

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

ASCENSION SUNDAY/SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Service for the Lord's Day

May 29th, 2022



Winslow Homer, *Camp Fire*, 1880, 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

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

“Praise to the Living God”

Isadore Freed

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

We gather together to worship the God of our fathers and mothers—
the God of Abraham and Sarah, of Miriam and Moses—
who hears the cries of the people and comes to their aid;
who meets us on holy ground and calls us to follow;
who invites us to leave our ways behind,
take up our cross,
and discover what it means to truly live.

This is our God!

Let us worship together.

HYMN 49

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Redeeming God,
out of the flames of your creation, your voice calls,
marking us as your own.
Yet there are times when we choose to ignore your voice,
and listen instead to our own needs and desires.
Forgive us for those times;
when we have ignored the needs of others;
when we have failed to place our feet upon your path;
when we allow the earthly voice to distract us from your call.
In your loving voice,
you offer again your invitation to know your love,
to be loved, and to respond to your call.
In hearing your voice
may we find our place...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

O God of earth and altar, bow down and hear our cry; our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die; the walls of gold entomb us, the swords of scorn divide; take not Your thunder from us, but take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches, from lies of pen and voice, from all the easy speeches that make our hearts rejoice, from sale and profanation of honor and the sword, from sleep and from damnation, deliver us, good Lord!

Awaken us to action and forge us into one, defying sect and faction; O God, Your will be done! Oppressive systems snare us; our apathies increase. Great God, in mercy spare us for justice and for peace!

—George Keith Chesterton and Jane Parker Huber

PASSION CHORALE

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

pew Bible, Old Testament page 50/large print, Old Testament page 62

SERMON

“Find Thy Burning Bush”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

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

Harold W. Friedell

King of glory, King of peace, I will love Thee; and that love may never cease, I will move Thee. Thou hast granted my request, Thou hast heard me; Thou didst note my working breast, Thou hast spared me. Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing Thee, and the cream of all my heart I will bring Thee. Though my sins against me cried, Thou didst clear me; and alone, when they replied, Thou didst hear me. Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise Thee; in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise Thee. Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll Thee: even eternity's too short to extol Thee.

-George Herbert

DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Please stand in body or spirit.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures
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 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.**

SENDING

HYMN 69

Please stand in body or spirit.

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

HERE I AM (Schutte)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Phoenix Processional”

Dan Locklair

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

TODAY WE BAPTIZE

Scott Michael Toresco

TODAY WE WELCOME AS NEW MEMBERS:

Sherlander Shermaine Leo-Meredith

Bonnie Lewis

Dale Lewis

Hayley Shaw Morris

Christen Suzanne Paras

Scott Michael Toresco

LEADING THIS MORNING

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

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

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

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

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

Wednesday
12:30 p.m. Bible Study

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
2 p.m. Creatives Create Spring Reading

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creatives Create Performances: Shall We Gather in the Garden The celebration continues. Join us next Sunday, June 5 at 2 p.m. for our last Creatives Create performances featuring a variety of poetry, short plays, readings, and musical performances inspired by gardens. A reception on the lawn will follow the event.

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

Do You Have Your House in Order? The Elder Committee encourages you to attend a forum on Sunday, June 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the Morrow Room to participate in a discussion with Matthew Raphan, Esq., one of our elder lawyers, on the importance of having an up-to-date Health Proxy and Advocate, Power of Attorney and a Will. There will be a Q/A too.

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.

Vacation Bible School VBS is scheduled for July 25-28 this year! We hope you will mark your calendars and join us for these special days! Sign up link can be found in our First Matters Weekly Newsletter. Interested in volunteering? Email Audrey Webber (awebber@fpcnyc.org) to volunteer!

Summer Choir The First Church Choir invites you to join them to lead worship this summer! The choir will meet every Sunday, June 12 through July 31, at 9:30 a.m. to rehearse music for 11:00 a.m. worship. Participation is flexible – sing one or more Sundays of your choosing. Interested? Contact Michael Shake (mshake@fpcnyc.org)

Memorial Service for Rev. Dick Pease All are welcome to a memorial service for Rev. Dick Pease on Saturday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. streamed live on our YouTube Channel.

PRIDE SUNDAY

JUNE 26

WORSHIP @ 11:00AM

MARCH AND WATER TABLE FOLLOWING

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