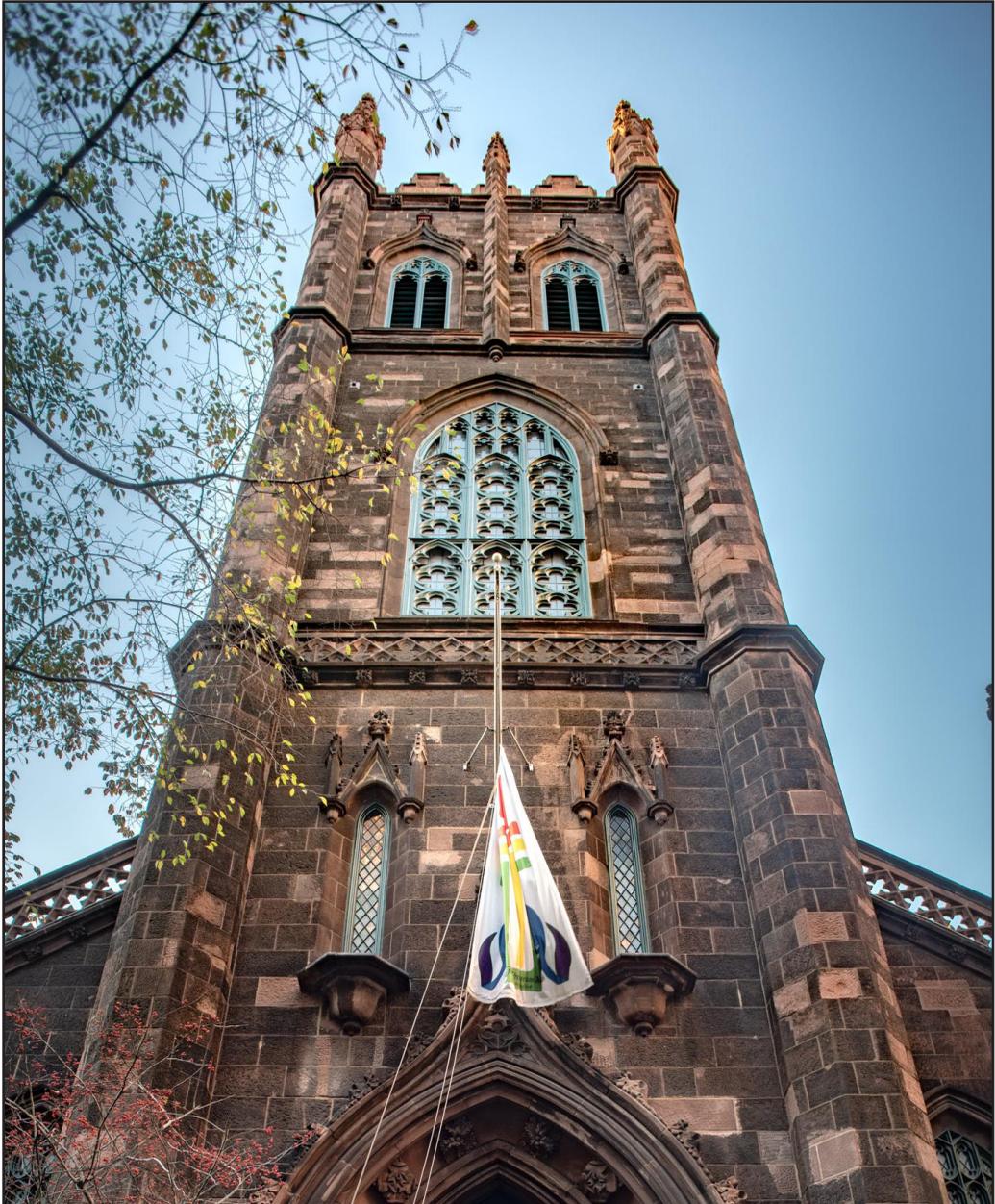


The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Service for the Lord's Day

January 29th, 2023 | 11 a.m.



Wei Chao, 2021, photograph.

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

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



PLEDGE



GIVE



INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



GATHERING

PRELUDE

“We Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, BWV 623”
“Processional”

J.S. Bach
Grayston Ives

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

BUNESSAN

Sing liberation! God is our savior. To our redeemer we all belong. Blessing and honor, glory and power. God is our savior! Sing a new song.

Sing tribulation! God will deliver. Cry out in sorrow; name what is wrong. Blessing and honor, glory and power. God will deliver! Sing a new song.

Sing transformation! God does a new thing. Lift up the lowly, humble the strong. Blessing and honor, glory and power. God does a new thing! Sing a new song.

Sing new creation! God reigns forever. We have been hoping, praying so long. Blessing and honor, glory and power. God reigns forever! Sing a new song. –David Gambrell

OPENING PRAYER

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out of our dark places,
offering us the grace of new life.
When we see nothing but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.
Call us out of our complacency and routines,
set us free from our self-imposed bonds,
and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace,
in the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray.
Amen.**

HYMN 321

“The Church’s One Foundation”

AURELIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One,
we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace.
To serve each other in love and humility.
To serve your world with wisdom and energy.
Forgive us when we stumble over pride,
when our words and actions are not guided by love.
Turn our hearts when we act in folly.
Restore our energy when it is gone.
Your abundant grace is strong and eternal,
we pray for cleansing through Jesus Christ....**

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.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER 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

David Hurd

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back guilty of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning, if I lacked any thing.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here: Love said, you shall be he. I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear, I cannot look on thee. Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame go where it doth deserve. And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame? My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat: so I did sit and eat.

—George Herbert

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 12:1-5

pew Bible, Old Testament page 10/large print, Old Testament page 12

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Ben Maddox

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20

pew Bible, New Testament page 18/large print, New Testament page 22

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“First Church Matters to God”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God,
Creator of the all,
Giver of every good gift,
Author of life.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
who reminded us of the coming of God’s kingdom,
who commanded us to care for those in need,
who taught us to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth,
and who gave us the example of self-giving love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who inspires us to faithful stewardship of God’s gifts,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
by whom all things are possible.**

**We acknowledge that we are merely stewards of all that is God’s,
caretakers of God’s home.
All praise and thanks to God, now and forever. Amen.**

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

OFFERTORY

Charles-Marie Widor; David Cherwien, arr.

Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram aedificabo ecclesiam meam et portae inferi non praevalent adversus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni caelorum.

You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church: and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. —Matthew 16:18, 19a

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 320

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

WAREHAM

Please stand in body or spirit.

ANNUAL MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2023

Join us for our Annual Meeting today at 12:10pm. The annual report was emailed to the congregation this past week. Ushers have additional copies available.

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Kate Hampton Litteral

Zareen Hossain Bayly

NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Macaulay Bayly

Zareen Hossain Bayly

Mary Ireland

Kate Hampton Litteral

Alan Pike

Elizabeth Pike

Matthew Raimondi

Elizabeth Trenkle

Hansen Wetsel

Emily Wexler

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor of Mission and Social Justice*
Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Student Choristers
Martha Sue Allen, *Interim Family Music Coordinator*

The First Church Choir
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee and Theology will resume on Sunday, February 12th with a new series, *Jesus and Social Justice*. All are welcome before Sunday worship on Zoom and in the library at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

Church School continues *Sing a New Song* series today in the Parlor during worship. Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

Join Art at First in the Great Hall Gallery for their Spiritual Travelers exhibit today from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This exhibit features work created as a visual expression of the artists' spirituality or reflection on their religious heritage. The gallery will be open until February 28th. For more information email Barbara Sherman at art@fpcnyc.org.

Bible Study returns Wednesday, February 1st at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom and in the library with the book of 2 Kings. For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

Prayer Writing returns on Thursday, February 2nd at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to this time of quiet prompts for meditation and prayer, no writing experience necessary! For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

Calling all Young Adults! Join us after worship on February 5th from 12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Mezzanine, where Barbara Davis will lead us in conversation about Sacred Stories for a new year. Feel free to contact Emily Dawson at emilydawson1992@gmail.com with any questions or to learn more about Young Adults at First Church.

The fourth installment in our five-part Earth Care series will be held on Sunday, February 19th at 12:30 p.m. *What is Divesting and Why?* is a presentation and panel discussion about what divestment is, what our denomination and church have done, and why it is important to consider. Part Five will take place on April 16th and will feature a guest preacher, Bill McKibben, followed by a Q&A panel discussion with industry experts.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:10 p.m. Annual Meeting

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish

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

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Young Adults
12:30 p.m. PW Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Sally Anderson Memorial Service

2023 CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Corporate and Congregational Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, on Fifth Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets, New York, New York, will be held today, January 29, 2023, in the sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. This meeting is for the purpose of electing elders and deacons to replace those whose terms expire and for electing successors to the following trustees: Richard Korchak, John McGinn, and Janet Shin and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. Nominees for election to the Trustee Class of 2026 are Alyssa Brown, Ingrid Figueiredo, and Tim Warmath. This meeting is open to all members of First Church.

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