

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
*Service for the Lord's Day*  
December 11th, 2022 | 11 a.m.

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*The Cestello Annunciation, Botticelli, 1489.*

# 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 worshipping 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

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us”

Lionel Rogg  
J.S. Bach, BWV 645

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Jean Galle and Janet Shin

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

We light these candles 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.

You have shown strength with your arm, and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

**Our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord;  
our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

HYMN 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**When our spirits despair and we deny your blessings,  
forgive us, O God.**

**When we ignore the mighty things you have done;  
when we doubt your mercy,  
forgive us, O God.**

**When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts;  
when our power rests on the oppression of others,  
or when our wealth causes others to go hungry,  
forgive us, O God.**

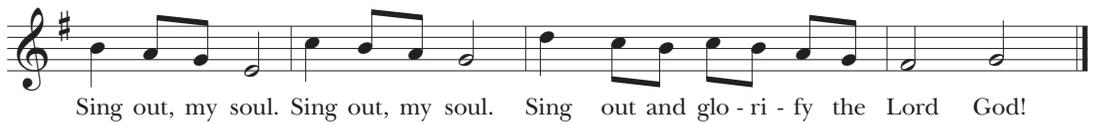
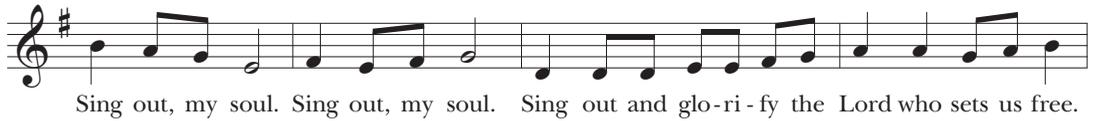
**Help us, your servants,  
according to the promises you have made...**

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.**

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND CHILDREN'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

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Hail, O Virgin Mother, bearer of God, holy Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb; for thou hast brought forth the Savior, who redeemed our souls.

-Prayer to Mary, based upon Luke 1:28, 42

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:46-56

*pew Bible, New Testament page 57/large print, New Testament page 69*

### SERMON

"A Prayer from the Heart, Part 1"

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 99

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

MORNING SONG

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## 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

Cristóbal de Morales

*Ecce virgo concipiet et pariet filium et vocabitur nomen ejus: Admirabilis, Deus Fortis. Super solium David, et super regnum ejus sedebit in aeternum.*

The young woman is with child and shall bear a son: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. For the throne of David and his kingdom, He will establish and uphold it....from this time onward and forevermore.  
-Isaiah 8:14; 9:6, 7

## 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 362

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

LLANGLOFFAN

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

“Fuga sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733”

J.S. Bach

*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 Sorrel Ann Alburger.

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY

Caleb William Zebicoff

Son of Meredith Lemmon and Christian Zebicoff

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jean Galle and Janet Shin

## 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*

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## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### Today

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology

11:00 a.m. Church School

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

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

12:15 p.m. Youth Group Pizza Party

### 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

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology

11:00 a.m. Church School

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

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

4:00 p.m. Candlelight Carols Service

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Coffee & Theology continues December 18th before Sunday worship on Zoom and in the Morrow Room at 9:30 a.m.** We will read chapter 13 from *All about love* and Luke 2:2-20. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to explore more deeply the "greatest of all these" - *love*.

**Church School continues a new study on the practice of joy** today in the Parlor during worship. Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

**Youth are invited to gather after worship today in the Library** for an Advent pizza and ornament making party!

**Bible Study continues this Wednesday, December 14th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with the book of 2 Corinthians.

**Prayer Writing continues this Thursday, December 15th at 8:30 a.m. online and in-person.** We will use selections from *All about love* to evoke 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.

**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).

**Join us this Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor for a time to get to know our growing group of young adults** here at First Church and talk about our favorite Advent traditions. RSVP to Emily Dawson at [emilydawson1992@gmail.com](mailto:emilydawson1992@gmail.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 this 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* *in the City of New York*

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship Services

Saturday, December 24 at 12:00, 5:00, and 11:00 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship Service

Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m.



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