE

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA; Tanzanian melody

Christ has a - ris - en to set us free.  
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;

Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.  
he reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy. Death's fear - ful  
sing he has come to de - stroy. Our sin for - giv - ing,

al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

## SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

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

## CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND 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.**

## MOMENT FOR MISSION

### HEARING THE WORD

#### FIRST LESSON

Psalm 104:24-35  
*pew Bible, Old Testament page 555/large print, Old Testament page 683*

#### ANTHEM

Dutch melody, 17th cent.; harm. Alice Parker  
The text can be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 249.

#### SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:12-13  
*pew Bible, New Testament page 234/large print, New Testament page 284*

#### SERMON

“Now that I know...”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

The Apostles' Creed

**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**

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: *Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.* For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: *Lord of all.....* For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Lord of all.....* For each perfect gift of thine to the world so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth, and buds of heaven: *Lord of all.....*

-Folliott S. Pierpont

**DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God all crea - tures  
 high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
 God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it  
 one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SENDING**

**HYMN 715**

“The Earth Belongs to God Alone”

SIMMONS

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

“Fanfare”

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

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

## LEADING THIS MORNING

Audrey Webber, *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*  
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*  
Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*  
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

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### Today

9 a.m.- 5p.m. Creatives Create Submission Drop Off  
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Theology  
11:00 a.m. Earth Care Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m. Church School  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
1-3:00 p.m. Neighborhood Clean-Up  
1:30 p.m. Literary Group

### Monday

5:30 p.m. Qigong

### Tuesday

6:00 p.m. PRISM - College Ministry

### Thursday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer Writing

### Friday

7:00 p.m. Current Events

### Saturday

10:15 a.m. St. Joe's Soup Kitchen

### Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Theology  
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m. Church School  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Creatives Create Opening

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Earth Day** Join us today, Sunday, April 24th, Earth Day Sunday from 1-3 p.m., for our family-friendly neighborhood clean-up event. Meet on the north lawn.

**Calling all Creatives** For Earth Day 2022, we are celebrating our church grounds and garden. Any artistic creation that is inspired by, or connected to, our church garden and grounds is welcome. Works are due today, Earth Day Sunday, April 24th. The exhibition and performances will run May 1- June 12. Drop off your submission at the front desk.

**Harry Emerson Fosdick - 100 years later - Shall the Fundamentalists Win?** The quest by the religious right to ensure one-size-fits-all dogmatic adherence and exclusion of those with differing beliefs has been a source of division in recent years, but it's not new. As we commemorate in May 2022 the 100th Anniversary of Harry Emerson Fosdick's groundbreaking sermon "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?" which changed the national discussion around religious tolerance a century ago, we have invited five national faith leaders to reflect on similar themes for our world today. Hear these much-needed prophetic voices preach every Sunday in May.

**Lecture on Harry Emerson Fosdick** Who was former pastor Harry Emerson Fosdick? What is Fosdick's "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?" sermon about? What was controversial about it? Why did it cause such national controversy? What was scandalous about it? How did a single sermon shape the ministry of First Church for years to come? What was the historical context in NYC at the time of its delivery?

Dr. Brad Longfield, professor of Church History at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary will address these questions in a lecture on Saturday, May 14th at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor. A light lunch will be served during the Q&A section following the lecture. No reservation is needed.

**2022 Pledge Invitation** Join us in our 2022 pledge campaign! Make your 2022 pledge by emailing [fpcbo@fpcnyc.org](mailto:fpcbo@fpcnyc.org) or visit our website.

**Inquirers Class** This Saturday morning session introduces the history and organization of our Church, what the Church and Congregation believe, what to expect in membership, dialogue on service and learning, and an opportunity to join. Join us for our next class on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. To register, please contact Lisa Polite at 212.675.6150 or [lpolite@fpcnyc.org](mailto:lpolite@fpcnyc.org).



# SHALL THE FUNDAMENTALISTS WIN?

## MAY 2022

**HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK - 100 YEARS LATER**

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fosdick's groundbreaking sermon preached in this church, we have invited some of the best preachers in the country to deliver their own versions of Fosdick's sermon for the 21st century.

**MAY 1**  
**BRIAN MCLAREN** SHALL THE 21ST CENTURY FUNDAMENTALISTS WIN?

**MAY 8**  
**SHANNON KERSHNER** SHALL FEAR WIN?

**MAY 15**  
**ANGELA BUCHDAHL** SHALL ECONOMIC INJUSTICE WIN?

**MAY 15**  
**JAMES FORBES** SHALL WHITE SUPREMACISTS WIN?

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