

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

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
Service for the Lord's Day
April 2nd, 2023 | 11 a.m.



Sadao Watanabe, *Christ enters Jerusalem*, 1982, Stencil: natural pigments and ink on 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

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

“Pièce héroïque”

César Franck

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CHORAL ACCLAMATION

Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever. –Psalm 113:2

Dmytro Bortnyansky

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Please stand in body or spirit.

You are on your way to Jerusalem, precious Lord.

You are on your way to suffering and to death for our sake.

This is mystery and wonder.

Our hearts overflow into songs of praise.

“Hosanna!”, we cry with the crowds.

“Blessed are you who comes in God’s name!”

Yet, you puzzle us:

you puzzle us with your suffering love

which is more powerful than our brokenness;

you puzzle us with your freely chosen humility

which brings blessings to our lives;

you puzzle us with your forgiveness

that summons us beyond our hurt.

Grant us grace

to welcome this holy restlessness,

that we may live by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

Matthew 21:1-11

pew Bible, New Testament page 23/large print, New Testament page 27

HYMN 196

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

ANTHEM

Cathy Townley

Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Hosanna! Hosanna! All the people sang their praise to him. Hosanna! Hosanna! Came to town upon a donkey’s back; Hosanna! Hosanna! Seemed so lowly but he’s Lord in fact. *Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hear the people say Hosanna! Save us today. Hosanna! It’s a faithful song. Hosanna! Sing it all night long.*

Everybody brought their hopes and dreams. Hosanna! Hosanna! Life just isn’t always what it seems. Hosanna! Hosanna! Need somebody who can help us be Hosanna! Hosanna! liberated from captivity. *Hosanna! Hosanna!*

–Cathy Townley

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this Sunday, O God,
we remember how quickly we change.
How fickle we are,
how we pledge our devotion one moment
and turn our backs the next.
We go from shouting “Hosanna! Save Us!”
to “Crucify Him.”

We declare that we love our neighbors
and then we turn our backs
on the homeless and hungry in our communities.

We speak up for change and justice in one breath,
and then continue unjust practices in daily lives.

Forgive us.

Have mercy on us O God,
for we tire easily and we grow weary.

Forgive us, restore us, and renew us for the journey of faith,
so that we might become whole people
who live wholly into your vision of new life.

In the name of Christ,
who lived into the fullness of humanity,
and in whose name we confess our sins...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16

pew Bible, New Testament page 29/large print, New Testament page 35

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Whiplash Faith”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 215

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

WONDROUS LOVE

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

George Frederic Handel

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

-Psalm 24:7-10

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, those in the back of the center aisle will be invited forward first. 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 499

“Bread of the World in Mercy Broken”

RENDEZ À DIEU

ANTHEM

Giovanni Croce

O vos omnes qui transitis per viam: attendite et videte si est dolor sicut dolor meus.

O all ye that pass by the way, attend and see if there be any sorrow like to my sorrow.

-Lamentations 1:12

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, by this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come as we enter this holy week. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for your vision of peace. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your love. Amen.

SENDING

HYMN 221

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

PRELUDE TO HOLY WEEK AND PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

“Thou Man of Grief, Remember Me”

Gardner Read

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 Ryan Tirre.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor*

Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Student Choristers

Jon Harris, *Family Music Coordinator*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are excited to announce that Jenny Bennett started as our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries on April 1st. Jenny, a member, and current church schoolteacher, will be a familiar face to many of you! Feel free to introduce yourself to her and share your thoughts with her as she begins her work with us during Holy Week.

All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Jenny Bennett after service, for pizza in the Mezzanine as we begin the journey through Holy Week together! For more information, contact Barbara Davis at bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

Join us for the last Sermon Talks in Lent today, April 2nd in the Parlor. Everyone is invited to join Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell 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.

Church School will have a special program in honor of Palm Sunday today in the Parlor during worship. Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

Prayer Writing continues Thursday, April 6th 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.

Join us for a spiritual experience with the Reading of the Gospel of Mark on April 5th at 12 p.m. in the Parlor. Come and enjoy a beautiful time of devotion and reflection on the teachings of the Gospel of Mark. This service will be livestreamed on our YouTube page at: [Youtube.com/@FirstChurchNYC](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstChurchNYC).

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 last words of Jesus on the cross.

On Saturday, April 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. we will meet in the Great Hall of the South Wing for Easter Egg Decorating as we prepare for the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday! All are welcome! RSVP to bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

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

All families are invited to join our Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday following the 11 a.m. service! Youth (and anyone else) are invited to help hide the eggs between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. Please bring an Easter Basket for the egg hunt

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. Panelists include **Miranda Massie**, Director and Founder of the Climate Museum; **Erik Bottcher**, environmentalist, and our New York City Council Representative; **Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson**, scientist and theologian, and founder of the Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition; 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. Childcare for children 0-3 is available at no cost.

Art at First & Facing Racism present Creatives Create: Bending the Arc Toward Justice - Share your creative works that explore your understanding of race and other areas of justice. All types of creative work are welcome. This non-juried exhibition will be hung in the Great Hall Gallery in May and June, supplemented by contributed performance pieces. The deadline to submit artwork is Sunday, April 23rd. Email creativescreate@fpcnyc.org to participate.

Holy Week Services

Reading of the Gospel of Mark

Wednesday, April 5th at 12 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 6th at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 7th at 12 p.m.

Easter Sunday Chapel Worship

Sunday, April 9th at 8 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 9th beginning 8 a.m.

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 9th at 9 & 11 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

9:30 a.m. Procession to Washington Square Park
11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
12:00 p.m. Art at First - 7 Days:
Artists View the Creation Exhibit
12:30 p.m. PW Bible Study
12:30 p.m. Sermon Talks

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Reading of the Gospel of Mark
5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship
7:00 p.m. Current Events

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Decorating
10:15 a.m. First Saturdays with
St. Joe's Soup Kitchen
1:00 p.m. Gardening Day

Next Sunday

8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Chapel Worship
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
Following Worship: Easter Egg Hunt

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