

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Service for the Lord's Day
May 22nd, 2022



John August Swanson, *Festival of Lights*, 2000, hand-printed serigraph.

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 worshipping 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

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?



GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Adoration”

Florence Price; arr. Elaine Fine

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord our God,
maker of heaven and earth,
who comes to our aid in times of need,
who gives us the courage to do what we know is right,
who invites us to turn away from the influences of the world around us
and confess Christ alone as Savior and Lord.
This is our God!
Let's worship together.**

HYMN 301

“Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost,
and wonder why we cannot find you.
We wander the corridors of power,
while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless.
We sit at the head tables of the world,
while you are on the streets feeding the hungry.
We applaud those who win the race,
while you are cheering on those in last place.
In forgiving us, God of new life,
transform our hearts into those melted in service to others.
In granting us mercy,
challenge us to think of all those whose voices are silenced.
In gifting us with grace,
enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
who is the hope of the world...**

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
sting he has come to de - stroy. Our sin for - giv - ing,

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

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE AND 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.**

ANTHEM

African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer

We are climbing Jacob's ladder, soldiers of the cross. Ev'ry round goes higher, higher;
soldiers of the cross. Sinner do you love your Jesus? Soldiers of the cross. If you love Him
why not serve Him, soldiers of the cross.

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 16:13-18

pew Bible, New Testament page 18/large print, New Testament page 22

SECOND LESSON

Acts 12:20-24

pew Bible, New Testament page 131/large print, New Testament page 160

SERMON

"Shall White Supremacy Win?" Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from a Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)

Please stand in body or spirit.

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

OFFERTORY

Mark A. Miller

God's got the whole world in God's hands. God has you and me, God's got you and me in those hands
-African American spiritual; adapt. Mark A. Miller

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 766

Please stand in body or spirit.

“The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”

MC KEE

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”

Fela Sowande

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

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, *Senior Minister Emeritus – The Riverside Church*

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

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor for Stewardship and Mission to the Corporate World*

Audrey Webber, M.Div., *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

The First Church Choir

Arthur Fiacco, *cello*

Arri Lawton Simon, *piano*

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

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
12-2 p.m. Open Gallery Hours
1:30 p.m. Literary Group
2 p.m. Creatives Create Performances

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Screening of *My Name is Pauli Murray*

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

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
12-2 p.m. Open Gallery Hours

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creatives Create! The celebration continues. Join us today, May 22 at 2 p.m. as FPC's performing artists share work inspired by our garden. This week's performances will include musical performances and will be held in the Great Hall. A reception will follow on the south lawn.

Screening of *My Name is Pauli Murray* Tuesday, May 24, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Join us at the church for a screening of the documentary *My Name is Pauli Murray*, followed by a Q&A with Betsy West, one of the directors.

Art at First Spring Reading Event Join us Sunday, June 5 at 2 p.m. for a collection of readings inspired by the spring. This event is held by our Art at First Action Group. A reception will follow on the lawn.

Coffee Fellowship This week coffee fellowship will take place on the south lawn. We hope you will join us!

Juneteenth Event at Carnegie Hall The congregation is invited to join the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. at a Juneteenth evening at Carnegie Hall at 7:00 pm, June 19. Dr. Forbes will bring a message to the nation on Reimagining Togetherness in a star studded evening with music, song, dance and commentary. Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. For more information go to www.juneteenthus.info.

Graduation Sunday is June 12th! We have a special request for all of our graduates. For anyone who is graduating this year (middle school, high school, college, everyone!) please send Audrey (awebber@fpcnyc.org) your graduate's name, from where they are graduating, and if possible, a picture of your graduate.

WELCOME REV. DR. JAMES A. FORBES

Today we welcome Dr. Forbes to the pulpit. Known as the preacher's preacher, Forbes was the first African-American to be appointed as Senior Pastor of the Riverside Church where he served for 18 years. During his tenure, Riverside grew and became instrumental in redeveloping the neighborhood. He is the founder and president of the Healing for the Nations Foundation, a national ministry focused on peace and justice.

Dr. Forbes has served as professor of preaching at Union Seminary and was twice designated as one of America's greatest Black preachers by Ebony Magazine. He is the author of several books, a featured TED speaker and frequent preacher at denominational and national gatherings. Welcome to First Church Dr. Forbes!

MAY 2022

SHALL THE FUNDAMENTALISTS WIN?

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 THE UNTROUBLED CERTAIN WIN?



**MAY 22
JAMES
FORBES**

SHALL WHITE SUPREMACISTS WIN?

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