

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Service for the Lord's Day
March 19th, 2023 | 11 a.m.



Icon of Christ and Abbot Mena (The Friendship Icon), c. 750, encaustic and wood.

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



GIVE



**INTERESTED IN
MEMBERSHIP?**



GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Antiphon”

Calvin Hampton

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.”

Lord, as we search now, let us find you.

As we knock, open the door to us.

Let us know you, that we may worship you;
that we may love you, that we may serve you.

HYMN 182

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

KINGSFOLD

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 are a people formed by your Word in Christ;
but we have wandered away from your truth,
we have broken your commandments,
we have distorted your teachings,
we have failed to trust your promises,
we have refused your mercy.**

Have mercy on us O God.

Ground us again, O Holy One.

**Turn us once more to live in the ways of Christ
who is a friend of sinners.**

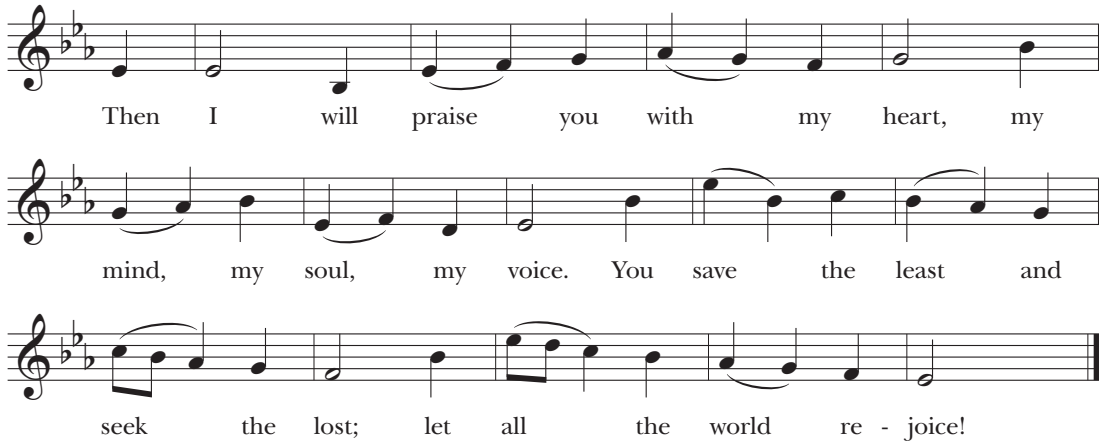
Hear us as we confess our sins in silence...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

IRISH



Then I will praise you with my heart, my
mind, my soul, my voice. You save the least and
seek the lost; let all the world re - jice!

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 THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the baptism and 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

Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the morning when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory.
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your
arms. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. When my work on
earth is done, and you come to take me home, just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear
you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen. -Moses Hogan

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 11:5-13

pew Bible, New Testament page 72/large print, New Testament page 88

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Parable Living:
The Gift of a Friend at Midnight”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 543

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

GREEN TYLER

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

Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to Thy mercy think Thou on me, O Lord, for Thy goodness.

-Psalm 25:5-6

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 629

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

ST. AGNES

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Kyrie, God, Holy Ghost, BWV 671”

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 Daniel Duque.

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY

William Owen Raimondi

Son of Matthew Raimondi and Elizabeth Trenkle

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

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

2:00 p.m. Art at First - 7 Days:

Artists View the Creation Exhibit

4:00 p.m. *Love Lives Beyond:*

A Vespers Service of Music

Monday

5:30 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday

4:00 p.m. Artist Talk

Wednesday

11:45 a.m. Midweek Music Meditation & Worship

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. Sunday Worship

11:15 a.m. Church School

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

12:30 p.m. Sermon Talks

1:30 p.m. Literary Group

2:00 p.m. Art at First - 7 Days:

Artists View the Creation Exhibit

2:00 p.m. Make it Meaningful

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We continue Sermon Talks today, March 19th 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.

Coffee and Theology will continue Sunday, March 26th with the *Jesus and Social Justice* series – Washing Disciples Feet. Rev. West McNeil, Executive Director of the NYS Labor-Religion Coalition and co-chair of the NYS Poor People's Campaign, will be leading this class. 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.

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.

Everyone is welcome to Yoga at First, which takes place online on Mondays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Anne Wines will lead the sessions until March 27th, offering a gentle vinyasa practice of yoga, sitting or standing. For details and to join, please contact Anne Wines at annegaineswines@gmail.com.

Bible Study continues Wednesday, March 22nd at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom and in the library with 3 John.

Prayer Writing continues Thursday, March 23rd 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!

Celebrate the start of Holy Week with us on Palm Sunday (April 2nd) at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will also be a procession for an ecumenical service in Washington Square Park starting at 9:30 a.m. Plan to meet the clergy and our extended First Church community at the church at 9:15 a.m. Let us come together to honor Jesus and his teachings. Don't miss out on this beautiful service!

Join us for a spiritual experience with the Reading of the Gospel of Mark Service on April 5th at 12 p.m. in the Parlor. Come and enjoy a beautiful moment of devotion and reflection on the teachings of the Gospel of Mark.

Come and experience a powerful and moving worship service on Maundy Thursday. We will gather in the Sanctuary on April 6th at 7 p.m. to reflect on the Last Supper and Jesus' final moments with his disciples. Don't miss this special service as we prepare our hearts for Easter Sunday.

We invite you to come and worship with us in the Sanctuary on Good Friday (April 7th) at 12 p.m. as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We hope to see you there!

Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 9th to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There will be an 8:00 a.m. Easter worship service in the chapel followed by 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. services in the sanctuary. Breakfast will be available starting at 8:30 a.m.

The next Senior Luncheon, *What's Next in the World of Money and You?* will be held on April 13th in the Parlor. The speaker for this event is **Anthea Perkinson**, who will speak about ways seniors can simplify their financial life. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 1:15 p.m. If you would like to register for the luncheon, go to the front desk of the Mellin-Macnab Building and ask for the sign-up sheet or call 212-675-6150.

Join us on April 16th at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary for Earth Care Sunday. Bill McKibben, environmentalist, and founder of Third Act and 350.org, will deliver a sermon, which will be followed by a light lunch and a panel discussion titled *Saving the Planet: An Ethical Imperative*, which will be organized by the Earth Care Action Group. Q&A will begin at 12:30 p.m. To date, panelists include **Miranda Massie**, Director and Founder of the Climate Museum; **Erik Bottcher**, environmentalist, and our New York City Council Representative; and **Rev. Lindley DeGarmo**, PCUSA Board of Pensions Vice Chair and member of the MRTI Board (Mission Responsibility Through Investment), as well as a former First Church member and interim pastor.

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.

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*

Midweek Music Meditation and Worship - Wednesday, March 22

Alistair Reid enjoys a distinguished career as an international conductor, organist, and pianist. He is Organist and Director of Music of St. Joseph's Church, Yorkville, and formerly Director of Music of Coventry Cathedral in England. His music meditation includes music of Bach and Jehan Alain. 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.

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