

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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Service for the Lord's Day*

January 1st, 2023 | 11 a.m.

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*Every End Is a Beginning, Julie Bender.*

# 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*

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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

“Partita on IN DULCI JUBILO”

James Vivian

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 148, NRSV, adapted

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise God in the heights!

**Praise God, all the angels;**

**praise God, all the host!**

Praise God, sun and moon;

praise God, all you shining stars!

**Praise God, you highest heavens**

**and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for God commanded and they were created.

**God established them forever and ever;**

**God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,

**fire and hail, snow and frost,**

**stormy wind fulfilling God’s command!**

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!

**Wild animals and all cattle,**

**creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike,**

**old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for God’s name alone is exalted;

God’s glory is above earth and heaven.

**God has raised up a horn for the people,**

**praise for all the faithful,**

**for the people of Israel who are close to God.**

**Praise the Lord!**

HYMN 152

“What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and merciful God, on this first day of a new year,  
hear us as we confess what we have left undone,  
what we have wished, but not acted upon,  
what we have misspoke or omitted for our own comfort.  
Forgive us when our best efforts have fallen short,  
as well as when our hardest work has not provided  
the change we hoped in ourselves.  
Strengthen us for work to come and give us courage  
to seek the blessings on the horizon...

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## RESPONSE

JACQUES BERTHIER



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

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

## ANTHEM

from *Piae Cantiones*; David Willcocks, arr.

Unto us is born a son, King of choirs supernal: see on earth his life begun, of lords the Lord eternal. Christ, from heav'n descending low, comes on earth a stranger; ox and ass their owner know becradled in a manger. This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder, so he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer. Of his love and mercy mild hear the Christmas story: O that Mary's gentle Child might lead us up to glory! O and A and A and O, *cum cantibus in choro*, let our merry organ go, *Benedicamus Domino*.

-15th century; George Ratcliffe Woodward, trans.

## HEARING THE WORD

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

*pew Bible, Old Testament page 1/large print, Old Testament page 1*

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“On the Horizon”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Isaiah 63:7-9, NRSV, adapted

**I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that God has shown them according to God's mercy,  
according to the abundance of God's steadfast love.  
For God said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely";  
and God became their savior in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but God's presence that saved them;  
in God's love and in God's pity God redeemed them;  
God lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.**

### OFFERTORY

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov; ed. Clarence Dickinson

Bless the Lord, O my soul, blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. God is gracious and plenteous in mercy. He crowneth thee with loving kindness. He will not always chide, nor keep His wrath forever.

-Psalm 103:1-6

### DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEEVES

*Please stand in body or spirit.*



So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## COMMUNION

### INVITATION

A child is born for us in Bethlehem,  
**Wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;  
and he will be our Shepherd,  
feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.**

That child invites us now to this table.  
All are welcome here. You do not have to be worthy.  
You do not have to be good. No one is good but God alone.  
You are invited to come, just as you are.

### PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, you created chaos and order,  
and brought forth life on this earth.  
You formed us in your image and called us to serve you.

**In Jesus you have come to be among us  
that we might become one with you.  
Thank you for sending your child,  
Who proclaimed your dream of peace.**

Jesus gave himself for our weary world,  
accepting death so that we might live  
and setting us free for love.

Remind us that we are not alone at this table.  
We join our voices, as always, with all the saints  
whom you have called, from all times and places,  
who forever rejoice, saying:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one comes in the Lord's name.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they might nourish us for the spiritual work to which you call us.

**Unite us with Christ as we invite all to join us at this table.  
Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,  
that we may serve as your faithful disciples our whole lives long.  
Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might be a people of grace and truth,  
bearing good news of joy in every season.**

Then bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph and all your saints  
to be part of your vision of splendor and creativity.

Now let us pray that prayer, which Jesus, our teacher taught his disciples:

**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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers, the servers will give you bread, please take a juice glass from the tray. You may take the juice in your own time and leave your cup in the pew holders. Gluten-free bread and self-contained bread and juice are available, please ask your server.*

HYMN 534

“Now the Silence”

NOW

HYMN 144

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Christ Jesus, born among us,  
as a mother feeds her child with her body,  
so you feed us with yours,  
giving us the bread to eat and the cup to drink.  
May these gifts nourish us deeply  
that we might become your body in the world  
and show your great love to all we encounter. Amen.**

## SENDING

HYMN 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## BLESSING

### CHORAL RESPONSE

Anglican Chant; George S. Talbot

O praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him upon the timbrels and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him on the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord!

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 150

### POSTLUDE

“Fanfare for the New Year”

Calvin Hampton

*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.”

## LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Jeff Nichols, *Lay Reader*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### Today

11:00 a.m. New Year's Day Worship  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

### Monday

Building will be closed

### Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study

### 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

**Church School begins a new series called *Sing a New Song* on January 8th** in the Parlor during worship. Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

**Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, January 4th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with the book of 1 Samuel.

**The Elder Committee will host their monthly “Senior Luncheon Program” on January 12th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor.** This event is titled “What’s Next in Education.” If you want to register for the luncheon, go to the front desk and ask for the sign-up sheet.

**Join us for the third installment of the Earth Care Action Group’s four-part seminar series, “Best Practices”** on Sunday, January 15th at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

**Interested in becoming a member or just learning more about our church?** Join us for our Inquirers Class on January 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

**The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee at First Church is looking for candidates to fill the Social Justice and Mission pastoral role, and they want to hear from you!** They are seeking a leader with at least two years of experience who is an energetic motivator with a heart for mission to galvanize our congregation by broadening and deepening member involvement in opportunities to serve. If you want to refer someone, please email [apnc@fpcnyc.org](mailto:apnc@fpcnyc.org).

**All K-5th grade students are invited to join Martha Allen, our interim Family Music Coordinator, for another special opportunity to lead music in worship!** Join us 10:30-10:55 a.m. in the Parlor on Sundays, January 8th through 22nd in preparation to sing in 11:00 a.m. worship on January 29th. Want to know more or sign up? Contact Martha at [marthasueallen@outlook.com](mailto:marthasueallen@outlook.com).

### READ & STUDY THE BIBLE IN THREE YEARS (YEAR 2, PART 1)

*Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in-person/virtual*

JANUARY	MARCH	MAY
4 1 Samuel	1 Gospel of John	7 Psalms
11 2 Samuel	8 1 John	14 Proverbs
18 1 Kings	15 2 John	21 Ecclesiastes
	22 3 John	
FEBRUARY	APRIL	JUNE
1 2 Kings	19 1 Thessalonians	10 Daniel
8 Ezra	26 2 Thessalonians	17 Joel
15 Nehemiah		24 Revelation

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