

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

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE

Service for the Lord's Day

September 11th, 2022 | 11 a.m.



Georges de La Tour, *The Newborn Child*, c.1645, 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 “*Nimrod*, from Variations on an Original Theme, Op. 36” Edward Elgar

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Loving God,
with faithfulness you hold us fast,
even in times of evil and fear.
Help us to love as you love
and to seek the good that you desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

HYMN 687

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Remember, O God, the people of this world,
divided into many nations, religions and tongues.
Deliver us from every evil
that stands in the way of your saving purpose
and fulfill the promise of peace on earth
among those with whom you are well pleased.
Help us find a new way God.
Forgive the hatred in this world.
Forgive our thirst for revenge.
Forgive all pride and self-reliance that turns its back on you.
Deliver us from any words or deeds that encourage division and hatred.
Shower us with your light,
that we may obey your calling to be light in this world.
Take away the sin of the world, and grant us your peace...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Daniel Gawthrop

In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poets' gloss. Words alone are vain and vacant, and my heart is mute. In response to aching silence, memory summons half-heard voices, and my soul finds primal eloquence, and wraps me in song.

If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby. If you would win my heart, sing me a love song. If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem, sing me to heaven.

Touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure, touch in me grief and comfort; love and passion, pain and pleasure. Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem. Love me, comfort me, bring me to God

Sing me a love song, sing me to heaven.

-Jane Griner

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-10

pew Bible, Old Testament page 180/large print, Old Testament page 220

PSALM

Psalm 144:1-2, 4-5, 7, 9

Setting: Abbie Betinis

Blessed be the Lord,
my rock and my fortress,
my stronghold, my deliverer,
my shield and he in whom I take refuge.

We are like breath,
our days are like a passing shadow.

Bow thy heavens, O Lord, come down!
Stretch forth thy hand from on high,
rescue me, deliver me.

I will sing a new song to thee, O God.

SERMON

"Perfect Light. Imperfect Lamps."

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Romans 8:37-39

**In all these things we are more than conquerors
through the One who has loved us.**

**And we are convinced that neither death, nor life
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor earthly powers,
nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

OFFERTORY

Johannes Brahms

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth for the courts of the Lord. My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God. O blest are they that dwell in thy house: they praise thy name evermore. -Psalm 84:1, 2, 4

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Please stand in body or spirit.



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.

COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

HYMN 802

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

ST. COLUMBA

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

Anglican Chant, George S. Talbot

O praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him upon the timbrels and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him on the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. -Psalm 150

POSTLUDE

“Prelude on Psalm 40:1-3”

Craig Phillips

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

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

The cross which leads the procession today is dedicated
“In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community.”
Our cross-bearer today is Sam Ogundare.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

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

Friday

6:30 p.m. Movie Night
7:00 p.m. Current Events

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Adult Learning

Saturday

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

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer Writing

Next Sunday

11:00 a.m. Homecoming Sunday
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Bible Study Returns. On Zoom and in the library at 12:30 pm every Wednesday through September 21st. We begin with an overview of navigating around the Bible looking at genres and ordering of the books of the Bible.

Join us for prayer writing on Thursday mornings at 8:30 am on Zoom through September 29th. This is a great way to start the day! Writing is not shared, and all levels of writers are welcome!

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2022 – September 16th – 18th! We have a whole weekend planned to celebrate the start of the program year! Activities including Friday movie night, a day of fellowship on Sunday, and more.

Join us for the Young Adults Action Group's fall movie series. We will screen Grease on September 16th. Event starts at 7:30 p.m. on the north lawn, with doors opening at 7:00 p.m. Popcorn, refreshments, and blankets will be provided.

Join us our Inquirer's Class on September 17th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm to learn more about what our church has to offer, how to become a member, how to get involved, and more.

Church School for all children returns Sunday, September 18 during worship service. We are starting a new curriculum called "Follow Me." Join us this fall as we begin with a series about being peacemakers.

Join us for Coffee and Theology beginning on September 18th before Sunday worship on Zoom and in-person at 9:30 am until October 2nd. We will connect with our Wednesday Study of the Bible in three years.

Children, Youth, Teachers – all kinds of all ages! Please join us for a special blessing of the backpacks on Sunday, September 18, during worship! Feel free to bring your backpack to be blessed during the Children's Prayer.

Church World Services needs donations. They are currently facing a massive influx of refugees from Ukraine, Haiti, and other countries. Toiletry donations can be dropped off in the lobby of the **Mellin-Macnab Building** and we will deliver them to Jersey City.

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

**FRIDAY
MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us for a showing of *Grease*. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. - Show starts at 7:30 p.m.. Popcorn, refreshments, & blankets provided.

**INQUIRER'S
CLASS**

Join us to learn more about what our church has to offer. Class runs from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Find out how to become a member, how to get involved, & more.

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP &
FELLOWSHIP**

Worship service at 11 a.m.. Light lunch fellowship and live music by The Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corps Band following church.

HOMECOMING 2022

SEPTEMBER 16-18

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