

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

CHRIST THE KING / REIGN OF CHRIST

Service for the Lord's Day | November 23, 2025 | 11 a.m.



Mosaic of Christ the King. Basilica of Santa Pudenziana, Rome. Circa AD 410-417.

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 Great Hall
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

from the *Capriol Suite*:
“Basse-Danse, Pavane, Tordion, Pieds-en-l’air”

Peter Warlock
Andrew Teague, arr.

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 363

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”

DARWALL’S 148TH

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Lord,
we are quick to identify our enemies
and slow to name the ways we hurt others.
You lead us in the ways of righteousness,
and yet we prefer to walk our own path.
We are called to follow your lead
in creating a beloved community,
yet we idolize wealth and power.
Heal us and help us, O God.
Turn us from the ways of sin,
the means that create unjust ends.
Grant that we may seek to be for others
what you are for us:
a source of light on the way to 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.

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

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 23:1-6

pew Bible, Old Testament page 725/large print, Old Testament page 887

ANTHEM

Hall Johnson, arr.

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching; great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls!

Chariot rode on the mountain top. My Lord spoke and the chariot stopped. This is the year of jubilee when my Lord set his people free

When I was a moaner just like you, I prayed and prayed till I come through. We want no cowards in our band.

We call for valiant hearted men.

—Traditional spiritual

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:68-79

pew Bible, New Testament page 58/large print, New Testament page 70

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"A Different Kind of King"

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 109

"Blest Be the God of Israel"

MERLE'S TUNE

Please stand in body or spirit.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from the Confession of 1967

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.

**His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.**

He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,

the beginning of the new creation,

and the pioneer of the new humanity.

He gave history its meaning and direction

and called the church to be his servant

for the reconciliation of the world.

CALL TO OFFERING

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, even 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

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 348

“Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending”

HELMSLEY

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Rhapsody on HELMSLEY”

William Lloyd Webber

*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*

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*

MUSIC NOTE Hall Johnson (1888-1970) was among a group of creatives who, beginning in the 1920s, “sought to revolutionize the way the world saw African Americans through their art and literature.” (Micah Wittmer, *Performing Negro Folk Culture, Performing America*) Johnson organized and conducted choirs, was an arranger, composed and directed music for Broadway and Hollywood, and wrote extensively on the musical traditions of African Americans, particularly the spiritual. The renowned singer Marian Anderson described Johnson’s work as “a gift of inestimable value that brought to all people a greater understanding of the depth of the Negro spiritual.” Duke Chapel Dean Luke Powery, describing the spiritual tradition and the spiritual *Great Day!* in particular, notes, “these songs were created and sung during struggle and are melodies of melancholy yet also of joy and hope. It’s interesting that they could sing ‘great day!’ even when enduring horrible days. This song is an expression of hope, the ‘great day,’ of liberation from bondage. These [...] songs represent what [...] Pauli Murray said in a poem—‘Hope is a song in a weary throat.’”

Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977) began his musical career as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, studied music at Keble College, Oxford, and has served as a musician in cathedrals and churches in England, Northern Ireland, and the United States. *O Clap Your Hands*, based on familiar words from Psalm 47, was commissioned in 2021 in celebration and honor of Myrle Wall, by Duane Wall for the Choir of The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York. It is featured on the recording *Philip Stopford: Sacred Choral Music*, with the Choir of St. Luke’s, Chelsea, London, released by Naxos in 2024.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today

9:30 a.m. Childcare
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
10:00 a.m. Club 345
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. Congregational Lunch
1:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)
2:00 p.m. Make It Meaningful

Monday

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

Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Bible Study (on hiatus this week)
5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)

Thursday-Friday

Building Closed

Saturday

10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

Next Sunday

9:30 a.m. Childcare
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (on hiatus this week)
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School (on hiatus this week)
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Lunch | Today, 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.

FPC & FPCNS Thanksgiving Food Drive

Many community members have expressed an interest in participating in a food drive to help our fellow New Yorkers in need. We are pleased to share that FPCNS and FPC have teamed up to kick off a food drive benefitting students in need at nearby Harvest Collegiate High School. We will gratefully collect donations in the lobby of 12th Street through November 25. **Ideal donations include:** canned fish, canned chili, canned fruit, rice, ramen, shelf-stable mac n cheese, dried beans, dried pasta, and nut butters.

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 Ešēvalds' radiant *Trinity Te Deum*, Shawn Kirchner's exuberant *Behold New Joy*, and rousing carol singing accompanied by brass, percussion, and organ. Featuring the First Church Choir conducted by Michael Shake. Free admission. Childcare available: infant-age 3.

A Tartan Christmas Fair | December 5, 6, and 7

A Tartan Christmas Fair is the church's largest fundraiser and this year's proceeds will go to Bank Street Headstart School on E. Fifth Street and the Voices History Project. Friday December 5, 4 p.m.-8 p.m., Saturday December 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday December 7, after worship until 3 p.m. and then again after the concert. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to work a shift or two at the fair, help set-up, bake, cook, decorate, clean-up, etc. You name it, we need you! Shifts run from 11/30 - 12/11. For more information visit tartanfair.org. Contact tartanfair@fpcnyc.org with questions.

Christmas Flowers Contributions

Celebrate or honor a loved one this Christmas with a contribution toward the beautiful flowers that will adorn the Sanctuary. Contribution forms are available in the lobby and the narthex. Forms must be received by Thursday, December 11 to be listed in the Christmas bulletin. Contact Aileen (acaba@fpcnyc.org) for information.

Memorial Service for Bill Buice | Saturday, December 13 | 3:00 p.m.

We are saddened to announce the passing of our church member and friend Bill Buice, who entered the church triumphant this last Monday. Keep his family and friends in prayer. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held Saturday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m.

Service of Candlelight Carols | Sunday, December 21 | 4:00 p.m.

A community highlight of the season! The First Church Choir and Student Choristers offer this beautiful annual service of lessons and carols. A festive carol sing on the north lawn (weather permitting) follows. Childcare available: infant-age 3.

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:** Will be on hiatus 11/30. The Bible Study topic for December 3 & 10 is The World Turned Upside Down: Gospel Beginnings; Bible Study begins again in the new year.
- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Coffee and Theologians:** Will be on hiatus next week, 11/30. December Coffee and Theologians topics are Anne Lamott (12/7) and Barbara Brown Taylor (12/14); Coffee and Theologians begins again in the new year.

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; if you want to sign up for the one on December 19, contact Jenny.
- **Club 345 (grades 3–5),** fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Our next meeting is January 25, 2026.
- **Confirmation (grades 7–9),** select Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; the next meeting is after worship on Sunday, December 7.
- **The Family Ministries Christmas Party** is Saturday, December 13, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

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

BEHOLD NEW JOY

VESPERS
FESTIVAL
OF
MUSIC

THE FIRST CHURCH CHOIR

Nine-piece brass
ensemble, percussion,
harp, and organ

Michael Shake CONDUCTOR

A journey of musical joy through
centuries with Benjamin Britten's
timeless *A Ceremony of Carols*,
Ēriks Ešēvalds' radiant *Trinity*
Te Deum, Shawn Kirchner's exuberant
Behold New Joy, and rousing carol
singing accompanied by brass,
percussion, and organ.



Sunday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

First Church Sanctuary, Fifth Avenue at 12th Street

Free Admission

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