

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

CHRIST THE KING / REIGN OF CHRIST
NURSERY SCHOOL 70TH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

Service for the Lord's Day

November 20th, 2022 | 11 a.m.



'A Young Man Reading by Candlelight.' c1630, Matthias Stom, 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

“Variations on WESTMINSTER ABBEY”

Richard Proulx

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

**We come to worship our faithful God,
hoping to expand our thankful imaginations:
to time beyond our time,
to wisdom beyond our wisdom,
to strength beyond our strength,
reminding us that the whole earth is already God’s.
Even as we pray for things not yet seen,
let us prepare the way for God.**

HYMN 394

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

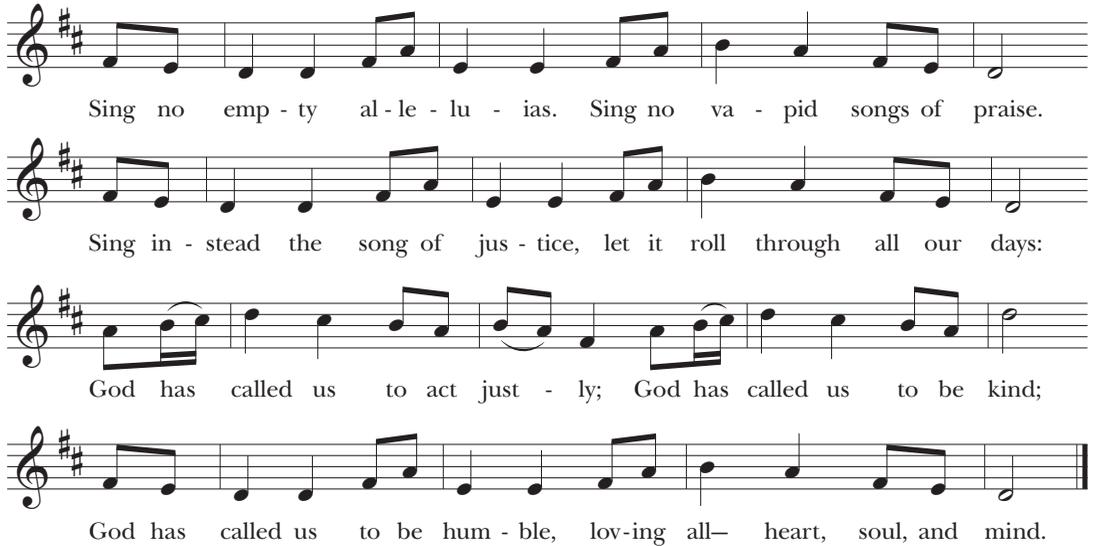
**Imagining your reign can be difficult, eternal God,
it is difficult to picture a world governed by your justice and righteousness alone.
Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers, and powers.
When nobler visions fail and we settle for kingdoms of our own making,
correct and forgive us.
Free the borders of our imaginations,
that we may envision your greater good
and celebrate the coming of your reign on earth as in heaven....**

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.

CELEBRATION OF THE NURSERY SCHOOL 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

Felix Mendelssohn

Above all praise and all majesty, Lord, thou reignest evermore. Hallelujah.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:11-20

pew Bible, New Testament page 199/large print, New Testament page 243 Duane Wall

SERMON

“Torchbearers in the Darkness” Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’M GONNA LIVE

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from “A Brief Statement of Faith” (1983)

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of 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.**

OFFERTORY

Robert S. Baker

First Church Director of Music, 1975-1988

Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing, my God and King. The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly; the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow. Let all the world.....The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out: but above all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world.....
-George Herbert

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 309

“Come, Great God of All the Ages”

ABBOT’S LEIGH

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

Alec Wyton

*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*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Duane Wall, *lay reader*

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, FPCNS 70th

Anniversary Celebration

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

1:30 p.m. Literary Group

Friday

7:00 a.m. Current Events

Saturday

10:15 a.m. St. Joe’s Soup Kitchen

Next Sunday

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - First Sunday of Advent

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

Thursday-Friday

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School continues the study of hope today in the Parlor during worship. There is no Church School on November 27th. Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

There is no Bible Study on November 23rd and 30th. Bible Study will return on Wednesday, December 7th at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom and in the library with the book of 1 Corinthians.

Prayer Writing will take a break on November 24th and will resume on Thursday, December 1st at 8:30 a.m. online and in-person. All are welcome to this time of quiet prompts for meditation and prayer, no writing experience necessary! Please contact Rev. Barbara Davis (bdavis@fpcnyc.org) for Zoom information.

Join us for Vespers Service of Music for Advent on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Magnificat, Mary's song of praise from the Gospel of Luke, has long inspired composers. Hear two glorious versions – Johann Sebastian Bach's *Magnificat* and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Dixit et Magnificat* – in this special service with the First Church Choir and orchestra.

Calling all K-5th Grade Students – come sing with us this Christmas! Students are invited to join Martha Allen, our interim Family Music Coordinator, for a special opportunity to lead music during 11:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 18th. There will be only two rehearsals - Sundays, December 4th and 11th, 10:30-10:55 a.m., in the Parlor. We want as many students as possible to join us! Want to sign up, or ask for more information? Contact Martha at marthasueallen@outlook.com.

For those who would like to contribute flowers this holiday season in honor or in remembrance of loved ones, we invite you to return the Christmas Flower Donation form, along with your contribution, to the church reception desk in the Mellin-Macnab Building. Please make your check payable to “**First Presbyterian Church**” and memo it “**Christmas Flowers: Attn: Lisa Polite.**” Print clearly the name(s) in whose memory the gift is given. All contributions must be received by **Tuesday, December 13th** to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You can find the form at the reception desk and in the latest First Matters newsletter.

Join us for our Candlelight Carols service on Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m. With the Sanctuary bathed in candlelight, the First Church Choir leads this beautiful service of lessons and carols, this year based on the Great ‘O’ Antiphons – seven ancient ascriptions for Christ: *Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, Ruler of the nations, God with us.* A festive carol sing on the north lawn (weather permitting) follows the service.



The First
presbyterian
Church
NURSERY
SCHOOL

Celebrating **70** YEARS
1952-2022

The First Presbyterian Church Nursery School wishes to thank all the children, families, teachers, church leaders and friends of FPCNS who made researching and celebrating the 70th year of our mission possible. We wish to acknowledge First Church Archivist David Pultz for graciously opening the school archives to help illuminate our connections to those who came before. We also wish to acknowledge countless conversations with alumni, retired teachers and longstanding church community members who have all contributed to and lived the purpose of our mission.

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