

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

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TRINITY SUNDAY

*Service for the Lord's Day*

June 4th, 2023 | 11 a.m.

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*The Hospitality of Abraham (Icon of The Holy Trinity; The Old Testament Trinity),  
Andrey Rublyov, Moscow, c.1420s, Levkas and tempera on panel.*

# 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*

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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

“Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552/2”

Johann Sebastian Bach

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

HYMN 1

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

NICAEA

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity,  
We ask for your healing presence.  
We know that in self-giving love,  
your very nature teaches us how to love one another.  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
you teach us to live in community  
and in relationship with each other.**

**Forgive our divisions and biases,  
from social class to race,  
from gender to age,  
from ability to different abilities.**

**Turn us around, O God.  
Help us to see as you see.  
In your mercy, O God,  
forgive who we are and bless who we will be...**

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.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

### HEARING THE WORD

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

*pew Bible, New Testament page 34/large print, New Testament page 41*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

“A Definition of God”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;**

**the holy catholic Church;**

**the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body;**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### OFFERTORY

The text may be found at *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 33.

Rick Bassett

#### COMMUNION

##### INVITATION

##### PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Almighty God,

Your desire called all of creation into being,

and Your breath has sustained us at every turning,

but we struggle to trust in your provision.

**We make the earth mourn; we fill the seas with noise.**

**Though you put your word in the mouths of prophets,**

**we stop our ears, so we do not hear.**

**Nations rage; kingdoms totter,**

**and the world groans and grieves yet again.**

**Still you do not give us up.**

The one you sent out of love for the world  
still meets us in this bread, this cup, this community.

Hear us, as that community, as we join in the song of your unending greatness:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the  
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In Jesus, your passion took flesh.  
Jesus taught us and healed us,  
gave us to each other and offered us peace.  
Even when we fled from Jesus, denied and crucified Jesus,  
even then you were not done with us.

**Christ's empty grave still dares us to hope  
that nothing can ever separate us from your love,  
that pain and grief and hatred will not have the final word.**

Holy Spirit, move among us now.  
Be known to us in the breaking of bread,  
and spill again your life into the cup,  
that our lives might be joined to your purposes,  
that your desire might become our own, this day and always.  
In the strong name of our risen Lord hear us as we pray together  
that prayer which Jesus taught those who asked for a way to pray:

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*Please come forward at the direction of the ushers, those in the back of the center aisle will be invited forward first. The servers will give you bread; please take a juice glass from the tray. You may take the juice in your own time and leave your cup in the pew holders. Gluten-free bread and self-contained bread and juice are available, please ask your server.*

## HYMN 525

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

LET US BREAK BREAD

## ANTHEM

Chad Fothergill, arr.

The text may be found at *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 347.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving and gracious God,  
you have gathered us at your table,  
called us your beloved and fed us from your body.  
Transform us to be your body in the world,  
to love and serve all your children.  
Let us be your agents of peace and hope and justice,  
this day and always. Amen.

## SENDING

### HYMN 733

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

“We Are All One in Mission”

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS  
WALDVÖGELEIN

### BLESSING

### CHORAL RESPONSE

Anglican Chant; George S. Talbot

### POSTLUDE

“Improvisation on an old Methodist hymn”

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

The cross which leads the procession today is dedicated  
“In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community.”  
Our cross-bearer today is Jack Griem.

## LEADING THIS MORNING

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

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

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### Today

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship Space  
12:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis  
25th Anniversary Celebration  
12:00 p.m. Creatives Create: Bending the Arc  
Toward Justice Exhibition  
12:30 p.m. Youth Event: Neighborhood  
Walk & Lunch  
12:30 p.m. PW Bible Study

### 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

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship/Graduation Sunday  
11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship Space  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Creatives Create: Bending the Arc  
Toward Justice Exhibition  
12:30 p.m. Coffee & Theology

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 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. We hope to see you today!

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

**Join us for a fun and educational neighborhood walk and lunch today 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 Inn. We'll end our walk with a delicious late lunch at Flipsigi! All grade 9 to 12 students are enthusiastically encouraged to attend the walk and are kindly requested to bring \$10 for their lunch contribution.

**Bible Study returns Wednesday, June 7th at 12:30 p.m.** on Zoom and in the library with a study of the book of Daniel.

**Prayer Writing concludes Thursday, June 8th 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.

**The next Senior Luncheon will be held on June 8th in the Parlor.** Podiatrist Paul N. Greenberg will discuss how elders can avoid falls and injuries at home and outdoors. Dr. Greenberg is the only NYC podiatrist who has been certified as an Expert Witness by the judicial system. 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:jbennett@fpcnyc.org)).

**Introduction to New Testament mini-virtual series** will take place on Tuesdays, June 13th and 27th at 7 p.m. Contact the Rev. Barbara Davis ([bdavis@fpcnyc.org](mailto:bdavis@fpcnyc.org)) for more information.

**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! For more information email Jeff Nichols at ([jqnichols@gmail.com](mailto: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. If you're interested in volunteering, please send an email to Emily Brewer ([ebrewer@fpcnyc.org](mailto:ebrewer@fpcnyc.org)).

**Roll your yard sale donations over to church and drop them at the front desk on Sundays or during the week.** The Tartan Fair Yard Sale is on Saturday, September 23rd, but we gladly accept your donations now of gently used household items (except computer components, furniture and adult clothing). 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](mailto:jmr719@aol.com)) or Joan Ryan ([joanryan@aol.com](mailto:joanryan@aol.com)).

**MUSIC NOTE** Two special musical offerings in our worship today are gifts to mark Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis' twenty-fifth year of ministry to First Church. At the offertory, we hear the premiere of Rick Bassett's vibrant new choral setting of the Issac Watts hymn text, "I Sing the Mighty Power of God." The postlude is an organ improvisation on "Standing on the Promises," a rousing camp-meeting hymn from the Methodist tradition. Both of these hymns are personal favorites of Dr. Davis. It brings great joy for our ministry to help celebrate this ministry milestone through music!  
-Michael Shake

# GRADUATION SUNDAY

A celebration for ALL students ending  
their school year!  
11 AM during the worship service

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH - 11 AM**

Please email [jbennett@fpcnyc.org](mailto:jbennett@fpcnyc.org) to share information about the students in your family. We can't WAIT to celebrate them!

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