

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

REFORMATION SUNDAY
Service for the Lord's Day
October 30th, 2022 | 11 a.m.



The Reformation, 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

“Festival Prelude on EIN’ FESTE BURG”

William Faulkes

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Heinrich Schütz

O praise God’s name together, you servants of the Lord. Within your holy temple, before your sacred throne, the chosen heirs of Jacob proclaim you God alone! Your name, O God Almighty endures for endless days; and newborn generations unite to sing your praise.

–Psalm 135, selected verses; Michael Morgan, para.

OPENING PRAYER

Please stand in body or spirit.

Come, Lord God, to receive our worship.

Come, Lord Jesus, to receive our praise.

Come, Holy Spirit, to receive our thanks.

Come, eternal three-in-one God,

come where we are gathered

to celebrate our unity as your body, the church.

We share one faith and are of one soul and one mind,

which belong solely and wholly to you. Amen.

HYMN 321

“The Church’s One Foundation”

AURELIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ;

we pray for the unity of your Church.

Pardon all our pride and our lack of faith,

of understanding and of charity,

which are the causes of our divisions.

Deliver us from narrow-mindedness,

from our bitterness,

from our prejudices.

Teach us to recognize the gifts of grace

among all those who call upon you

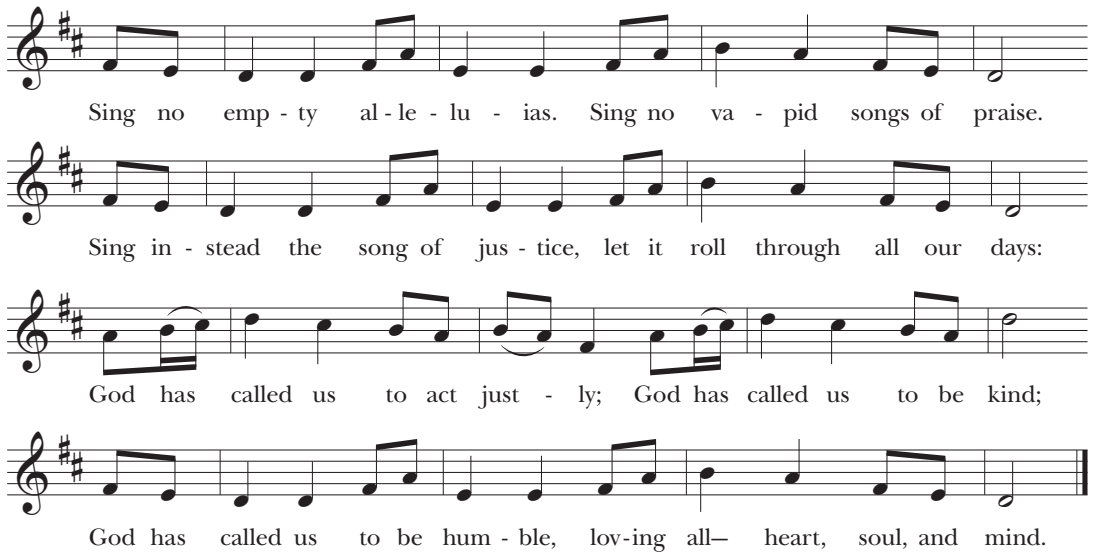
and confess the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord...

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.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the prayer. Following the 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.**

ANTHEM

Heinrich Schütz

O all ye nations, praise the Lord. O praise the Lord, all ye people. Praise ye Jehovah in His strength; all that hath life and breath, praise Jehovah. God's loving-kindness unto us is great and merciful. With heart and with voice in God rejoice; for God's truth endureth evermore. Alleluia, sing praises! Alleluia, praise ye the Lord.

—Psalm 117; Seth Bingham, adapt.

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Philippians 2:1-11

pew Bible, New Testament page 197/large print, Old Testament page 240

SERMON

“Reformed and Always Reforming...” Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

litany adapted from the Confession of Belhar

Please stand in body or spirit.

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.

This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.

We believe that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought.

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin.

We believe that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

We believe that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine that absolutizes natural diversity in such a way that this hinders or breaks the visible and active unity of the church.

We reject any doctrine that professes that this spiritual unity is truly being maintained in the bond of peace while believers are alienated from one another and in despair of reconciliation.

We reject any doctrine that denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin.

We reject any doctrine that maintains that descent or any other human or social factor should be a consideration in determining membership of the church.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things,

even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

We believe that Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

OFFERTORY

Undine Smith Moore

I will trust in the Lord till I die. I will shout and praise his name till I die. I will put old Satan behind me till I die. Oh children, let us trust in the Lord. God guide us, let us trust in the Lord. God bless us, let us trust in the Lord. Love one another, let us trust in the Lord.

-African American spiritual

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 275

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’ FESTE BURG

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Ein’ Feste Burg ist unser Gott, from Cantata 80”

J.S. Bach

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior 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*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Theology

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship and Sanctuary Tour

2:00 p.m. Art at First Stop the Invasion Art Gallery Closing

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday

8:30 a.m. 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School continues study of generosity in the Parlor during worship.

A Youth Group service day will be held at St. Joe's Soup Kitchen at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 5th. Please contact Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org for more information.

Art at First invites you to the closing of the STOP THE INVASION Art Show today at 12:00 p.m. in The Great Hall Gallery.

Join Eric Hilton and Sorrel Ann Alburger in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. today for a brief tour highlighting the history of our church building and its plaques. A time for questions and discussion will follow in the Alexander Chapel.

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday with the Book of Jeremiah. On Zoom and in the library at 12:30 p.m.

Prayer Writing resumes this Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Writing is not shared, and all levels of writers are welcome! Please contact Sam Ogundare (sogundare@fpcnyc.org) or Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis (bdavis@fpcnyc.org) for Zoom information.

A youth service day will be held at St. Joe's Soup Kitchen at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 5. Please email Barbara at bdavis@fpcnyc.org to sign up if you haven't already!

As we prepare for winter, join us on Saturday, November 5, as we collect to distribute warm coats for new refugees in the New York City area. We are accepting both new and gently used coats. If you prefer to donate, we will use the money to purchase new jackets.

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All Saints Sunday Worship and Communion, November 6th at 11:00 a.m. Join us as we remember and give thanks for the lives of those from our church community who have died in the last year. This special service will include movements from Maurice Duruflé's transcendent *Requiem*, sung by the First Church Choir with orchestra.

The Elder Committee will host their monthly "Senior Luncheon Program" on November 10th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor. November's theme is "What's Next in Healthcare?" All are welcome!

It is that time again to sign-up for our congregational visit to Cuba, February 13-21, 2023. We'll visit and worship with our partners at Taguasco, spend time at CANIP - the National Presbyterian Camp in Cuba, and more. For additional information, contact Sam Ogundare at sogundare@fpcnyc.org.

Art at First and the Earth Care Action Group invite you to participate in a project to save the planet by collecting plastic and creating beautiful art out of it. You can help by collecting bottle caps and depositing them in the jar near the church's front desk. We'll collaborate on a lovely mosaic next spring.

Composting Matters Sunday, Nov. 13th at 1pm for the second of our Earth Care Seminar series. One third of what New Yorkers throw away is food scraps. Composting organic waste versus landfilling it can reduce more than 50% of carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions. Join us and learn how to easily compost in NYC. Take home a composting container, and meet NYC Solid Waste Advisory Board member(s). Light lunch at 12:30pm.

SAVE THE DATE - Dec. 2, 3, and 4, A Tartan Christmas Fair, our church's largest fund raiser. Donations for the Silent Auction are now being accepted until Sunday, November 20th. Goods and services, tickets, gift certificates, small valuable items, are always popular. All proceeds benefit Bank Street Head Start School on E. 5th Street.

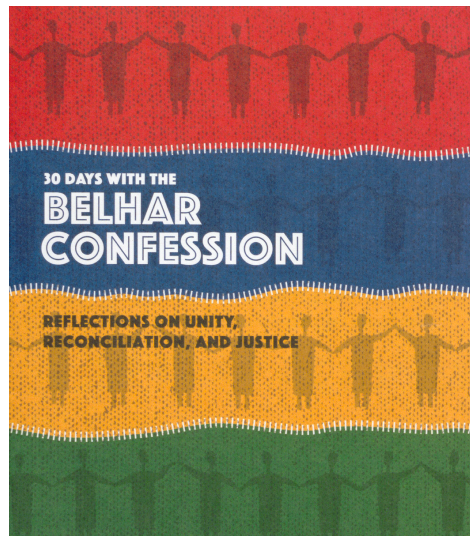
Reformation Sunday: October 30

40 YEARS of BELHAR

Forty years ago, the Dutch Reformed Mission Church (DRMC) in South Africa adopted Belydenis van Belhar—the Confession of Belhar—in its first reading. Belhar was an outgrowth of the DRMC's effort to grapple with the church's participation in and defense of apartheid and touches prominently on themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice. The DRMC adopted Belhar in its final form in 1986.

Although the Confession of Belhar is inextricably connected to its South African context, its message extends far beyond. The PC(USA) describes Belhar as a powerful statement of belief for the Christian faith that, in part, bears witness to the gift of unity and the church's obligation to it. Interest in Belhar grew internationally around 2006, including among reformed traditions in the United States, where the PC(USA) established the Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar. On the recommendation of this Special Committee, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved the inclusion of Belhar in the Book of Confessions because of the clarity of its witness and its capacity to serve as a model for the PC(USA) to “speak and act with similar clarity at a time when it faces division, racism, and injustice.”

The Confession of Belhar is a unique voice among the predominantly European and North American confessions. It elevates the witness of Reformed Christians living under different circumstances and serves, even now, as a springboard to discuss its key themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice within a wide range of current issues.



For more Reformation Sunday resources, visit www.history.pcusa.org/rs

Belhar Confession: https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf

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