

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

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EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23rd, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

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*They Said No* Inspired by Exodus 1:8-22, Lisle Gwynn Garrity, acrylic on canvas. © A Sanctified Art

# 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

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty, BWV 650”

J. S. Bach

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

We gather as the Body of Christ

We are many individuals,  
but together we are one.

Each of us has our own gifts,  
our own calling, our own role,  
but all of us proclaim  
Jesus Christ is the Messiah!

HYMN 35

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and mercy,  
you love us, but we have not always loved you.

You call, but we have not always listened.

We know the times we walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns.

We condone – by our inaction and inattention  
– evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

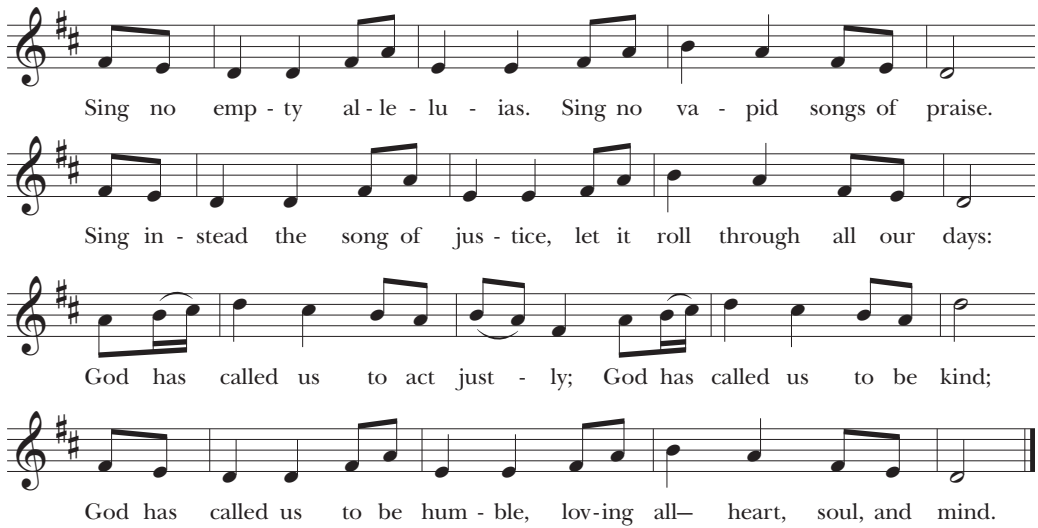
God of grace, help us to admit our sin,  
so that as you come to us in mercy,  
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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.

## ANTHEM

Calvin Hampton

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good; there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven; there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given. There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word; and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.  
—Frederick William Faber

## HEARING THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 1:8-2:10

*pew Bible, Old Testament page 49/large print, Old Testament page 60*

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### SERMON

“Fearing God, Facing Pharaoh”

Rev. Emily Brewer

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 819

“Be Still, My Soul”

FINLANDIA

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA), 1983

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.

## OFFERTORY

arr. Jake Runestad

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness fails me never. I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow with gentle care He leads me, and where the verdant pastures grow, with heavenly food He feeds me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with you, dear Lord, beside me; Your rod and staff my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me. And so through all the length of days, Your goodness fails me never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Your praise within Your house forever.

—Henry Williams Baker

## 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 805

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

“Come Sing to God”

ELLACOMBE

### BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

“Flourish and Chorale”

Michael McCabe

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

## LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*  
Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor*  
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for our virtual **Prayer Writing** sessions every **Thursday in July at 8:30 a.m.** Using Camille Dungy's book, *Soil*, as inspiration, we'll explore the joy of writing and its connection to prayer. All are welcome as no writing experience is necessary, you can express yourself through writing without any pressure to share your work. Let's nurture our creativity together and enjoy the beauty of prayer in this space for personal reflection. Contact Barbara for more information at (bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

**Bible Study continues on July 26th at 12:30 p.m. with the Old Testament Prophets in 1 Hour!** Join us for a hybrid experience, on Zoom or in the library. In just 60 minutes, we'll explore the key teachings and stories of all Old Testament Prophets. Contact Barbara for more information at (bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

Join us for the final session of "For the Beauty of the Earth" series at **Coffee and Theology**, taking place Sundays at 9:45 a.m. through July 30th. We will explore various aspects of nature's wonders in the Bible. Come and join these engaging sessions as we delve into appreciating the bountiful beauty of our planet through the lens of familiar and lesser known Bible stories! Next Sunday, we will focus on **The Trees of the Fields Will Clap Their Hands: Nature's Joy and How to Pay Attention to It!** Contact Barbara for more information at (bdavis@fpcnyc.org).

**Ice Cream Hang Out on Sunday, July 30th, after the worship service!** 5th - 12th graders are invited to head to Van Leeuwen after the 11:00 a.m. service for a frozen treat! Let's catch up and share about our summers. Friends welcome! Email Jenny to RSVP (jbennett@fpcnyc.org).

Join us this Summer in reading and discussing "How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America." Starting in his home-town of New Orleans, author Clint Smith documents his journey to monuments and landmarks around the country speaking with guides and visitors to learn how our history is shared and heard. Hybrid group readings will be hosted by Rev. Emily Brewer (ebrewer@fpcnyc.org) on July 14th and August 17th from 12-2 p.m. with virtual discussions moderated by Suzanne Mecs and LouAnne Gilleland via Zoom 6:30-8 p.m. on July 26th and August 23rd. The book is widely available, and a few copies will be at the front desk of the church to borrow. RSVP with Suzanne Mecs at (sdhmecs@yahoo.com).

**Volunteers needed for the upcoming A Tartan Christmas Fair, December 1-3rd and Yard Sale September 23rd!** We are seeking both year-round and day-of-event volunteers to assist with various roles. For the Yard Sale, we require Book Team Members, as well as volunteers for set up and break down and the Bake Sale Team. At the Tartan Christmas Fair, we need Foodies for the Café Team and a Leader, as well as Silent Auction Team Members and a Leader. Additionally, a Photographer is needed for the Photo with Santa event.

Thanks to everyone for the steady stream of donations of gently used books, household items, and children's clothing for the Yard Sale. Keep them coming! And if you are a book lover with time on Tuesday afternoons, the Yard Sale Team would love your help to price and sort books. We meet most Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Email tartanfair@fpcnyc.org for more information.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

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### Today

9:45 a.m. Coffee & Theology - Fish Tales:  
A Theology of Ocean Life  
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship Space  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

### Monday

Building closes at 3 p.m.

### Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study  
Building closes at 3 p.m.  
6:30 p.m. Summer Read Discussion Group

### Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing  
Building closes at 3 p.m.

### Friday

7:00 p.m. Current Events

### Saturday

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

### Next Sunday

9:45 a.m. Coffee & Theology - The Trees of the Fields  
Will Clap Their Hands: Nature's Joy and  
How to Pay Attention to It  
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship Space  
12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship  
12:00 p.m. Ice Cream Hangout



## Star-Gazing for Presbyterians



July  
9th

## Birds of the Bible



July  
16th

## For the Beauty of the Earth

Coffee & Theology Summer Series



July  
23rd

## Fish Tales: A Theology of Ocean Life



July  
30th

## The Trees of the Fields Will Clap Their Hands:

Nature's Joy and How to Pay  
Attention to It

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