

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Service for the Lord's Day
November 27th, 2022 | 11 a.m.



The Annunciation, 1437, Fra Angelico, fresco.

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

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Mary Beth Bennett
Johannes Brahms, Op. 122

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Please stand in body or spirit.

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ,
joining our voices with the joyful song of his mother Mary.
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

For you, O Lord, have looked with favor on your servants.
From this day all generations will call us blessed:

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for us
and holy is your name.**

HYMN 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(stanzas 1, 4, 6, & 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Advent,

we confess we are not the people you hope us to be.

The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.

The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate.

**We are so focused on having more and more,
we risk being sent away empty.**

**Forgive us, Mighty God,
and look with grace upon us.**

**Let us live secure in your love;
let us be the ones of peace for our world.**

**May we seek to do your will,
as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
in whose name we pray...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

MAGNIFICAT (TAIZÉ)



LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

There stood in heav'n a linden tree; but, tho' 'twas honey laden, all Angels cried, "No bloom shall be like that of one fair Maiden." Sped Gabriel on winged feet, and pass'd through bolted portals in Nazareth, a Maid to greet, blest o'er all other mortals. "Hail Mary!" quoth that Angel mild, "Of woman-kind the fairest: the Virgin ay shalt thou be styled, a babe although thou bearest." "So be it!" God's hand-maiden cried, "According to thy telling." Whereon the Angel smartly hied up home-ward to his dwelling. This tidings fill'd his mates with glee: "Twas pass'd from one to other, that 'twas Mary, and none but she, and God would call her Mother."

Reginald Jacques, arr.
-G.R. Woodward, trans.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

pew Bible, New Testament page 56/large print, New Testament page 69

SERMON

"Sacred Distruption"

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Please stand in body or spirit.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

based on a 20th century South African creed

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

**We believe that God is at work in our world,
turning hopelessness and evil into good.**

**We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end
and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.**

**One day all tears will be wiped away;
the lamb will lie down with the lion,
and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.**

True peace and true reconciliation.

This is our faith.

This is our hope.

OFFERTORY

David Willcocks, arr.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame. "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary." *Most highly favored lady. Gloria!* "For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. *Most highly favored lady. Gloria!* Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." *Most highly favored lady. Gloria!* Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn. And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: *Most highly favored lady. Gloria!*

-Sabine Baring-Gould, para.

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 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE Toccata on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Andrew Carter

*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 Meg Harper.

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Nate, Laura, Owen, Annabel and Oliver Asker
Martha Ball

NEW MEMBERS

Laura and Nate Asker
Martha Ball
Diane Fairbank
Daniel Lyng
Thomas Mullarkey, Jr.
Neil Williamson

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jeff Nichols and James Hollander

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior 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 - First Sunday of Advent
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing

Friday

7:00 a.m. Current Events
4:00 p.m. Tartan Fair Opens
7:00 p.m. Auction Kickoff Cocktail Party

Saturday

10:15 a.m. St. Joe's Soup Kitchen
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tartan Fair

Next Sunday

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - Second Sunday of Advent
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tartan Fair
4:00 p.m. Vespers Service of Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is no Coffee & Theology today and December 4th. Coffee & Theology returns December 11th before Sunday worship on Zoom and in the Morrow Room at 9:30 a.m. We will continue to read selections from *All about love* paired with familiar scripture passages about love. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to explore more deeply the "greatest of all these" - *love*.

Church School resumes their study of hope on December 4th in the Parlor during worship. Child-care is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

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

Prayer Writing resumes this Thursday, December 1st at 8:30 a.m. online. We will use text from *All about love* to prompt personal reflection and meditation during this Advent season. 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 next 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.

The Elder Committee will host their monthly "Senior Luncheon Program" on December 8th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor. December's event will be a music program led by Michael Shake and a few members of the First Church Choir. If you want to register for the luncheon, go to the front desk and ask for the sign-up sheet.

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.

A Tartan Christmas Fair has arrived! Join us for the church's largest fundraiser on December 2nd and 4th. Volunteering opportunities are still available. For more information, please see Joan Ryan or the sign-up table in the lobby. The Preview Party, training, and first access to the fair will be held on Thursday, December 1st from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for those who volunteered. Today is Set-up Sunday, and we need your help! Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. in the Esther Morrow Room for those who can assist. Please bake something if you can! All baked goods should be dropped off in the lobby on Thursday, December 1st, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. There is something for everyone - visit www.tartanfair.org for more information.



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