

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER /EARTH CARE SUNDAY

Service for the Lord's Day

April 21, 2024 | 11 a.m.



Let There Be, Lauren Wright Pittman, 2017.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Variations on ‘Now the Green Blade Rises’”

Philip Moore

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

We come to God, our holy shepherd, as we come to a green meadow.

God prepares a place for us, and we give glory in God’s presence.

How excellent is this, our dwelling place, under the eyes of God’s care.

We turn to God in joy.

HYMN

“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

AUSTRIAN HYMN



1. God, you spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
2. You have called us to be faith-ful in our life and min - is - try.
3. God, your word is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to life made new.



mold the moun-tains, fash - ion blos-soms, call forth sun - shine, wind, and rain.
We re - spond in grate - ful wor-ship joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.
Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre - at - ed in your im - age, would a true re - flec - tion be
When we blur your gra-cious im - age, fo - cus us and make us whole.
Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.



of your jus - tice, grace, and mer-cy and the truth that makes us _ free.
Healed and strength-ened as your peo-ple, we move on - ward toward your goal.
Thus, new crea-tures in your im - age, we'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery-where.

ANTHEM

This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! I love you, Lord! I lift up my voice
rejoicing to you!

Beth P. McCoy

—based on Psalm 118:24

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Today we gather sustained by the water: the rivers and lakes that give us life, that water our farmland, that serve our industries, and that connect us to the oceans, the fish in the sea, and people all across the world.

God, we confess that we do not often contemplate these things. We do not act responsibly to protect the water. We do not act in the truth of our connectedness to creation and to future generations. We claim the saving truth of life through water, but ignore the water poisoning our neighbors, the stealing of the water of Indigenous peoples, and the ways our consumption and addiction to fossil fuels has contributed to the waters of destruction through weather and environmental disasters. We have not loved our neighbor, ourselves, creation, nor you, well. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in courage and wisdom, and grant us the will to learn and to change.....

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA

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 BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the prayers. Following the Lord's Prayer, all children are invited to Church School and should be picked up 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

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

Rick Bassett

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 10:11-18

pew Bible, New Testament page 103/large print, New Testament page 126

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Ashley Bair

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 802

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

ST. COLUMBA

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the *Belhar Confession*

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

OFFERTORY

Johannes Brahms

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen, Herr Zebaoth! Meine Seele verlangt und sehnet sich nach den Vorhöfen des Herrn; mein Leib und Seele freuen sich in dem lebendigen Gott. Wohl denen, die in deinem Hause wohnen, die loben dich immerdar.

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! For my soul, it longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord. My soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God. Blest are they that dwell within Thy house; they praise Thy name evermore.

—Psalm 84:1,2,4; sung in German

DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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 625

Please stand in body or spirit.

“O Lord My God”

HOW GREAT THOU ART

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Sun Dance”

Bob Chilcott

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

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jackson Miller Bal
Son of Alexander S. Bal & Elise S. Bal

Charlotte Bennison Bryan
Daughter of Christina Bennison Bryan & Wilhelmus Bogart Bryan IV

Henry Alan Pike
Son of Alan Gilchrist Pike & Elizabeth Randall Pike

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Ashley Bair, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

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

Student Choristers
Rachel Barker-Asto, *Coordinator of Family Music Ministries*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

9:30 a.m. Baby & Toddler Worship
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12 p.m. Art at First - Open Gallery
12:15 p.m. Student Choristers
1 p.m. Earth Day Clean-Up

Tuesday

6 p.m. PRISM

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Conversation Spanish (virtual)
6:30 p.m. Session

Friday

7 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

Saturday

10 a.m. Earth Care Tree Planting & Cookout
10:15 a.m. St. Joe's Soup Kitchen



Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology (hybrid)
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12 p.m. Earth Day Clean-Up (Rain date)
12 p.m. Art at First - Open Gallery Closing
12:15 p.m. Student Choristers
12:20 p.m. Bibles & Bagels
12:45 p.m. Confirmation
1:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Earth Day Sunday Neighborhood Clean-up. Please join us today for our annual neighborhood clean-up at 1p.m. - 3 p.m., starting with a light lunch at 12:30 p.m on the north lawn. We'll start to clean-up our neighborhood from 14th Street through Wash Sq. Park, from 6th Ave. to University. Check in at 12 W. 12th Street, for zone assignments, a FPC safety vest, trash and recycle bags, and your **trash bingo card**, and yes, we have prizes! We work until 3 p.m. Lawn games for the little ones, and our 30 Day Earth Care Pledge is available for the entire family. Dress to work, gloves advised (we will have gloves available). All is welcome to this fun family event.

Pollinator Corridor Tree Bed Planting Party and Cook-out Join us on **Saturday, April 27th 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., as we plant our new tree beds** with flora and fauna that are native pollinators, as we try to do our part to help Mother Nature survive here in NYC. We start at 10 a.m., dress to work. Work gloves and kneelers or knee pads advised (and we will have some of both). **Cook-out begins at 12:30 p.m.**, and we will end our day by 3 p.m. or when finished. Come for an hour, or stay for the day. Plenty of different jobs for everyone, in case you don't like planting. Check in on the north lawn at 12 W. 12th Street for team assignments, and to get your FPC Safety Vest and tools. All is welcome to this fun family event.

Family ministries offerings  **Sunday** Children ages 3 - 6th grade are invited to join us for a special Earth Day Church School  after the Children's Prayer. Directly after worship, all children can be picked up from the North Lawn (weather permitting). Afterwards, all 1st - 6th graders are invited to join Rachel for Student Choristers in the Parlor from 12:15 - 12:40 p.m.

Summer Family Offerings in June and July Our Family Music Ministries will be offering **special community programs** in June and July for infants up to 10 year olds, including Family Summer Music programs and ukulele classes! Please reach out to Rachel Barker-Asto at rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org to learn more and register before space runs out!

Adult Education Look forward to our regular programs including our hybrid **Wednesday Bible Study** continues on Wednesday, May 1st at 12:30 p.m. with a study of Hebrews. The next session of **Coffee & Theology** will meet on April 28th in person and online. Please email Barbara at bdavis@fpcnyc.org to learn more about our programming.

The Elder Care Committee is sponsoring a request for First Spanish for toiletries. We are going to request contributions from the congregation to be brought to the Church from **April 21st to May 5th**. A donation box can be found in the Mellin-Macnab building, near the reception desk, for the collection. Toiletries requested are: shampoo, lotion for children and adults, disposable razors, deodorant (men and women), bars of soap, toothpaste, lip balm, small packages of wipes, tooth brushes (children and adults) and hair brushes for children. Seniors will put toiletry bags together at our luncheon on May 11th.

Vespers Festival of Music: *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms Sunday, May 5th, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free admission. The First Church Choir, soloists, and chamber ensemble offer one of the most powerful works of the Romantic era. Brahms' deeply personal testament is a human requiem, addressing the universal experience of grief and healing. Sung in the original German, hear this masterpiece with Iain Farrington's chamber orchestration that draws upon the intimacy and personal expression of the work, "creating a rich and satisfying experience." A reception, sponsored by Art at First, follows in the Great Hall. For live stream access, please contact Aileen Caba: acaba@fpcnyc.org.

AIDS Walk NYC 2024 First Church is participating in the AIDS Walk to raise awareness and funds for HIV/AIDS research and treatment on **Sunday, May 19th at 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. We will meet on the East side of Central Park.** We do the walking and fundraising together as a team. If you would like to join the First Church Team, contact Ashley at abair@fpcnyc.org and Barron at Barron.Flood@gmail.com. You can also register or donate directly through the AIDS Walk Website.

Stewardship 2024 We appreciate your participation in stewardship of 2024! We continue with a followup campaign if you have yet to contribute. You may fill out a pledge card in the pews in front of you and drop them in the box in the narthex or scan the QR code on the second page of this bulletin.



Looking for more?

Sign up for our weekly newsletter, First Matters, to be informed about upcoming events and learn about the initiatives that define us.

VESPERS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Ein Deutsches Requiem

Johannes Brahms

The First Church Choir
and chamber ensemble
Shanelle Woods, *mezzo-soprano*
Nathaniel Sullivan, *baritone*

Sunday, May 5th
4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Free Admission - Reception follows in the Great Hall

One of the most powerful works of the Romantic era, Brahms' deeply personal testament is a human requiem, addressing the universal experience of grief and healing. Sung in the original German, hear this masterpiece with Iain Farrington's chamber orchestration that draws upon the intimacy and personal expression of the work, "creating a rich and satisfying experience."

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