

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

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
May 14th, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

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*Morning Prayer, Catherine Quehl-Engel.*

# 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*

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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

“Lord Jesus Christ, O Highest Good, BWV 1114”

J.S. Bach

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

from the Iona Morning Service

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Move among us, God; give us life;  
**let your people rejoice in you.**  
Give us again the joy of your help;  
**with your spirit of freedom sustain us.**  
God, make our hearts clean,  
**restore us in body, mind and spirit.**

HYMN 645

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

MIT FREUDEN ZART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from the Iona Morning Service

**Before God,**  
**with the people of God,**  
**we confess to turning away from God**  
**in the ways we wound our lives,**  
**the lives of others**  
**and the life of the world...**

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.

*continues on following page*

Let us sing praise to him with end-less joy. Death's fear-ful  
 sting he has come to de-destroy. 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.**

## HEARING THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Psalm 139:1-14

*pew Bible, Old Testament page 577/large print, Old Testament page 710*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

Charles Villiers Stanford

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him and speak good of his name. For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth from generation to generation. 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 100, and the Lesser Doxology

### SECOND LESSON

Acts 17:22-31

*pew Bible, New Testament page 137/large print, New Testament page 168*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

“Whad’ya know?”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 286

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Iona Morning Service

**With the whole church  
we affirm**

**that we are made in God’s image,  
befriended by Christ,  
empowered by the Spirit.**

**With people everywhere  
we affirm**

**God’s goodness at the heart of humanity  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

**with all creation**

**we celebrate**

**the miracle and wonder of life,  
the unfolding purposes of God**

**for ever at work in ourselves and the world.**

### OFFERTORY

Franz Josef Haydn

The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of his work displays the firmament. Today that is coming, speaks it the day, the night that is gone, to following night. The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of his work displays the firmament. In all the lands resounds the word, never unperceived, ever understood. The heavens are telling the glory of God, the wonder of his work displays the firmament.

-Psalm 19:1-3

### 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 686

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

“God of Our Life”

SANDON

## BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

“Tuba Tune in D Major”

Craig Sellar Lang

*The congregation is invited to continue worshipping 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*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

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### 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

12:30 p.m. Bible Study

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

12:00 p.m. AIDS Walk

1:30 p.m. Literary Group

2:00 p.m. Creatives Create: Bending the Arc Towards  
Justice Performance (Part 1)

2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**After worship service today in coffee fellowship, please join us as we celebrate the work and ministry of Emma Gritsch, our seminary intern, as she finishes her work with us.** Emma will graduate from Union Theological Seminary on Friday, May 19th and will be seeking a call in Connecticut.

**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.

**Qigong and Yoga at First continues Monday, May 15th at 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.** All are welcome to join with Anne Gaines Wines leading a gentle vinyasa practice of Yoga, and with Meg Harper leading the Qigong practice. These sessions will be virtual on Zoom. For more information, to join the class, contact either (annegainewines@gmail.com) or (harpermeg718@gmail.com).

**Bible Study continues Wednesday, May 17th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with a study of Proverbs.

**Prayer Writing continues Thursday, May 18th at 8:30 a.m.** All are welcome to this time of quiet prompts for meditation and prayer, no writing experience necessary! We will use the poetry of Mary Oliver as prompts for our writing.

**Coffee and Theology continues next Sunday, May 21st at 9:30 a.m.** Four Gospels in Forty Minutes – that’s right! Join the Rev. Barbara Davis in the library or on zoom for this quick snapshot of the four gospels. The remaining twenty minutes of class will be for discussion and questions.

**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).

**Creatives Create! Bending the Arc Toward Justice exhibition continues in the Great Hall Gallery from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. each Sunday.** Also, on Sunday May 21st, 2:00 p.m. enjoy performances including the reading of an original play, poetry, and music to further explore the intersection of faith and justice. A reception will follow.

**Sunday, June 11th is Graduation Sunday!** During worship, we will celebrate all children, youth, and adults ending their school year and transitioning from one grade to the next, paying very special attention to our graduating seniors. All are invited to stay after worship for a party with cake and lawn games! Please sign up to be recognized during worship – all ages welcome! Sign up in the Narthex, or email Jenny Bennett, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, at (jbennett@fpcnyc.org).

**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).

**The Tartan Fair Yard Sale on Saturday, September 23rd, may seem like a long way off but we will gladly accept your donations now of gently used household items** (except computer components, furniture, and adult clothing). Please drop off donations at the front desk during the week or on Sundays. If you would like to help price and sort on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., contact Jane Ritter (jmr719@aol.com) or Joan Ryan (joanryan@aol.com).

# AIDS WALK NEW YORK MAY 21, 2023

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