

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30th, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.



Walk in the Park, Laila Shawa, 1989, acrylic on canvas.
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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

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

“Offertoire”

Théodore Dubois

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard seal lie down with the kid,
**the calf and the lion and the fatling
will lie down together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

HYMN 804

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”

MARION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring
all into your vision.**

**We confess that we have not expected
the depth and breadth of the possibilities
that are available with you.**

**Too often we accept lies as truth,
mistreat our neighbors and the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and seek things that enfold us in your love.
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

L. J. White

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more
 dearly, and follow thee more nearly. Amen. -St. Richard of Chichester

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:20-38

pew Bible, New Testament page 64/large print, New Testament page 78

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

SERMON

“Expectations”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 795

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

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

Spiritual, from the collection of Wilks Laurence James;
arr. Wendell Whalum

Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain! Hold my hand..... Stand by me..... Search my heart.....
 -Traditional

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 377

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

HOUSTON

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING FOR SABBATICAL

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Toccatà on 'Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!'"

Albert L. Travis

*The congregation is invited to continue worshiping 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*
Eileen Choi, *Deacon*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessings to Barbara as she begins her sabbatical. We wish many blessings of rest to Barbara Davis as she takes her long awaited sabbatical, returning for Advent. After recently celebrating her 25th anniversary with First Church, it is with gratitude for Barbara's ministry and much love that we send her off! Adult education programs will continue in the fall with several exciting guests! For pastoral concerns while Barbara is away, please contact Greg Stovell (gstovell@fpcnyc.org) or Emily Brewer (ebrewer@fpcnyc.org).

Ice Cream Hang Out today 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! Meet Jenny at Coffee Hour immediately following the service to join!

Join us for First Saturday's at St. Joe's Soup Kitchen! Volunteers are invited to sign up with Emily Brewer at ebrewer@fpcnyc.org to serve at St. Joe's on the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. Don't miss this chance to make a difference in the community by giving back through service.

Join us this Summer in reading and continuing to discuss "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. The hybrid group reading will be hosted by Rev. Emily Brewer (ebrewer@fpcnyc.org) on August 17th from 12-2 p.m. with a virtual discussion moderated by Suzanne Mecs and LouAnne Gilleland via Zoom 6:30-8 p.m. on 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.

We are excited to announce the First Church podcast! Our inaugural series being: "First, the Questions," currently available on Spotify, Amazon Music and YouTube, featuring questions that arise during our adult education classes! If you have any big questions you would like to submit for us to review in the future, please email them to Sophia at (scanfield@fpcnyc.org). Visit www.fpcnyc.org/podcast to listen!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

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

Monday

Building closes at 3 p.m.

Wednesday

Building closes at 3 p.m.

Thursday

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

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. Summer Family Worship Space

12:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship

"We need this book."

—IBRAM X. KENDI

HOW THE WORD IS PASSED

UNABRIDGED
READ BY THE AUTHOR

A RECKONING WITH
THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY
ACROSS AMERICA

CLINT SMITH

Join us for our Summer Read!

Hybrid Group Reads

July 14th and August 17th
from 12-2 p.m.

Virtual Discussions

July 26th and August 23rd
from 6:30-8 p.m.

Check the announcements section of this bulletin for more info!

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