

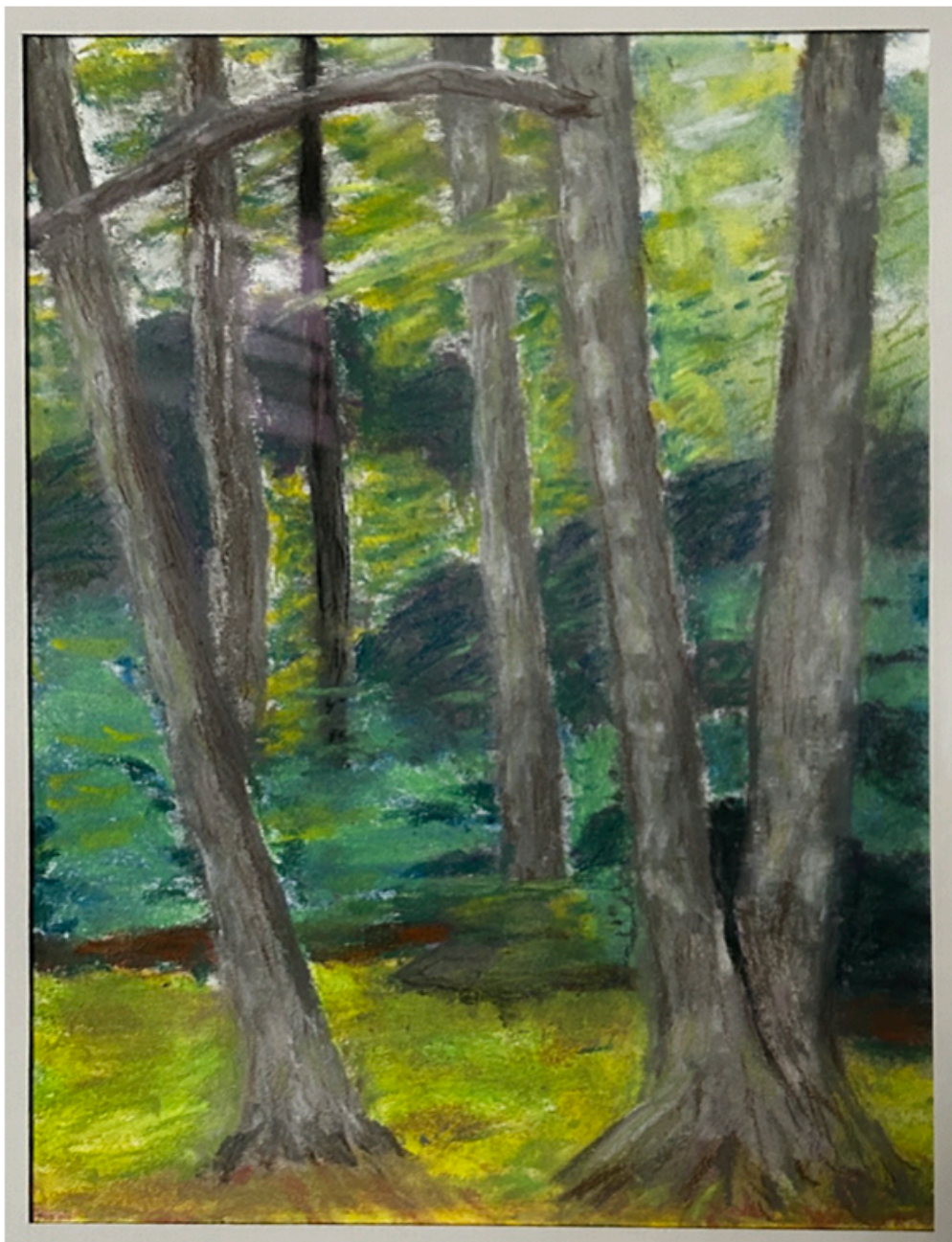
# *The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York*

---

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER/EARTH CARE SUNDAY

April 16th, 2023

---



Irene Gilman  
on display in the Great Hall as part of the *7 Days: Artists View the Creation* Exhibit

# 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.

Gender-neutral restrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary as well as through the wooden doors at the front of the sanctuary on the south side. More restrooms can be found in the lobby on the north side of the sanctuary.

**GET INVOLVED**



**GIVE**



**INTERESTED IN  
MEMBERSHIP?**



**ONE GREAT HOUR  
OF SHARING**



# GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Chorale Prelude on LLANFAIR”

McNeil Robinson

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

This Earth is God’s and all that is in it,

**the world and all its creatures.**

In the beginning, out of swirling chaos, God created.

**God created water and sky and plants and creatures and called it all good.**

God called us good, too, and invited us to make the Earth our home.

**God called us to steward and tend Creation.**

Not to dominate and control, but steward and tend.

**God calls us still to be stewards of the here and now. Let us worship God.**

HYMN 33

“Praise the Lord! God Glories Show”

LLANFAIR

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, forgive us for the ways in which we contribute to the destruction of your Creation. Transform our hearts and minds, that we may place the welfare of your earth and your people before our fleeting desires. Give us ears to hear the voices long ignored in our communities and ecosystems, and grant us divine wisdom that we may replace systems of destruction and domination with systems of justice and sustainability. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA; TANZANIAN MELODY

Christ has a - ris - en to set us free.  
 Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;

Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.  
 he reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy. Death's fear - ful  
 sting he has come to de - stroy. Our sin for - giv - ing,

al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is liv - ing, 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.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM 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

Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God’s grace, no other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face. One splendour thence is shed from all the stars above: ‘tis named when God’s name is said, ‘tis love, ‘tis heavenly love. And every gentle heart that burns with true desire is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

-Robert Bridges

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Job 38:1-11

*pew Bible, Old Testament page 484/large print, Old Testament page 595*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

*Please stand in body or spirit*

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## OFFERTORY

George Frederic Handel

Hallelujah, Amen. O Judah, rejoice, in songs divine, with Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join.

-Thomas Morell

## DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God all crea - tures  
high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it  
one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER FOR THE EARTH

*Written by members of the Earth Care Action Group of First Church*

## SENDING

### HYMN

“God You Spin the Whirling Planets”

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Please stand in body or spirit.*



1. God, you spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, fill the seas and spread the plain,  
2. You have called us to be faith-ful in our life and min - is - try.  
3. God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to life made new.



mold the moun-tains, fash - ion blos-soms, call forth sun - shine, wind, and rain.  
We re - spond in grate - ful wor - ship joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.  
Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre - at - ed in your im - age, would a true re - flec - tion be  
When we blur your gra - cious im - age, fo - cus us and make us whole.  
Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.



of your jus - tice, grace, and mer - cy and the truth that makes us \_ free.  
Healed and strength - ened as your peo - ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.  
Thus, new crea - tures in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

### BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

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

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY

Charles “Charlie” Randall Pike

Son of Elizabeth Randall Pike and Alan Gilchrist Pike

### LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Bill McKibben, *Guest Preacher*

Lisa Caswell and Buffy Barton, *Lay Leaders*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Church School begins the Love God, Neighbor, Enemy curriculum today in the Parlor during worship.** Childcare is available on the third floor for children under three years old.

**Bible Study returns Wednesday, April 19th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with 1 Thessalonians.

**Coffee and Theology will return Sunday, April 23rd at 9:30 a.m.** For more information, please contact Barbara Davis at [bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

**Join Art at First next Sunday, April 23rd from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.** in the Great Hall Gallery for the closing reception of the 7 Days: Artists View the Creation exhibit.

**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](mailto:creativescreate@fpcnyc.org) to participate.

**Join us for a family-friendly neighborhood clean-up event to celebrate Earth Day Sunday!** Meet us on the North Lawn at 12:30 p.m. on April 23rd and let's make our community a cleaner and greener place.

**Interested in learning more about our church or becoming a member of our congregation?** Join us for an Inquirers Class on April 29th at 10:00 a.m. For more information email Aileen Caba ([acaba@fpcnyc.org](mailto:acaba@fpcnyc.org)).

**Prayer Writing returns Thursday, May 4th at 8:30 a.m.** All are welcome to this time of quiet prompts for meditation and prayer, no writing experience necessary! We will read the poetry of Mary Oliver.

**Beginning on May 7th, a group of FPCNYC teens will be offering tech support to seniors on the first Sunday of each month during coffee hour.** Seniors who need help with technology can bring their phones, laptops, iPads, and other devices to church, and the teen tech squad will work with them one-on-one. No need to sign up in advance - just show up! Members who are unable to attend church or require immediate assistance may request a home visit. Please email Jonathan Metzler ([jonathanpmetzler@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanpmetzler@gmail.com)) if you are a senior interested in these services or a teen interested in volunteering with tech support.

**Join us in worship on May 7th when we welcome Dr. Thomas G. Long to the pulpit.** Dr. Long is Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He is a Presbyterian minister and sought out preacher and keynote speaker. His introductory book on preaching is recognized as one of the most influential works in the field in the last 25 years. A recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Long was named by Baylor University as one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world. Tom will preach at First Church on May 7th and lead a sermon-talk discussion and presentation on his new book following worship.

**Join us in the sanctuary on June 25th at 11 a.m. for our Pride Sunday service.** It's a day to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and show our support. After the service, we will pass out water to participants in the march. If you're interested in volunteering, please send an email to Emily Brewer ([ebrewer@fpcnyc.org](mailto:ebrewer@fpcnyc.org)).

**Spring is the time to bring your new and gently used items to church for the Tartan Fair Yard Sale,** Saturday, September 23rd. Children's clothing, books, and "white elephants" are now being accepted. Drop off at the front desk during the week or on Sundays. Help sort and price on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Jane Ritter ([jmr719@aol.com](mailto:jmr719@aol.com)) or Joan Ryan ([joanlryan@aol.com](mailto:joanlryan@aol.com)) for more information.

# THIS WEEK AT FIRST

## Today

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m. Church School  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:30 p.m. Saving the Planet: An Ethical Imperative  
Panel Discussion

## Wednesday

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

## 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 7 Days: Artists View the Creation  
Closing Reception  
12:30 p.m. Earth Day Clean-Up  
1:30 p.m. Literary Group  
2:00 Make it Meaningful



PERMISSIONS *Chorale Prelude on LLANFAIR*. © 2008 by C.F. Peters Corporation. *Praise the Lord! God Glories Show*. Public domain. *Christ Has Arisen*. Words © 1977 Howard S. Olson (admin. Augsburg Fortress). Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *My Eyes for Beauty Pine*. © 1928 Oxford University Press. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Hallelujah, Amen*. Public domain. *Doxology with Alleluias*. Music Harm. © 1998 Hope Publishing Company. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *God You Spin the Whirling Planets*. Words © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Fanfare*. Public domain. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



*This paper contains 100% post-consumer waste content, is made with windpower and made carbon neutral.*

Mohawk Loop is certified by Preferred by Nature for FSC® standards. NC-COC-000668

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