

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

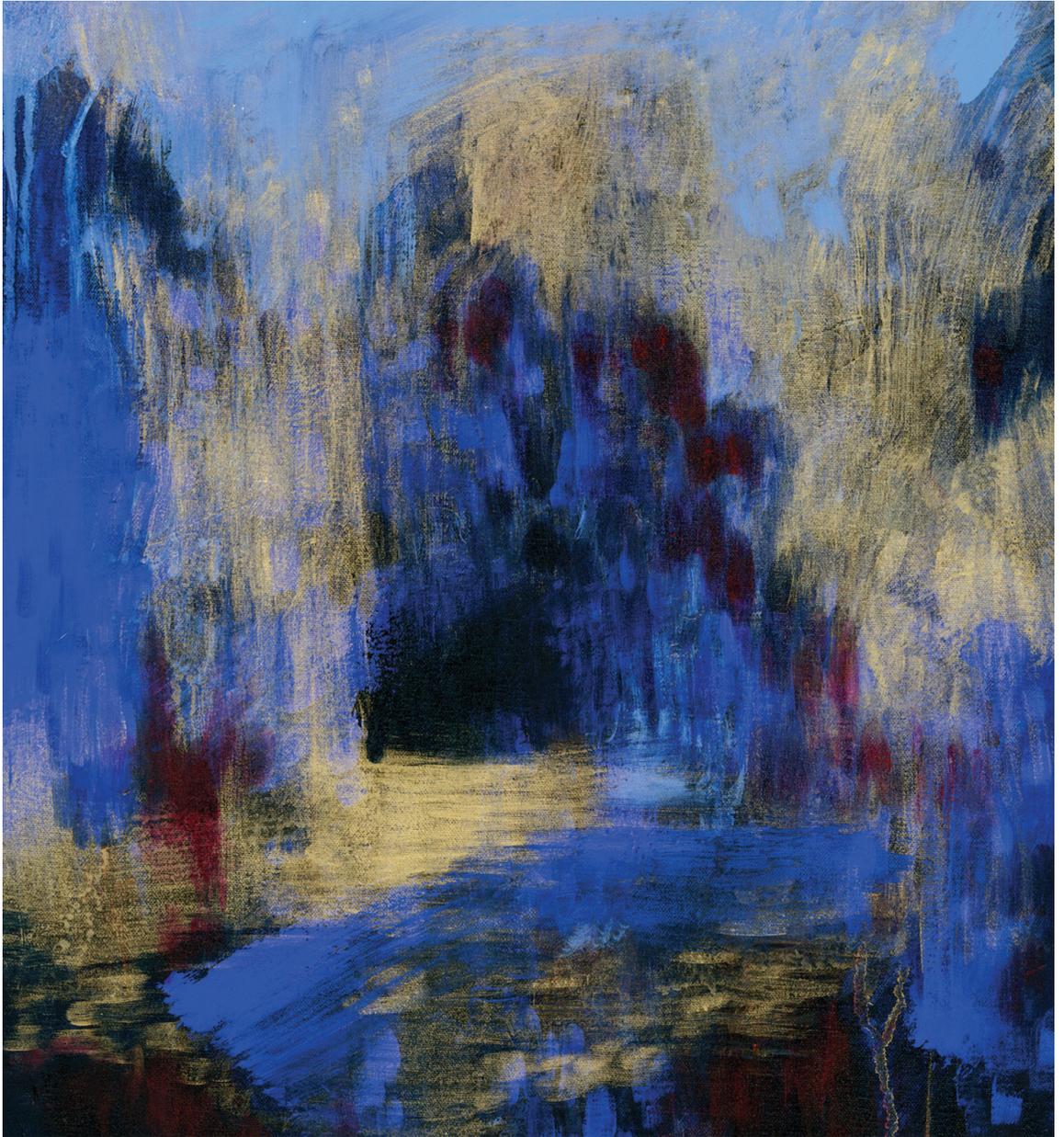
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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/ASCENSION SUNDAY

*Service for the Lord's Day*

May 12, 2024 | 11 a.m.

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*The Way to Wonder*, Lisle Gwynn Garrity, 2018, acrylic on canvas.

# 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*

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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 and Trumpetings”

Myron Roberts

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Christopher Tye

O come, you servants of the Lord, and praise God's holy name; from early morn to setting sun God's might on earth proclaim. The laws of God are just and right, they make the heart rejoice: O praise the Lord, with heart, and soul, and voice.  
-paraphrase of Psalm 113:1, 3

HYMN 268

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

DIADEMATA

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our sins,  
especially our faithlessness and lack of trust.  
While we sing of your lordship over all creation,  
we have too often acted as though you are powerless  
in the face of suffering and injustice.  
Help us to live with confidence in your presence today,  
in partnership with your work for peace, and in hope for eternity.  
Hear us as we open our hearts to you in prayer...**

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

## CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND THE LORD'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.*

**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.**

## HEARING THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

*pew Bible, New Testament page 192/large print, New Testament page 234*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

Today I rise, I soar in splendor as the day keeps unveiling all her grandeur. Let the chains of yesterday break away! Today is here, I will not cling to yesterday!

Lucy Walker

-Ozioma Ogbaji

### SECOND LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

*pew Bible, New Testament page 118/large print, New Testament page 143*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

"Why are you looking up?"

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

*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

Philip W. J. Stopford

O clap your hands together, all ye people, O sing unto God with a voice of melody. For the Lord is high, and to be feared, he is the great King of all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose out an heritage for us, ev'n the worship of Jacob, whom he loved. God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. O sing praises, sing praises unto our God, O sing praises, sing praises unto the Lord our King. For God is the King of all the earth, sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen, God sitteth upon his holy seat. -from Psalm 47

## 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 298

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

#### BLESSING

#### POSTLUDE

“Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630”

J.S. Bach

*This Day in Triumph God the Son*

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

## LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*  
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*  
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

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

**MUSIC NOTE** Lucy Walker (b. 1998) is an award-winning composer, pianist and music educator currently based in Cambridge. She is included among Classic FM's 2024 list of young musicians reshaping classical music. *Today*, composed in 2021, sets words of Nigerian poet Ozioma Ogbaji to music, in a brief, yet inspiring anthem of hope and strength. *O Clap Your Hands*, based on familiar words from Psalm 47, was commissioned in celebration and honor of Myrle Wall, by Duane Wall, for the Choir of The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York in 2021. The composer, Philip William John Stopford (b. 1977), began his musical career as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, studied music at Keble College, Oxford, and served on the music staff of several cathedrals before his appointment in 2016 to Christ Church, Bronxville, New York. Recordings of his music can be found across YouTube, Spotify, Amazon, and Apple Music. He was part of the Classic FM Hall of Fame in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### Today

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 p.m. Creative Create - Open Gallery  
12:15 p.m. Student Choristers  
12:20 p.m. Bibles & Bagels

### Monday

5:30 p.m. Qigong/Yoga (virtual)

### Tuesday

6 p.m. Qigong/Yoga  
6 p.m. PRISM

### Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study (hybrid)  
5:30 p.m. Conversation Spanish (virtual)  
6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting (hybrid)

### Thursday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing (virtual)

### Friday

7 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

### Saturday

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

### Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Baby & Toddler Worship  
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology (hybrid)  
10 a.m. AIDS Walk  
11 a.m. Sunday Worship  
11:15 a.m. Church School  
12 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
12 p.m. Creative's Create Performance  
1:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today through May 19th, you are invited to donate to the One Great Hour of Sharing which is one of PCUSA's four annual special offerings.** The four churchwide Special Offerings of the PCUSA play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church. Grab an envelope from your pew to donate or learn more by checking the back of this bulletin on how to give.

**Open gallery hours continue today after worship for "New York: A City of Immigrants,"** which will run for six weeks until June 16th. Performance dates are scheduled for May 19th and June 9th. The gallery will be open every Sunday from 12 - 2 p.m., starting today and extending through June 12th. Share your story and pin where your family is from on our map in the Great Hall!

**Family ministries offerings this Sunday** Children ages 3 - 6th grade are invited to join us for Church School after the Children's Prayer. Directly after the service, 1st - 6th graders can be picked up from the Rooftop Classroom, and 3-5 year olds can be picked up from the Parlor. Afterwards, all 1st - 6th graders are encouraged to join Rachel for Student Choristers in the Parlor, and middle schoolers and high schoolers can meet Jenny for our Bibles & Bagels Youth Group picnic! We'll meet in the Mezzanine at 12:15 p.m., then head outside (weather permitting).

**Summer Family Offerings in June and July** Please spread the word! Our Family Music Ministries is offering special community programs 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!

**Calling all graduates!** We are excited to honor and celebrate all high school and college graduates in our community during Graduation Sunday Worship on June 9th. If you are graduating this year, or if you have a graduate in your family, please email Jenny, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, at jbenett@fpcnyc.org.

**Adult Education** A new **Coffee and Theology** series on Genesis chapters 1-3, continues on May 19th at 9:30 a.m. in person and online. Look forward to our regular programs including our hybrid **Wednesday Bible Study** on the book of Acts on May 15th at 12:30 p.m. (hybrid). **Morning Prayer Writing** (virtual) will continue on Thursday mornings at 8:30 a.m. through May 30th. The new **Spiritual Practices** series (virtual only) focuses on the work of Howard Thurman will meet Tuesdays at 12 p.m. on May 21st and 28th. Please email Barbara at bdavis@fpcnyc.org to learn more.

**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 at the South West corner of 72nd and 5th Avenue.** 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 follow up 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 inside cover 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.*

# We are there

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

## WAYS TO GIVE –

Through your congregation  
Online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](http://pcusa.org/give-oghs)  
Text OGHS to 91999 to give

Scan the QR code below

-or-

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit [pcusa.org/oghs](http://pcusa.org/oghs)



75  
YEARS



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



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