

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER/ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 21st, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.



The Starry Night, Vincent van Gogh, Saint Rémy, June 1889.

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.

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

“Prelude in G Major, BWV 541”

Johann Sebastian Bach

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

**We know what God desires of us:
that we do justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with God.**

**We gather this morning to remind each other
that now is always the right time to do these things.
With thanks in our hearts, let us worship God.**

HYMN 263

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

CORONATION

ANTHEM

Conrad Kocher; abr. William Henry Monk

Words may be found at *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 14.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

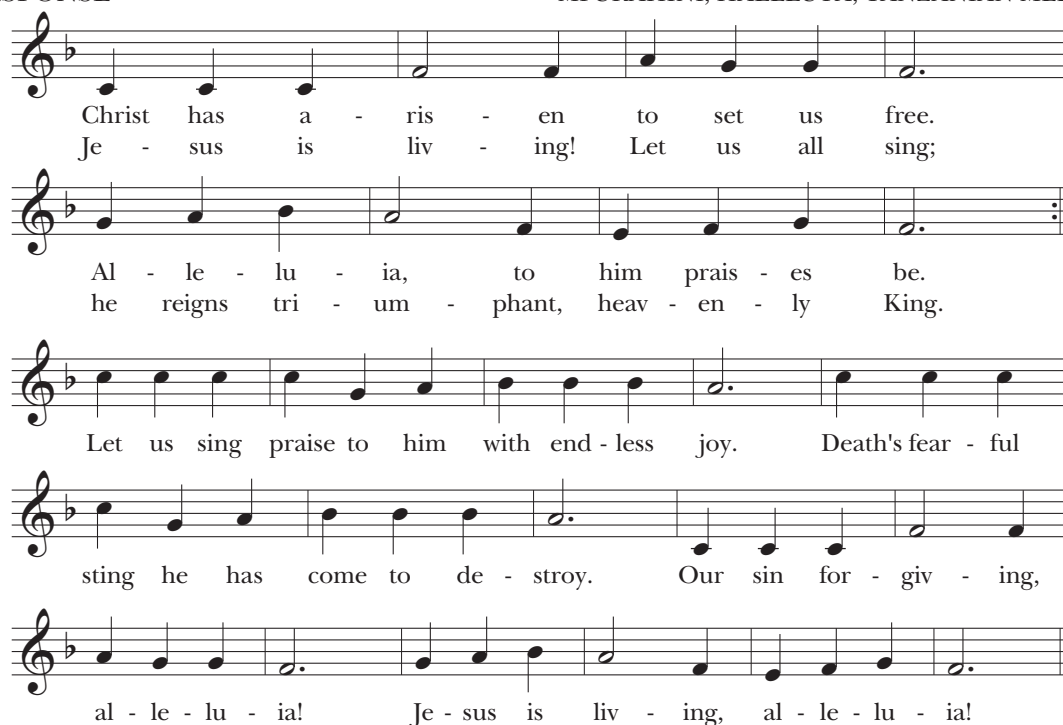
**Steadfast God,
we confess Jesus as the way,
the truth and the life for us,
yet we often fail to follow him,
too often gone our own way,
distorted the truth and resisted your will.
Forgive us for falling short of your purpose for our lives.
Give us courage to follow Jesus,
who continues to show us the way.**

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 INFANT 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

William Byrd

Sing to the Lord, who ascends above the heaven of heavens, to the east. Alleluia. -Psalm 67:33-34

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

pew Bible, New Testament page 118/large print, New Testament page 143

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Impatient Waiting”

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 817

Please stand in body or spirit.

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

DUNLAP'S CREEK

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

Philip W. J. Stopford

O clap your hands together, all ye people, O sing unto God with a voice of melody. For the Lord is high, and to be feared, he is the great King of all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose out an heritage for us, ev'n the worship of Jacob, whom he loved. God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God, O sing praises, sing praises unto the Lord our King. For God is the King of all the earth, sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen, God sitteth upon his holy seat.
—from Psalm 47

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 826
Please stand in body or spirit.

“Lift High the Cross”

CRUCIFER

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in G Major, BWV 541”

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY

Nicholas Kent Boothby
Son of Alice Haven Thompson Boothby & Willard Sands Boothby

Navy Elizabeth Stack
Daughter of Alexis Stack & Andrew Stack

James Laurie Beacham-Scott
Son of Christopher James Beacham & Adam Michael Scott

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor*

Student Choristers
Jon Harris, *Family Music Coordinator*

The First Church Choir
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology 10:00 a.m. AIDS Walk 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 11:15 a.m. Church School 12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship 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	Thursday 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing
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 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship 12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School concludes 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.

Creatives Create! Bending the Arc Toward Justice exhibition continues in the Great Hall Gallery from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. each Sunday. Join us on Sunday June 18th at 2:00 p.m. for the closing of this exhibition and part two of performances. A reception will follow. For more information email (creativescreate@fpcnyc.org).

Qigong and Yoga at First continues Monday, May 22nd 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 (annegaineswines@gmail.com) or (harpermeg718@gmail.com).

Bible Study continues Wednesday, May 24th at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom and in the library with a study of Ecclesiastes.

Prayer Writing continues Thursday, May 25th at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to this time of quiet writing for meditation and prayer, no writing experience necessary! We will use the poetry of Mary Oliver as prompts for our writing.

Summer Family Worship Space: Starting Sunday, May 28th, while Church School breaks for summer, families with young children are welcome to enjoy the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Parlor. A screen will display a livestream of the service, and there will be puzzles, games, snacks, and art supplies as you worship in a relaxing and open space! Any children up to 5 years old are welcome, and they must be accompanied by an adult. See you there!

Join us in celebrating a milestone as we commemorate Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis' 25 years of dedicated service to First Church. On June 4th, following the worship service, we invite you to join us on the North Lawn for lunch and cake in honor of this momentous occasion.

Join us for a fun and educational neighborhood walk and lunch on Sunday, June 4th at 12:30 p.m. in Greenwich Village. This Youth Event will explore the rich history of the area with stops at the Emma Lazarus House, Washington Square Park, and Stonewall. We'll end our walk with a delicious late lunch at Flipsigi! All students in grades 9 to 12 are invited to attend, and friends are welcome too! Please RSVP and learn more by emailing Jenny Bennett at (jbennett@fpcnyc.org).

The next Senior Luncheon will be held on June 8th in the Parlor. 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. For more information email Betty Jones (bcheynejones1@gmail.com).

The First Church Choir invites you to join them for The Summer Choir! The Summer Choir will meet every Sunday, June 11th through July 30th, at 9:30 a.m. to prepare music for 11:00 a.m. worship. Participation is flexible – sing one or more Sundays of your choosing. To learn more about this special opportunity, contact Michael Shake today! (mshake@fpcnyc.org).

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 on Thursday, June 22th at 6:30 p.m for our Pride Cocktail Party. Meet us in the garden for music, drinks and hor d'oeuvres, and a recognition of our AIDS Walk team. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

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 23th, 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).



& Facing Racism

Present

Creatives Create!

Bending the Arc Toward Justice

Today, at 2:00 p.m., join us for Part 1 of the performances at the Creatives Create! Bending the Arc Toward Justice exhibition in the Great Hall Gallery.

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