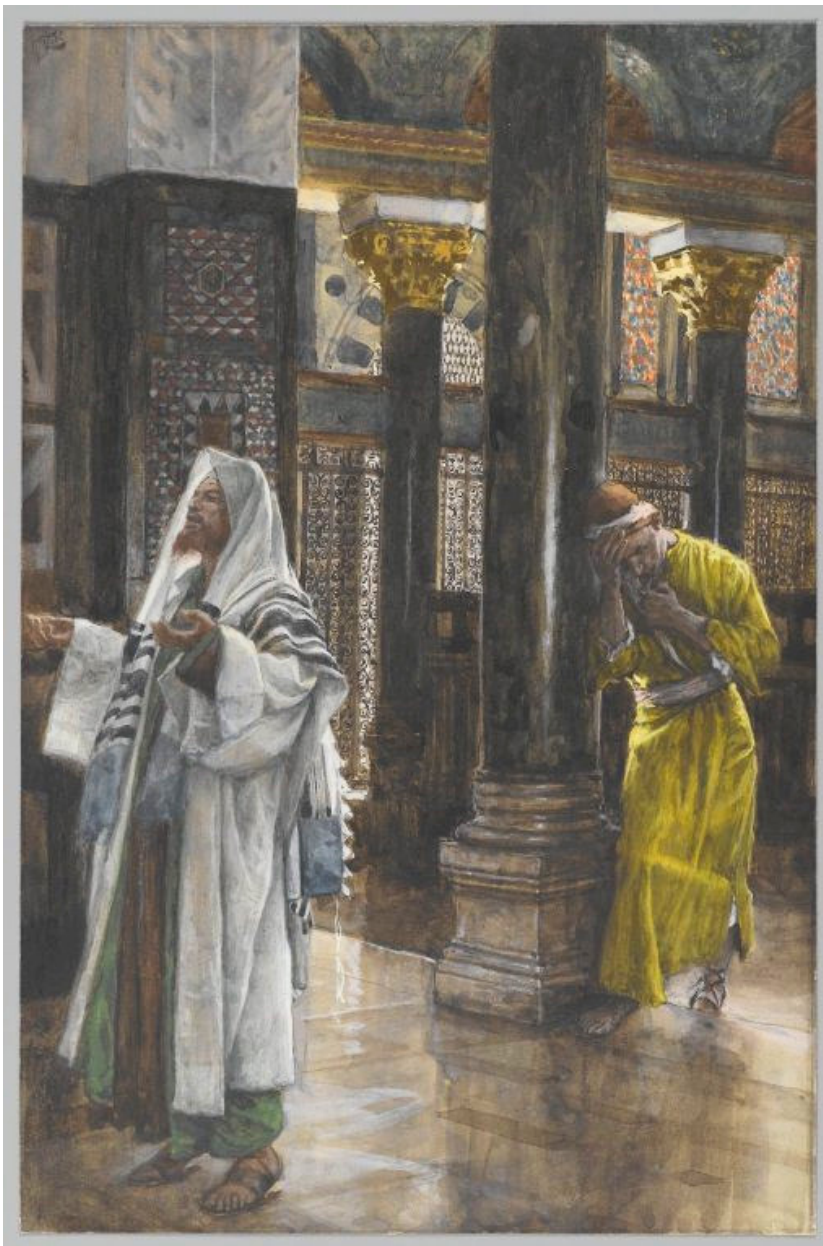


# *The First Presbyterian Church* *in the City of New York*

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
*Service for the Lord's Day*  
March 12th, 2023 | 11 a.m.

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James Tissot, *The Pharisee and the Publican*, 1886-94,  
Opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper.

# 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 in the Esther Morrow room, through the doors on the left at the front of the sanctuary or upstairs in the Great Hall for the opening of the art show.

## GET INVOLVED



## GIVE



## INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



# GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Just as I Am,’ from *Gospel Preludes, Book 4*”

William Bolcom

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

Remember that our God is the only God—

**the One who made us,**

the One who sustains us,

**the One whose Spirit lives within us.**

Let us enter God’s house with thanksgiving;

and come into God’s presence with praise.

**For God is good,**

**with unfailing love that lasts forever,**

**and faithfulness that extends to all generations.**

HYMN 440

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

ABERYSTWYTH

CALL TO CONFESSION

KYRIE *sung by the choir*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Ukrainian traditional chant

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,**

**we live in a broken world.**

**You prayed we would be one,**

**yet we are a divided people.**

**Wherever people are tempted to think of themselves  
as better than others,**

**more worthy, more deserving, more important,**

**may your humility break in and challenge us,**

**reminding us of our brokenness and need,**

**and teaching us to serve and to love everyone**

**with the grace and humility you show toward us.**

**Hear us as we open our hearts and confess our sins before you...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## RESPONSE

IRISH



## 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

Henry Loosemore

O Lord, increase my faith, strengthen me and confirm me in Thy true faith, endue me with wisdom, charity, and patience. In all my adversity, Sweet Jesus, say Amen.

-1662 *Book of Common Prayer*

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 18:9-14

*pew Bible, New Testament page 81/large print, New Testament page 99*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“Parable Living:

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

When doing everything right is still not good enough.”

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 417

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

SOUTHWELL

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;**

**the holy catholic Church;**

**the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body;**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### OFFERTORY

adapt. George N. Allen; arr. Roy Ringwald

Precious Lord, take my hand, bring me home through the night, through the dark, through the storm, to thy light. I have been to the mount, I have seen the Promised Land: Precious Lord, take my hand. Precious Lord, take my hand bring thy child home at last, where the strife and the pain all are past. I have dreamed a great dream that thy love shall rule our land: Precious Lord, take my hand. Precious Lord, take my hand, take thy child unto Thee, with my dream of a world that is free. For that day when all flesh joins the glory thou hast planned: Precious Lord, take my hand.

—Joyce Merman

### 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 442

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

WOODWORTH

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

### BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

“Toccata on ABERYSTWYTH”

David Bednall

*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 Sean Sakamoto.

## LEADING THIS MORNING

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

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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### Today

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology  
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m. Church School  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:30 p.m. Sermon Talks  
12:30 p.m. Art at First - 7 Days:  
Artists View the Creation Opening Reception  
2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

### Monday

5:30 p.m. Yoga

### Wednesday

11:45 a.m. Midweek Music Meditation & Worship  
12:30 p.m. Bible Study  
6:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer  
(at Church of the Village - 201 West 13th Street)

### 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. Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m. Church School  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:30 p.m. Sermon Talks  
4:00 p.m. Love Lives Beyond:  
A Vespers Service of Music



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Join Art at First after the worship service 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Great Hall Gallery for the opening reception of the 7 Days: Artists View the Creation exhibit.** This art show will be open until April 23rd and can be viewed on Sundays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**We continue Sermon Talks today, March 12th in the Parlor.** Everyone is invited to join Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell on Sundays during Lent at 12:30 p.m. to discuss the sermon, hear what did not make it into the final manuscript, and have a brief discussion on the text for the following week.

**Make it Meaningful. Join us Sunday afternoons, in the South Wing Brick Room,** any time between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to help make crafts for our A Tartan Christmas Fair (craft projects are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own). At the same time, enjoy meaningful conversation about the morning's sermon, current events, and other topics. All are welcome!

**Coffee and Theology will continue Sunday, March 19th with the *Jesus and Social Justice* series – The Syrophoenician Woman.** All are welcome before 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 continues the *Living in Community* curriculum today in the Parlor during worship.** Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

**Bible Study continues Wednesday, March 15th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with 2 John. For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Davis at [bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

**Prayer Writing continues Thursday, March 16th at 8:30 a.m.** Readings will be used from *Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature, and Spirit*. All are welcome to this time of quiet prompts for meditation and prayer, no writing experience necessary!

**Join us for *Love Lives Beyond: A Vespers Service of Music for Lent* on Sunday, March 19th at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary** The First Church Choir explores where and how “love lives beyond” through three stunning pieces: Johann Sebastian Bach’s arresting cantata of spiritual reflection, *Jesu, der du meine Seele*; *The Best Beloved: Four Motets on Jacobean Poems*, a dynamic expression of sweeping emotion by Chris DeBlasio, whose life was tragically ended by HIV/AIDS in 1993; and, the U.S. premiere of Cecilia McDowall’s *On Angel’s Wing*, described as an “exquisite and exotic work....that juxtaposes sensitive lyricism....with choral passages of great passion and joy.”

**Join us in the Sanctuary on April 16th at 11:00 a.m. for Earth Care Sunday.** Bill McKibben, environmentalist and founder of Third Act, will preach during worship, followed by a panel discussion “Saving the Planet: An Ethical Imperative” organized by the Earth Care Action Group. Contact Kathie Young ([kathieyoung@earthlink.net](mailto:kathieyoung@earthlink.net)) or Emily Brewer ([ebrewer@fpcnyc.org](mailto:ebrewer@fpcnyc.org)) for more information.

**Easter Flower Contributions** Remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the beautiful flowers that will adorn the Chancel on Easter. Contributions of any amount welcome! Contribution forms are available in the lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building, or can be made online via the link in First Matters. Contributions must be received by Tuesday, March 28th.

### Midweek Music Meditation and Worship - Wednesdays in Lent

Nathan Whittaker, *violoncello*, enjoys a unique and diverse career as a concert soloist, chamber musician, recitalist, teacher, and historical cello specialist with concert stops ranging from New York to Seattle to Dubai. His meditation will feature solo music for cello by Johann Sebastian Bach. Music Meditation begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by a brief worship service. Join us in-person, or online via links in our First Matters newsletter.

# LOVE LIVES BEYOND

## A VESPERS SERVICE OF MUSIC FOR LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 AT 4:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY

THE CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Johann Sebastian Bach  
*Jesu, der du meine Seele*

Cecilia McDowall      Chris DeBlasio  
*On Angel's Wing      The Best Beloved*

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



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