

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Service for the Lord's Day
March 5th, 2023 | 11 a.m.



The Good Samaritan, Jacob Jordaens, c. 1616, oil on canvas.

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

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

“Prayer”
“Petit Canon”

George Walker
Nadia Boulanger

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

What does the Lord require of us?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

What does God command of us?

**To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Let us worship the God who calls us into ministry!

HYMN 343

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

GERMANY

CALL TO CONFESSION

KYRIE *sung by the choir*

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

Ukrainian traditional chant

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving and merciful one,
we thank you for the community in which you have placed us,
for the siblings with whom we walk this pilgrim journey.**

**Yet, we confess that even in community,
we fail to love as you love.**

We push aside those considered the least in your kingdom.

**We fail to see your love in parables
because we fail to see your love in each other.**

**Form in us a new vision of community
in which there is neither east nor west, neither south nor north.
We pray this in the strong name of Jesus the Christ...**

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

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.

ANTHEM

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the spirit of truth.

Thomas Tallis

-John 14:15-17

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 10:25-37

pew Bible, New Testament page 71/large print, New Testament page 87

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Parable Living:
If we could rewrite the Bible...”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus; Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

—Song of Solomon 8:7, 6; John 15:13; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 12:1

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Here at this table, O Lord,
we remember your great love for us.

For in a world of sin and sorrow, violence and anger, brokenness and pain,
your child Jesus came in love to forgive sin and welcome the outcast.

Jesus proclaimed the day of peace, and the coming of justice.

We look with anticipation for that gentle vision that Jesus imagined for the world, and we imagine it still today.

**A world when swords are beaten into plowshares
and spears into pruning hooks,
and we shall not learn war any more.**

**We minister with eagerness for that time when the sick are healed,
and the broken made strong.**

We marvel at the wondrous love you have for us,
and give thanks praising your name,
joining our voices with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
who forever sing 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.

We praise you, God, for sending your child, Jesus,
to live among us, full of grace and truth.

Jesus shared our joy and knew our sorrow,
healed the sick and was a friend of sinners.

We praise you that Jesus overcame death and rose again.

In being here with us in the world,

**Jesus showed us a way to move past what divides us,
and to build a world where all are embraced in love.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
that this bread and this cup may be for us the bread of life and cup of salvation,
that we, and all who share this feast, may be one with Christ and he with us.
Fill us with your love, that we may be Christ's faithful disciples until we feast
with him in glory.

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 515

“I Come with Joy”

DOVE OF PEACE

HYMN 282

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

DOWN AMPNEY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**As we walk together in this season of Lent,
may we care for each other in ways beyond what we can even imagine.
As a mother feeds her child with her body,
so you feed us with yours,
giving us the bread to eat and the cup to drink.
May these gifts nourish us deeply
that we might become your body in the world,
and show your great love to all we encounter. Amen.**

SENDING

HYMN 720

“Jesus Calls Us”

GALILEE

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

“Chaconne”

Louis Couperin

*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 Cody Bennett.

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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We continue Sermon Talks today, March 5th in the Parlor. Everyone is invited to join Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell on Sundays 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 12th with the *Jesus and Social Justice* series – Zacchaeus. 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 begins 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.

Join us for our Midweek Music Meditation and Worship on Wednesdays throughout Lent. Music Meditation begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by worship. The Music Meditation this week is offered by First Church Director of Music, Michael Shake. Services will be livestreamed on the church's YouTube, Facebook, and BoxCast accounts, which can be found in our First Matters newsletter.

Bible Study continues Wednesday, March 8th at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom and in the library with the Gospel of 1 John. For more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

Prayer Writing continues Thursday, March 9th 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! For more information, contact Rev. Barbara Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

The next Senior Luncheon, titled *What's New in Legal Matters*, will be held on March 9th in the Parlor. Matthew Raphan, an elder lawyer who is known to many at First Church, will be discussing Health Proxies, Power of Attorney and Wills. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 1:15 p.m. 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.

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."

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.

Lent 2023 Worship and Programs

Be sure to put these worship services & programs
on your calendar.

Coffee & Theology

Every Sunday from February 26th through
March 26th at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship + Sermon Talks

Every Sunday from February 26th through April
2nd at 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Love Lives Beyond: A Vespers Service of Music for Lent

March 19th at 4 p.m.

Midweek Music Meditation & Worship

Every Wednesday from March 1st through
March 29th at 11:45 a.m.

Midweek Bible Study

Every Wednesday from March 1st through
March 22nd at 12:30 p.m.

Prayer Writing

Wednesday, February 22nd at 8:30 a.m. & every
Thursday from March 2nd through April 6th at
8:30 a.m.

Read the Lenten Devotional throughout the season - you can pick up a copy in the lobby!

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. Presbyterian Women Bible Study
12:30 p.m. Sermon Talks
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

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
12:30 p.m. Sermon Talks
2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

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