

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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/LOVING DAY

June 18th, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.



*Sankofa bird standing in a stream of water (2020),
symbol selected by the Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly*

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

“Solemn Processional”
“Variations on NETTLETON”

Robert A. Harris
Undine Smith Moore

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

The Lord our God is great.

God is worthy of our praise.

Come; let us remember the great things God has done.

Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.

We remember our ancestors, our history; and we name our future.

Let us lift up our voices in song,
and open our hearts in gratitude.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 612

“We Praise You, O God”

KREMSER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image.

You make every human life sacred,

yet in response to your grace, our tendency is to divide and oppress.

Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil

and to make no peace with injustice.

Help us, like those of generations before us

who resisted the evil of slavery

and human bondage in any form

and any manner of oppression.

Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people

and nations everywhere,

to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

NETTLETON

Sing no emp - ty al - le - lu - ias. Sing no va - pid songs of praise.
 Sing in - stead the song of jus - tice, let it roll through all our days:
 God has called us to act just - ly; God has called us to be kind;
 God has called us to be hum - ble, lov - ing all— heart, soul, and mind.

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

ANTHEM

Charles D. Coleman

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness, all ye lands. Come before God singing, all ye lands. Know ye that the Lord is our God: it is God that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture. Enter into God's gates with thanksgiving, and into God's courts with praise: be thankful unto God, and bless God's holy name. For the Lord is good; and whose mercy is everlasting; and whose truth endureth to all generations. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord and read God's holy word and bless God's holy name, all ye lands.

-Psalm 100 (King James Version)

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 78:1-11

pew Bible, Old Testament page 537/large print, Old Testament page 661

SECOND LESSON

2 Chronicles 7:14

pew Bible, Old Testament page 393/large print, Old Testament page 487

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Sankofa”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 339

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LIFT EVERY VOICE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

OFFERTORY

Herbert Howells

All my hope on God is founded who will all my trust renew, who through change and chance will guide me, only good and only true. God unknown, God alone, call my heart to be thine own.

Mortal pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust; what with care and toil we fashion, tower and temple, fall to dust. But thy power hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

Great thy goodness, ever enduring; deep thy wisdom, passing thought; splendor, light, and life attend thee, beauty springing out of naught. Evermore from thy store new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done, high above all praises praising for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

-Joachim Neander; Robert Bridges, alt.

DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Please stand in body or spirit.



Traditional Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Him, all crea-tures

Inclusive Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple



here be - low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

SENDING

HYMN 750

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà on *Lift Every Voice and Sing*”

Mark Miller

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

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM TODAY

Theodore James Fichte

Son of Soo Mi Thompson and Andrew Michael Fichte

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor*

The First Church Summer Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship/Juneteenth

11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship Space

12:00 p.m. Loving Day Coffee Fellowship

12:30 p.m. Pride Coffee and Theology

12:30 p.m. Literary Group

2:00 p.m. Creatives Create: Bending the Arc

Toward Justice Performance/Closing Reception

Monday

Juneteenth - Building will be closed

5:30 p.m. Qigong & Yoga at First

Tuesday

6:15 p.m. Earth Care Action Group

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study

5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish

Thursday

6:30 p.m. Pride Cocktail Party

Friday

7:00 p.m. Current Events

Saturday

10:15 a.m. St. Joe's Soup Kitchen

Next Sunday

11:00 a.m. Pride Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship Space

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
and Pride March Water Table

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is Loving Day and Juneteenth Sunday! Join us as we celebrate Juneteenth, honoring the freedom of enslaved African Americans, and Loving Day, celebrating diverse relationships that transcend boundaries. **Please join us for a Loving Day Coffee Hour after worship today** to celebrate the sweetness because Love is Love. We celebrate the anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, the aptly named 1967 Supreme Court decision that vacated the two 1-year sentences of Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter Loving who each pled guilty to a law criminalizing marriage between persons of different races, on the grounds that the Virginia statutory scheme violated the equal protection and due process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. Because Chris Flint was an early organizer of our Loving Day Celebration, we will also remember his many contributions to the life of this congregation.

Summer Family Worship Space: 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 live-stream 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. We hope to see you today!

Join us for Pride Coffee and Theology today at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor. We will discuss Queer Liberation Theology – what is it? Where/how did it start? How can it shape our faith? Whether you're queer, straight, or neither of those labels fit, there's a place for you in this time of mutual learning and sharing as we celebrate God's love for everyone.

Join us today at 2:00 p.m. for the closing of the Creatives Create! Bending the Arc Toward Justice exhibition in the Great Hall Gallery. There will be performances and a reception will follow. For more information email (creativescreate@fpcnyc.org).

Bible Study continues Wednesday, June 21st at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom and in the library with a study of the book of Revelation.

Join us this Thursday, June 22nd 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! For more information email Jeff Nichols at (jqnichols@gmail.com).

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 and enjoy food and fellowship together on the lawn. For more information, email Emily Brewer (ebrewer@fpcnyc.org).

Introduction to New Testament mini-virtual series meets again June 27th at 7 p.m. Contact the Rev. Barbara Davis (bdavis@fpcnyc.org) for more information.

The First Church Choir invites you to join them for The Summer Choir! The Summer Choir will meet every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., until July 30th 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).

Please join us for "ReNew: The Green VBS!" - our Vacation Bible School theme for this summer! VBS will take place from July 31st to August 4th, running every day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All ages are welcome, and lunch will be provided. We are actively seeking volunteers to serve in our youth ministry during this week. Whether you can commit to a few days or the entire week, we would appreciate your support! To register for VBS or volunteer, please RSVP to Jenny at (jbennett@fpcnyc.org).

Surprise Us With Your Yard Sale Donations! The Yard Sale Team looks forward each week to seeing the new donations we've received! Your gently used household items, books and children's clothing can be brought to the church lobby on Sundays or during the week. The Tartan Fair Yard Sale is Saturday, September 23rd. 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). A book lover or two to help price and sort books is especially needed.



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