

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day

September 4th, 2022 | 11 a.m.



The Reformation, represented by Martin Luther, 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

“Adagio, from Symphonie VI”

Charles-Marie Widor

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

God has set before us life and death.

We long to choose life.

God has set before us blessings and curses.

We long to choose blessings.

So we gather this morning in the presence of God.

We gather to worship, receive blessings, and answer God’s call.

Let us share in God’s Word today.

Let us worship God with joy!

HYMN 182

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

KINGSFOLD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,
we confess that we have tried to hide from you,
for we have done wrong.**

**We have lived for ourselves
and apart from you.**

**We have turned from our neighbors
and refused to bear the burdens of others.**

**We have ignored the pain of the world
and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.**

**In your great mercy, forgive our sins
and free us from selfishness,
that we may choose your will
and obey your commandments;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

TWO OAKS

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe-ly live,
 a place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give.
 Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
 here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions: all are wel - come;
 all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

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

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
pew Bible, Old Testament page 186/large print, Old Testament page 233

ANTHEM

The text may be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 645.

arr. Mark Hijleh

SECOND LESSON

Philemon 1:1-25
pew Bible, New Testament page 215/large print, New Testament page 263

SERMON

“When it’s easier to do what’s wrong.” Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Antonín Dvorák

Songs of gladness will sing thee, telling thy praises on a psaltery. Oh, let my song find favor in thine eyes. I will delight in exalting thee every day will I bless thy name and I shall sing to my Savior. Lord my God, thou art all my delight, and great is thy mercy. And who shall declare all thy greatness and thy glory? Oh glory and honor to thee and thy works. Thy greatness my song shall extol, and praise thy mercy. Yea, all shall tell of thy great mercy and love thy wondrous insight. And I shall loudly sing of thy glory and power.
-based on Psalm 145:1-7 and 144:9

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 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 754

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

BARONITA

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Est-ce Mars, SwWV 321”

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

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

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Elder Nadya Robinson, *liturgist*

Margaret McGovern, *mezzo-soprano*
Colin Fowler, *Guest Organist*

WORSHIP NOTE We welcome staff singer Margaret McGovern and organist Colin Fowler to our worship today. Margaret (Maggie) McGovern is completing her Master of Music in vocal performance at the Aaron Copland School of Music. She earned an undergraduate degree in vocal performance at Plymouth State University where she enjoyed performing in many musical theater productions. Margaret is greatly looking forward to stepping into the professional music world, and exploring the wealth of opportunities available in New York City and beyond. Margaret joined the First Church Choir in September 2021.

Colin Fowler is the music director for the Mark Morris Dance Group. Hailed by the *New York Times* as “invaluable” and “central to Morris’ music,” he has performed over 50 pieces with the company on almost every keyboard instrument possible. A versatile musician and conductor, Colin works in many areas of the music scene in New York City. He is a veteran of numerous Broadway shows, including the Tony Award winning musicals *42nd Street*, *In the Heights*, and *Jersey Boys*. A seasoned church musician, he has previously served as the Music Director at the Park Avenue Synagogue and Calvary Baptist Church. A Kansas City native, Colin earned the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from The Julliard School.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

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

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Adult Learning

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

11:00 a.m. September 11th Worship Service
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Learning

Wednesday Bible Study - 12:30 p.m. Hybrid, (library) Sept. 7, 14, 21
The Bible in Three Years!

We begin with an overview of "finding your way around the Bible" looking at genres and ordering of the books of Bible, followed by sessions on the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke.

Thursday Morning Prayer Writing

8:30 a.m., Virtual, Sept 8, 15, 22, 29

Join us for prayer writing on Thursday mornings. These 20 minute sessions of meditation and writing is a great way to start your day! Writing prompts around scripture and readings, this fall focused on Anne Lamott classic about prayer, "Help, Thanks, Wow." Writing is not shared, beginners and all are welcome!

Coffee and Theology

9:30 a.m. Hybrid (Morrow Room) Sept. 18, 25 and October 2

Join this dynamic study before worship as we connect with our Wednesday Study of the Bible in three years. We start the fall with a series about the Seasons of the Church Year and how those are connected to various "reading tables" of reading through the Bible of three years, sometimes also called a lectionary.

Join us for the Young Adults Action Group's fall movie series. In honor of the late, great Olivia Newton-John, we will show the classic musical Grease on September 16th, and on October 28th, we will show the critically acclaimed comedy Ghostbusters.

Both events start at 7:30 p.m. on the north lawn, with doors opening at 7:00 p.m.

There will be popcorn, drinks, and blankets available. We hope you can make it to both events.

CWS needs your help! Church World Services in Jersey City is currently facing a massive influx of refugees from Ukraine, Haiti, and other countries. They run a free store for customers to shop after they enroll and must constantly restock their items.

Here's how you can assist! A table in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building is accepting toiletry donations (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.). Items can be dropped off at the church and we will deliver them to Jersey City.

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. Look out for full details in subsequent bulletins.

SEPTEMBER 11TH WORSHIP

Join us on Sunday, September 11th for Worship as we commemorate the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The day begins with the sanctuary open for prayer and reflection at 8:30 am. Our 9/11 memorial service starts at 11 a.m. followed by our coffee fellowship on the lawn.

REMEMBERANCE & HOPE

September 11

Worship Service

11 a.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 212-675-6150



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