

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

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5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Service for the Lord's Day*

February 5th, 2023 | 11 a.m.



Sophia Yacca, 2020, 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*

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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



## PLEDGE



## GIVE



## INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



# GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Praeludium, BuxWV 137”

Dietrich Buxtehude

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

HYMN 611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all grace,  
all that we have, all that we are,  
and all that we will become is a gift from you.  
Forgive us when we forget this.  
Have mercy on us for the times  
when we fail to rejoice in your abundant love and grace.  
Remind us of the high calling:  
to be the stewards of your abundance,  
and caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.  
We ask this in the strong name of Jesus the 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

*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.*

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Nehemiah 12:27-43

*pew Bible, Old Testament page 441/large print, Old Testament page 546*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

“...because First Matters?”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### ANTHEM OF DEDICATION

The text may be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 697.

Aaron David Miller

### DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**For these pledges, we give you thanks gracious God.**

**We dedicate these gifts to your glory,  
and for the use of your people through this church.**

**May these pledges be a tangible symbol  
of our lives dedicated to your service.**

**May our life together be an expression of your love for this world.**

**We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### 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.**

### OFFERTORY

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be always praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

—Psalm 84:1-4, and 90:17; Isaac Watts

## COMMUNION

### INVITATION

### PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Holy One, loving and eternal God,  
always and everywhere, you breathe into us the breath of your creation.  
You call us forth to be with you as you accompany us.

**We give you thanks for your continual love and care for each of us  
and for the whole world. We give you thanks for the world you created  
and we are reminded that even though parts are wounded and broken,  
you created the world for love. Although we rebel against your love,  
you never abandon us when we are separated from you and each other.**

Instead, you send prophets and teachers to remind us of your love and mercy.  
We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table.  
We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ,  
whom you sent in the fullness of time to live among us.

**To eat with us. To heal us. To teach with us. To remember stories together.  
To interpret old stories and tell new stories of our community,  
of what it means for us to be together.  
To reveal to us the ways that you love us,  
by taking human form, by knowing our joys and challenges intimately.**

Joining our voices with followers around the world, we lift our hearts in singing  
this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

*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.*

Unite us in this covenant of love, that in sharing this meal we remember.  
We remember the stories of Christ in the world,  
we look for signs of your love present in the world today.

**We live in hope of what this shared meal means for the days to come,  
that embraced in your love, your mercy, your compassion,  
we might praise you with our whole hearts as we share this meal  
and celebrate your presence with us.**

Hear us now as we pray together 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 504

“We Come as Guests Invited” WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

HYMN 691

“Lord, When I Came into This Life”

LAND OF REST

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have nourished us at this table.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,  
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,  
confident of your love and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## SENDING

HYMN 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*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

“Marche Triomphale, Op. 65, No. 59”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*The congregation is invited to continue worshiping through the postlude,  
which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.*

The cross which leads the procession is dedicated  
“In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community.”  
Our cross-bearer today is Ann Meredith.

The flowers are given by Tom Wells and Diane Drewery,  
in celebration of the life of Sally Anderson.

## 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*

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, contact Rev. Barbara Davis at [bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

**Church School starts a new series called *Honor God's Diversity* today in the Parlor during worship.** Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

**Calling all Young Adults!** Join us after worship today 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.

**Everyone is welcome to Qigong at First, which takes place online on Mondays until February 20th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.** This meditative practice generates and circulates energy while connecting one to all things, both animate and inanimate. Sitting or standing, one quiets the mind and feels the light of the heavens and the earth, as well as the mysterious gift of breath. For more information, contact Meg Harper at [harpermeg718@gmail.com](mailto:harpermeg718@gmail.com).

**Bible Study continues Wednesday, February 8th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with the book of Ezra. For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Davis at [bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

**Prayer Writing continues Thursday, February 9th 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, contact Rev. Barbara Davis at [bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

**The Elder Committee will host their monthly "Senior Luncheon Program" on February 9th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor.** Martha Ferry will present a musical concert. If you want to register for the luncheon, go to the front desk and ask for the sign-up sheet or call 212-675-6150.

**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.

**Join us on February 22nd at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday services.** Ashes will be imposed, and we will celebrate the sacrament of communion. Services will be livestreamed on the church's YouTube, Facebook, and BoxCast accounts, which can be found in our First Matters newsletter.

**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).

# THIS WEEK AT FIRST

## Today

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

## Monday

5:30 p.m. Qigong

## Wednesday

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

## Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing  
 12:30 p.m. Elder Care 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. Sunday Worship  
 11:15 a.m. Church School  
 12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

## 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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12 W 12th Street, New York, NY 10011  
 212.675.6150 • [fpcnyc.org](http://fpcnyc.org)