

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | November 9, 2025 | 11 a.m.



Gian Lorenzo Bernini, *Dove of the Holy Spirit* (1666), alabaster stained glass

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

Join us for Coffee Fellowship in the Lobby or on the
North Lawn (weather permitting)
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?**



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

“Prière”

Joseph Jongen

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Frederick Jacobi

O may the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thine eyes, O Lord,
my Rock, and my Redeemer.
-Psalm 19:14

HYMN 409

“God Is Here”

ABBOT’S LEIGH

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Forgive us our sins which are many,

and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation.

Strengthen us with your Spirit during this season

that we may put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did.

Have mercy on us.

Hear our confession.

Grant us your peace...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

ELLACOMBE

Now teach me wis - dom in my soul; I long to see your face.

Let bones, once bro - ken, sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.

Then I will praise you with my heart, my mind, my soul, my voice.

You save the least and seek the lost; let all — the world re - joice!

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

Vicki Hancock Wright

All things bright and beautiful, and things great and small, all things wise and wonderful: God our maker
created them all. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings. God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God
almighty, who doeth all things well.
-Cecil Frances Alexander

CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children are invited to come forward to the steps for the prayers. Following the Lord's Prayer, children age 3 - 6th grade are invited to Church School and should be picked up by their families 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.**

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

pew Bible, Old Testament page 878/large print, Old Testament page 1074

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"My Spirit Abides with You"

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 697

"Take My Life"

HENDON

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Franz Schubert

Great is Jehovah, the Lord! For heaven and earth testify to his great power. 'Tis heard in the fierce raging storm, in the torrent's loud thundering roar. 'Tis heard in the rustling of leaves in the forest, seen in the waving of golden fields, in loveliest flowers' gaudy array, 'tis seen in myriad stars of heaven. Fierce it sounds in the thunder's loud roll, and flames in the lightning's brightly quivering flash! Yet clearer, thy throbbing heart to thee proclaims Jehovah's power, the Lord God almighty. Look thou, praying to heaven, and hope for grace and for mercy.

—Johann Ladislaus Pyrker

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Marche Triomphale, op. 65, no. 59”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*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 Student Choristers

Rachel Barker-Asto, *Family Music Coordinator*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today

9:30 a.m. Childcare
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Theologians
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Art at First *Seeing Music* Open Gallery
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. Earth Care Seminar

Monday

5:30 p.m. Qigong (virtual)
7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Village Campus Ministry Dinner

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Childcare
9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies and Toddlers
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Art at First *Seeing Music* Closing Reception
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
12:30 pm LGBTQIA+ Brunch (offsite)
2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

The Nominating Committee is Requesting Recommendations for FPC Leadership Roles

The 2026 Nominating Process is underway, and we need YOUR input! We are in the process of soliciting nominations from congregation members to the Session (Elders), Deacons, and Trustees. We are asking for the names of congregation members who you think would be an asset in these leadership roles. Recommendations are due by November 21, 2025.

Recommendations may be made by:

- leaving a message with FPC's front desk (**212-675-6150**) and a member of the Nominating Committee will call you.
- emailing fpcnyc@fpcnyc.org.
- mailing your recommendation to The First Presbyterian Church, 12 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011, attention: Nominating Committee.
- dropping a nomination in the Nominating Box at FPC's front desk.

If emailing or mailing your nomination, please include the name of the nominee, role you are nominating them for, and a few reasons why you feel they would be a good leader.

Thank you from the 2025 Nominating Committee!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Earth Care Seminar, Today, 12:30 p.m. (Morrow Room)

Following an earth-friendly lunch, Taige Rambarran, an environmental educator and outreach coordinator at Trees New York, will speak to us and answer questions about the urban forest. Prior to Trees New York, Taige worked as an educator at GrowNYC and as a researcher at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Senior Luncheon, November 13, 12:30 p.m. (Parlor)

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis will speak about her spiritual journey with poetry, share favorite poems, and encourage all those attending to share their experiences with poetry and spirituality. RSVP to the Front Desk (frontdesk@fpcnyc.org).

LGBTQIA+ Brunch, November 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Join us for an offsite brunch. Contact LGBTQ.fpcnyc@gmail.com for details.

Lunch with Gethsemane Congregation Volunteers Needed, November 16

Every few months, First Church members worship and share a community lunch with the Church of Gethsemane, our partner congregation in Brooklyn. We are seeking volunteers to prepare parts of the meal as well as three to four people who will attend the Gethsemane service and lunch on Sunday, November 16. Those attending should anticipate being at Gethsemane, which is in Park Slope, from 10:30 a.m. to about 1:00 pm. If you want to help with the meal, items can be purchased or homemade and need to be dropped off at First Church on November 16 by 9:30 a.m. Please let Suzanne Mecs, chair of Facing Racism action group, which of the following you would like to donate and how many people it will serve.

- main course (with meat)
- main course (vegetarian)
- salad
- dessert

For more information and to sign up, contact Suzanne (sdhmecs@yahoo.com).

Art at First: *Seeing Music*

The Art at First *Seeing Music* gallery is open Sunday afternoons; the closing reception takes place November 16.

Congregational Lunch, November 23 (Great Hall)

Now more than ever, we need community, fun, and friendship. The Deacons as well as the Membership and Elder Care groups are hosting lunch after worship on November 23. Feel free to bring dessert to share, but the meal is on us! Desserts can be dropped off in the Great Hall before the service.

Deacons of the Month

The November deacons of the month are **Jeanne Gordon** and **Michael Judkiewicz**. They'll be wearing a name badge at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.

Adult Education

This year's hybrid adult education programs explore hope through ancient and contemporary voices.

- Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. – Midweek Bible Study: Series on The Way of Kings: Transforming Leadership Structures (Nov. 5–19). On hiatus 11/26.
- Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Coffee and Theologians: Discussions with Martin Buber (11/16), and Jess Cook & Vivek Murthy (11/23). On hiatus 11/30.

For details and Zoom links, contact Barbara at bdavis@fpcnyc.org.

Youth & Family Ministries

- Worship Circle with Babies and Toddlers (ages 0–3), 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. first and third Sundays.
- Church School (ages 3–6th grade), children should be picked up in the parlor after worship.
- Student Choristers (grades 1–6), 12:20 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Youth Leadership Council (grades 6–12), monthly dinners; the next one is November 21.
- Club 345 (grades 3–5), fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
- Confirmation (grades 7–9), select Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; the next meeting is Sunday, November 16.

For more information, contact Jenny at jbennett@fpcnyc.org.

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed

St. Joe's Soup Kitchen, which takes place at First Church every Saturday, needs volunteers! There are two shifts—morning food prep (10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) and afternoon food service (1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.)—to help cook and serve 300-plus meals to New York City's homeless and hungry. No experience is necessary, but please sign up in advance to volunteer. volunteer@sjsk.nyc or sjsk.nyc.

Vespers Festival of Music: *Behold New Joy*, Sunday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

A journey of musical joy through the centuries with Benjamin Britten's timeless *A Ceremony of Carols*, Ēriks Ešēnvalds' radiant *Trinity Te Deum*, Shawn Kirchner's exuberant *Behold New Joy*, and rousing carol singing accompanied by brass, percussion, and organ. Featuring the the First Church Choir conducted by Michael Shake. Free admission. Childcare available: infant-age 3.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Disaster Relief.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to the catastrophic impacts of Hurricane Melissa.

If you want to help, call (800) 728-7228, ext. 5885 or go to
pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/how-help/give.

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