

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
*Service for the Lord's Day*  
December 4th, 2022 | 11 a.m.

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*The Annunciation, Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1898.*

# 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

Four Advent Fughettas

J.S. Bach

“Once He Came in Blessing,” “Praise Be to God Almighty Given,”  
“Savior of the Nations, Come,” and “Lord Christ, God’s Only Dear Son”

## PEALING OF THE CARILLON

## WELCOME

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*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 mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

## HYMN 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you promised to do great things,  
yet we do not fully trust you.**

**You extend your mercy to us,**

**you lift up the humble,**

**you fill the hungry with good things,**

**and yet we still do not fully trust you.**

**Forgive us.**

**Renew our faith.**

**Help us to trust in the promises you have given us.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Hear our prayer...**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## RESPONSE

MAGNIFICAT (TAIZÉ)



Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo-ri - fy the Lord who sets us free.



Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God!

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

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S PRAYER

### ANTHEM

Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace, as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race: it blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter, turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring; the Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing; our God of endless might gave her this child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.  
-Otto Goldschmidt

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-45

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

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

"Something Tragic Happens  
When We Grow Up"

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### 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

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden: For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
-Luke 1:46-55

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.

-Lesser Doxology

## 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.

## COMMUNION

### INVITATION

This is the welcome table where we remember  
that in God's vision that all of us are seated together,

**the rich and the poor, the low and the mighty,  
the powerful and the powerless,  
those who have much and those who have nothing.**

At this table there is no race, nor social class, nor limitation on our coming,  
because this is the table where God is our host.

...Come, the invitation is sincere and the offer is wide: it is God who invites you  
here.

### PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Let us pray: it is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give You thanks and praise, O Lord our God,  
creator and ruler of the universe.

You formed us in Your image  
and set us in this world to love and serve You.

**When we were wanderers and not sure where to call home,  
You made covenant to be our God.  
When we were stubborn and stiff-necked,  
You spoke to us through the prophets,  
who proclaimed a day when justice and peace  
shall be the practice of the world.**

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.*

You are holy, God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, our redeemer.  
...Christ came among us as one of us,  
taking the lot of the poor,  
sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death.

**We live now between Christ's advent at Bethlehem  
and the coming we await with fervent hope, praying,  
Come, Lord Jesus!**

Remembering Your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we now take this bread and this cup,  
...In life and in death we belong to You, eternal God.  
Hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.  
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

*The congregation is invited to come forward to the communion table by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. At the table, juice, bread (please tell your server if you need gluten free bread), will be distributed. If you prefer self-contained bread and juice, those are also available at the table.*

HYMN 507

“Come to the Table of Grace”

TABLE OF GRACE

HYMN 495

“Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee”

ADORO TE DEVOTE

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for this meal we share today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the work of your vision for the world. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen.**

#### SENDING

HYMN 102

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

NUN KOMM,

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

DER HEIDEN HEILAND

#### 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

“Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661”

J.S. Bach

*The congregation is invited to continue worshipping 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 Don Lee.

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brett, Kristen and Caroline Cochrane

## 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*

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## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### Today

11:00 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Communion Sunday Worship  
- Second Sunday of Advent  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. PW Bible Study  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tartan Fair  
4:00 p.m. Vespers Service of Music

### Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study

### Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing  
12:30 p.m. Eldercare Committee Senior Luncheon

### 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 - Third Sunday of Advent  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:15 p.m. Youth Group

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Join us for Vespers Service of Music for Advent today 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.

**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 begins a new study on the practice of joy** today in the Parlor during worship. Child-care is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

**Bible Study will return this Wednesday, December 7th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with the book of 1 Corinthians.

**Prayer Writing continues this Thursday, December 8th 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.

**The Elder Committee will host their monthly “Senior Luncheon Program” this Thursday, December 8th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor.** This 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.

**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 - today and December 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.

**Youth Group will meet at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, December 11th** for a pizza party and ornament making! Please email bdavis@fpcnyc.org for more info or to RSVP!

**Join us on 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.

**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.

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