

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 30th, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.



Cathedral in Yellow, Rene Portocarrero, Cuba, 1961.

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?



GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Pastorale”

“Caprice”

Percy Whitlock

Graham Twist

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Please stand in body or spirit.

Your church gathers, Lord,
**in New York and Mozambique,
in Cuba and to the ends of the earth.**

Your church gathers, Lord,
in city and country, in suburbs and slums,
in sanctuaries and buildings,
under trees and by streams of water.

Your people praise you, Lord,
for hope in the midst of despair,
for strength in times of weakness,
for justice in situations of oppression,
for courage in the face of fear,
for life in the midst of death.

We are the people who call you Lord.
Let everything that breathes, praise you Lord

HYMN 624

“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

TOULON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
you call us to live a life worthy of the calling we have received,
to be completely humble and gentle;
to be patient, bearing with one another in love.
to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace.

Forgive our disunity.
Forgive us when we do not live up to our calling.
Forgive the tainted witness your church gives to the world.

**We know there is one body and one Spirit—
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and parent of all.**
Have mercy on us, and help us to live in that unity....

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.

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

Virgil Thomson

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name. In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream. He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways, and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay; one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

—Psalm 23; Isaac Watts, para.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 133

pew Bible, Old Testament page 575/large print, Old Testament page 706

SERMON

“It is good indeed!”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 265

“Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun”

DUKE STREET

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

**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

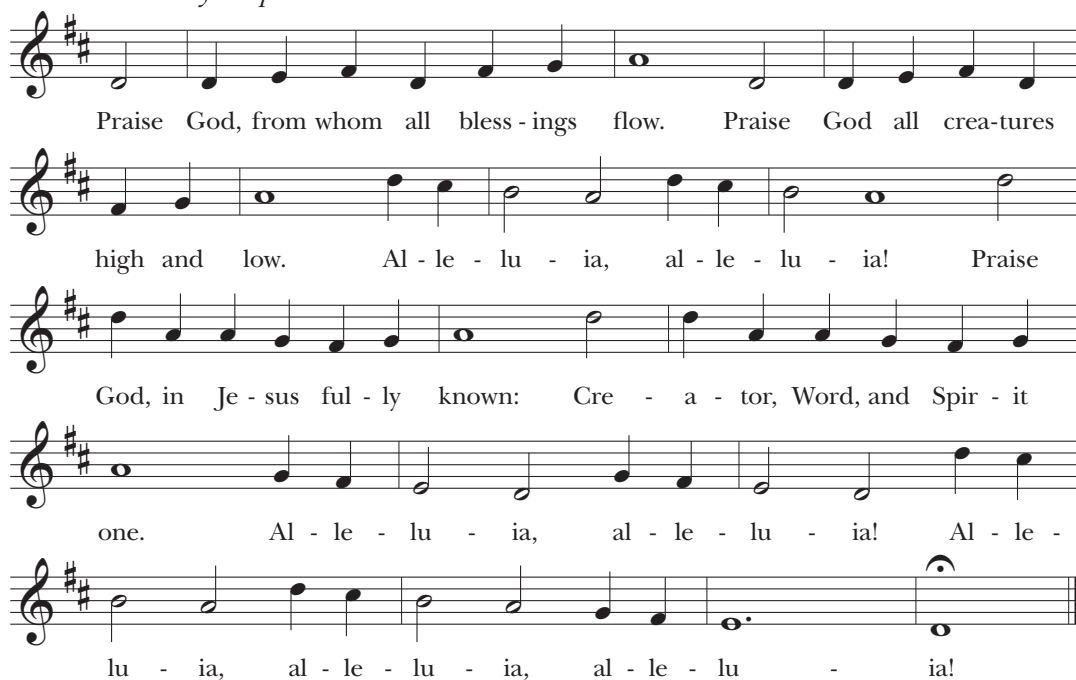
Tom Trenney

Clear our heart, O God, that we may see you. Clear our heart, O God, that we may truly see ourselves. Clear our heart, O God, that we may know the sacredness of this moment and in every moment seek you serve you strengthen you as the Living Presence in every presence. Clear our heart, O God, that we may see.
—John Philip Newell

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!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 546

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

SICILIAN MARINERS

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Heraldings”

Robert Hebble

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

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

The First Church Choir

Samuel Rosner, *tenor*

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee and Theology continues next Sunday, May 7th at 9:30 a.m. This session will be led by Emma Gritsch.

Church School continues 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 continues Wednesday, May 10th at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom and in the library with Psalms.

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.

Join us next Sunday for a special sermon talk with Dr. Tom Long at 12:30 p.m. in the parlor. Tom will discuss his research on the parables and lead a discussion on the sermon

Volunteer at St. Joe's Soup Kitchen on May 6th. As a congregation, First Church volunteers at the St. Joe's Soup Kitchen on the first Saturday of each month. Shifts begin at 10:30 and 1:00. Come get to know members of the First Church community as we serve our neighbors together. Email Emily Brewer to sign up (ebrewer@fpcnyc.org).

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) if you are a senior interested in these services or a teen interested in volunteering with tech support.

Calling all Young Adults! Join us on May 7th after worship for a discussion on spirituality and service with Rev. Emily Brewer. Grab a beverage at coffee hour and we'll meet in the Parlor at 12:15pm. Contact Emily Dawson (emilydawson1992@gmail.com) for more info.

First Church is participating in the AIDS Walk on May 21st from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Central Park. The walk will raise awareness and funds for HIV/AIDS research and treatment. We do the walking and the fundraising together as a team. If you'd like to join the First Church Team, contact Emily Brewer (ebrewer@fpcnyc.org) and Jeff Nichols (jqnichols@gmail.com).

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) or Joan Ryan (joanlryan@aol.com) for more information.

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.)

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
2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing

Friday

7:00 p.m. Current Events

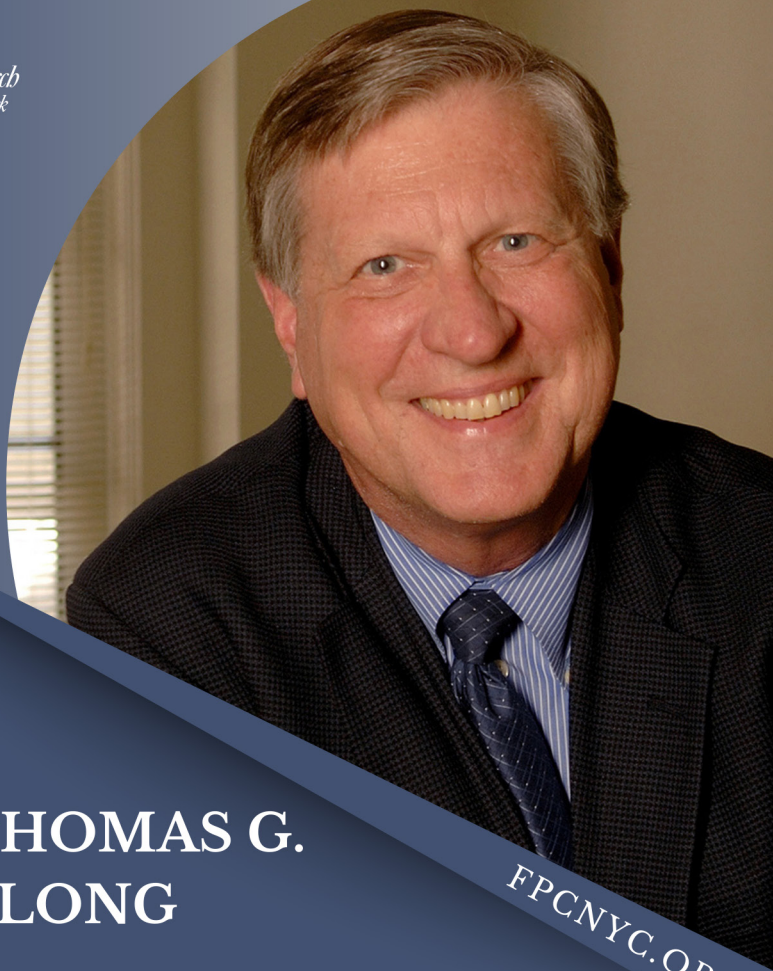
Saturday

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. Dr. Tom Long Sermon Talk
2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

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



DR. THOMAS G. LONG

FPCNYC.ORG

Presbyterian Teacher, Professor Emeritus of
Preaching at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta,
keynote speaker, and author

Join us in worship on May 7th at 11 a.m.
when we welcome Dr. Long to the pulpit

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