

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

HOMECOMING SUNDAY
Service for the Lord's Day
September 18th, 2022 | 11 a.m.



The Rose Window, Wei Chao, 2020, photograph.

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

“Fanfare on Psalm 80:1-3”

John Cook

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
Raise a song, sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.
Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our festal day.

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Christopher Tye

Please stand in body or spirit.

O come, you servants of the Lord, and praise God’s holy name; from early morn to setting sun God’s might on earth proclaim. The laws of God are just and right, they make the heart rejoice: O praise the Lord, with heart, and soul, and voice. –paraphrase of Psalm 113:1, 3

HYMN 667

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-ever-with-us:

you draw us near to your heart,
so that, cradled in compassion,
we might see the brokenness of all who are around us.

Yet we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.

Have mercy on us.

Teacher-beside-us:

you draw us near to yourself,
so that, by following you,
we may discover the deep joy of serving the broken of the world.

Yet we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.

Have mercy on us.

Spirit-within-us:

you draw near to us with your peace,
so that, reconciled and restored to God,
we may be the healers to a world shattered by despair.

Yet we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.

Have mercy on us.

God-in-community, hear our prayers and grant us your peace...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

NETTLETON

Sing no emp - ty al - le - lu - ias. Sing no va - pid songs of praise.

Sing in - stead the song of jus - tice, let it roll through all our days:

God has called us to act just - ly; God has called us to be kind;

God has called us to be hum - ble, lov - ing all - heart, soul, and mind.

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the prayers. Following the Lord's Prayer, all children are invited to the Parlor for Church School and should be picked up there by their parents at the end of the worship service.

**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.**

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 23:1-12
pew Bible, New Testament page 25/large print, New Testament page 31

ANTHEM

John Huston

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him and speak good of his name. For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth from generation to generation. 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 100, and the Lesser Doxology

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus,
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!
This we believe. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Ned Rorem

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love, who, from yon bright throne above, ever watchful
o'er our race, still to us extends his grace. Heaven and earth by him were made; all is
by his scepter swayed; what are we that he should show so much love to us below? God,
the merciful and good, bought us with the Savior's blood, and, to make salvation sure,
guides us by his Spirit pure. Sing, my soul, adore his Name! Let his glory be thy theme:
praise him till he calls thee home; trust his love for all to come. -Anonymous, ca. 1800

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 320

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

WAREHAM

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà, Op. 104”

Joseph Jongen

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

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*
Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

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

WORSHIP NOTE John Huston served First Church from 1956 until his unexpected death in 1975. A native of Greenville, Texas, Huston was a graduate of The University of Texas and the School of Sacred Music at Union Seminary. Before coming to First Church he served Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Brooklyn. In 1962 he was appointed organist and choirmaster at Temple Emanu-El where he succeeded Robert Baker. An obituary in *The Diapason* magazine noted: “He enjoyed an extensive career as an organ recitalist; he was a frequently published composer of music for the church, and he presented over the years a distinguished series of oratorio performances at First Church and an equally distinguished series of organ recitals at Temple Emanu-El. But he probably would have preferred to be remembered for his service playing, at which he was one of the acknowledged masters.”

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Theology
11:00 a.m. Homecoming Sunday
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Thursday 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
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are Now a “Mask Welcoming” Church thanks to a Session vote on Wednesday, September 7th! This means that, while masks will not be required on church grounds, anyone is welcome to wear one based on their personal preferences and health needs.

The First Presbyterian Church Nursery School is now accepting applications for admission for the 2023-2024 school year! The option of Early Decision notification is offered to applicants whose parent(s) are active Church Members, and who have joined the Church by October 2020. For more information visit fpcns.org/admissions.

Conversational Spanish is back! Do you want to improve your Spanish while learning about the culture and history of Spanish-speaking countries? Starting on September 28th, join us Wednesday's at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. This conversational class is open to students of all levels!

Art at First invites you to the reception for the STOP THE INVASION Art Show on Sunday, October 2 from noon to 4 p.m.! Gallery hours will run on Sundays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. in The Great Hall Gallery until October 30th.

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

Join us for the finale of the Young Adults Action Group's fall movie series. We will screen Ghostbusters on October 28th. The 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.

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 until September 30th and we will deliver them to Jersey City.

Church School begins today for children of all ages! After the Children's Prayer each week, children gather in the Parlor for music and stories. Today's lesson focuses on Matthew 5:9 and what it means to be a peacemaker.

ATTENTION!



First Church is a mask welcoming congregation

*Masks will not be required on church
grounds but individuals are welcome
to wear one based on their personal
preferences and health needs*



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in the City of New York*

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