

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Service for the Lord's Day
April 7, 2024 | 11 a.m.



Grieving Thomas (Thomas Meets the Risen Christ), Lauren Wright Pittman.

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, weather permitting, or the Morrow Room 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?



STEWARDSHIP 2024



If you are in need of care, such as prayer or a call from a pastor, a ride to the church, etc., please contact our church office at (212) 675-6150. Our staff will connect you with one of our pastors or a deacon from our caring ministry who can assist with your needs.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Prelude on the Easter Hymn, Op. 88, No. 4”

C. V. Stanford

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

The good news resounds:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

We celebrate the God who is our refuge.

In God's presence there is gladness and rest.

God is always before us;

we shall not be shaken.

HYMN 248

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Embodied God, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, imbuing us with the grace and patience that you have shown to us time and again. We experience your presence, but are quick to judge those who do not believe as we do. We look down on those who ask for proof, we scorn those who scoff at our faith. Forgive us and soften our hearts. Remind us of our own human doubts, that we might have compassion for all and freely share your grace.

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



sing 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.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the prayer. Following the Children's Prayer, all children are invited to Church School and should be picked up by their parents and the end of the worship service.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31

pew Bible, New Testament page 115/large print, New Testament page 141

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Trust and Belief”

Rev. Ashley Bair

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

William H. Harris

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy triumph over death and sin; and having harrowed hell, didst bring away captivity thence captive, us to win:

This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin, and grant that we for whom thou diddest die, being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin, may live for ever in felicity.

And that thy love we weighing worthily, may likewise love thee for the same again; and for thy sake, who dost all grace supply, with love may one another entertain.

So let us love, dear love, like as we ought; love is the lesson which the Lord us taught. —Edmund Spenser

HYMN 286

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

Please stand in body or spirit.

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, Jesus shares our life.

Eating with sinners, Jesus welcomes us.

Guiding his children, Jesus leads us.

Visiting the sick, Jesus heals us.

Dying on the cross, Jesus saves us.

Risen from the dead, Jesus gives new life.

Living with you, Jesus prays for us.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Receive our sacrifice of praise.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one comes in the Lord's name.

Hosanna in the highest.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us as you did upon all people, that this meal may be a communion in the body of Christ.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

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.

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.

ANTHEM

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee. The darkness is no darkness with Thee, but the night is as clear as the day: The darkness and the light to Thee are both alike. God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. O let my soul live, and it shall praise Thee. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for evermore.

-Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 139:11; I John 1:5b; Psalm 119:175a, and Matthew 6:13

HYMN 231

“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”

SUO GAN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Teach us to care for each other in ways beyond what we can even imagine. As a mother feeds her child with her body, so you feed us with yours, giving us the bread to eat and the cup to drink. May these gifts nourish us deeply that we might become your body in the world and show your great love to all we encounter. Amen.

SENDING

HYMN 254

Please stand in body or spirit.

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE

Anglican Chant, George S. Talbot

O praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him upon the timbrels and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him on the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.
-Psalm 150

POSTLUDE

“Tuba Tune”

Craig Sellar Lang

*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 Ian Bowsell

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Pastor*

Rev. Ashley Bair, *Associate Pastor*

Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Today

9:30 a.m. Baby & Toddler Worship
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
12 p.m. Teen Tech Squad
12:15 p.m. Student Choristers
12:20 p.m. Bibles & Bagels
12:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women
12:30 p.m. Earth Care Seminar
12:45 p.m. Confirmation

Tuesday

6 p.m. PRISM

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study (hybrid)
6:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)

Thursday

12:30 a.m. Elder Care Luncheon

Saturday

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

Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology (hybrid)
10:15 a.m. Club 34
11 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12 p.m. Coffee Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Student Choristers
12:20 p.m. Bibles & Bagels
12:45 p.m. Confirmation



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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us today at 12:30 p.m. for Divesting for the Individual presented by Rev. Sue Smith in the Esther Morrow Room, preceded by a light lunch. The Rev. Sue Smith, co-chaired the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, and co-authored Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation, which commissioners approved by a vote of 325-27. Among other things, the study directs the Presbyterian Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Responsibility to engage with insurance companies and banks to cease insuring or lending to new fossil fuel projects. Sue works for God's creation in both religious and secular organizations: from representing GreenFaith on the Coalition for Healthy Ports, to board membership with Clean Water Action's NJ chapter, to serving as Vice Moderator of Presbyterians for Earth Care. Sue holds a BA from Cornell University, an MBA from NYU, is a former financial advisor, is an M.Div. graduate of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and has served as Moderator of Monmouth Presbytery.

Adult Education Look forward to our regular programs including our hybrid **Wednesday Bible Study** continues on Wednesday, April 10th at 12:30 p.m. with a study of James & Jude. **Coffee & Theology** continues on April 14th in person and online. Please email Barbara at bdavis@fpcnyc.org to learn more about our programming!

We welcome you to participate in Earth Week this April! On Sunday, April 21st, join us for our Annual Neighborhood Cleanup at 1 p.m. from 14th Street - Washington Sq. Park and University to 6th! Then on Saturday, April 27th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. you are invited to the **Community Tree Bed Planting Party & Cook-out!** All are welcome!

Family ministries offerings this Sunday! Children ages 3 - 6th grade are invited to join us for Church School after the Children's prayer. We'll start with music all together in the Parlor, then split into two groups. Directly after worship, 1st-6th graders can be picked up from the Rooftop Classroom, and 3-5 year olds can be picked up from the Parlor. After worship, 1st - 6th graders are invited to join Student Choristers in the Parlor from 12:15 - 12:40 p.m. If you would like to be involved or learn more, please reach out to Rachel, our Family Music Ministries Coordinator, at rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org.

Teen Tech Squad is available today after worship during coffee fellowship for any questions you might have about your electronic devices. Home visits from the Teen Tech Squad are also available. Please contact Jonathan at JonathanPMetzler@gmail.com for more information. Afterwards, at 12:20, youth in grades 6-12 are invited to Bibles and Bagels Youth Group to have pizza with student leaders from PRISM college ministry!

Vespers Festival of Music: *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms Sunday, May 5th, 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." For live stream access, please contact Aileen Caba: acaba@fpcnyc.org.

The Elder Care luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 12:30 p.m. Barbara Sherman will speak on Lightning and Inspiration. In this discussion she will speak on her practice and how ideas come to her. Also, there will be a special project for all of us to participate in - join us to find out what it is!

Join us for the Facing Racism Action Group meeting on April 16th at 6:30 p.m. (virtual) Together, we acknowledge the systemic nature of racism and commit to dismantling it within our community. Let's listen, educate ourselves, and take action towards building a more just and equitable society. We'll meet to discuss our ongoing efforts and plan for future actions. All are welcome to join us in this important work. Please contact Ashley Bair at abair@fpcnyc.org for more information.

A service of Blessing of the Animals will take place on Wednesday, April 17th at 6pm, beginning in the North Lawn. After a short prayer service, individual pet blessings will be offered. Bring your furry, scaly, and feathered friends! If your beloved companion is not able to come in person, we will bless photos and offer a prayer for them. For more information please email the Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis bdavis@fpcnyc.org



Blessing of the Animals

Wednesday, April 17th

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

Join us for a brief Worship
Service at 6 p.m., gathering in
the North Lawn, followed by
individual pet blessings

12 West 12th Street
New York, NY 10011

fpcnyc.org

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