

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
*Service for the Lord's Day*  
May 8th, 2022

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British Painter (ca. 1830), *Tottenham Church*

# 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

"In Quiet Mood"

Florence Price

"Her Children Rise Up and Call Her Blessed"

Margaret Vardell  
Sandresky

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

The Holy One is in our midst:

**equipping us for life in the service of Christ.**

In Christ we are more than conquerors,

**for nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God!**

May the all surpassing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And the unshakable love of God be with you.**

The joyous communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you! Let us worship God.**

HYMN 263

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

CORONATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God,**

**we confess that we do not always love our neighbor.**

**We confess that we have despised others,  
even to the point of hatred.**

**We confess that we have been hurt by others.**

**We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times  
are just impossible for us.**

**We know that nothing is impossible in you.**

**We come to you, seeking healing and wholeness for us.**

**Help us to live in peace with others,**

**to seek reconciliation, healing and forgiveness.**

**Hear us as we open our hearts to you in silence...**

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 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.**

## MOMENT FOR MISSION

Elder Jeff Nichols

## ANTHEM

Johann Sebastian Bach

God is our hope and strength, all heaven and earth adore him. Renew eternal praise and all worship before him! For all things are of God and in all things is God. The works that aye have been and ever more shall be. Honor and thanks to God who wrought this world's creation. To taste of heavenly joy in death and tribulation. We praise God while we live and on God's will attend until we there arrive where song shall have no end.

## HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:31-39  
*pew Bible, New Testament page 158/large print, New Testament page 192*

SERMON

“Shall Fear Win?”

Rev. Shannon Kershner

## 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

arr. Jake Runestad

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness fails me never. I nothing lack if I  
am His, and He is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow with gentle care  
He leads me, and where the verdant pastures grow, with heavenly food He feeds me.  
In death’s dark vale I fear no ill, with you, dear Lord, beside me; Your rod and staff  
my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me. And so through all the length of days,  
Your goodness fails me never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise within Your  
house forever.  
-Henry Williams Baker

## 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 815

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

FESTAL SONG

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

“Happiness! Happiness!”

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

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

## LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

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

Rev. Shannon Kershner, *Guest Preacher*

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

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

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### 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  
12-2:00 p.m. Open Gallery Hours

### Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Visual Arts Bible Study

### 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

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Theology  
10:00 a.m. Aids Walk  
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m. Church School  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Youth Group  
12-2:00 p.m. Open Gallery Hours

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

**Creatives Create** Join us for the opening of our newest show featuring works of art inspired by our church garden and grounds. Visit the Great Hall Gallery for the show and join us next Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m. for our performances.

**Aids Walk is back and First Church is sponsoring a team!** You can sign up to join the team, raise money and/or walk at coffee hour today, May 8. The walk is on May 15th. For more information contact Jeff Nichols at [jjnichols@gmail.com](mailto:jjnichols@gmail.com).

**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).

## WELCOME REV. SHANNON KERSHNER

Today we welcome the Rev. Shannon Kershner to our pulpit. Shannon is the Senior Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, a church of nearly 5500 members in the heart of the city. Shannon has served congregations in Texas, Georgia and North Carolina. She also served as a member of the strategy team of the NEXT Church movement, an organization committed to strengthening connections among church leaders and equipping congregations to seek justice, peace and reconciliation. Shannon's sermons have been published in the Journal for Preachers and Lectionary Homiletics, and she has been a preacher and worship leader in various preaching conferences. Welcome to First Church Shannon Kershner!

**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  
MCCLAREN  
SHALL THE 21ST CENTURY FUNDAMENTALISTS WIN?**

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

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

**MAY 22  
JAMES  
FORBES  
SHALL WHITE SUPREMACISTS WIN?**

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