

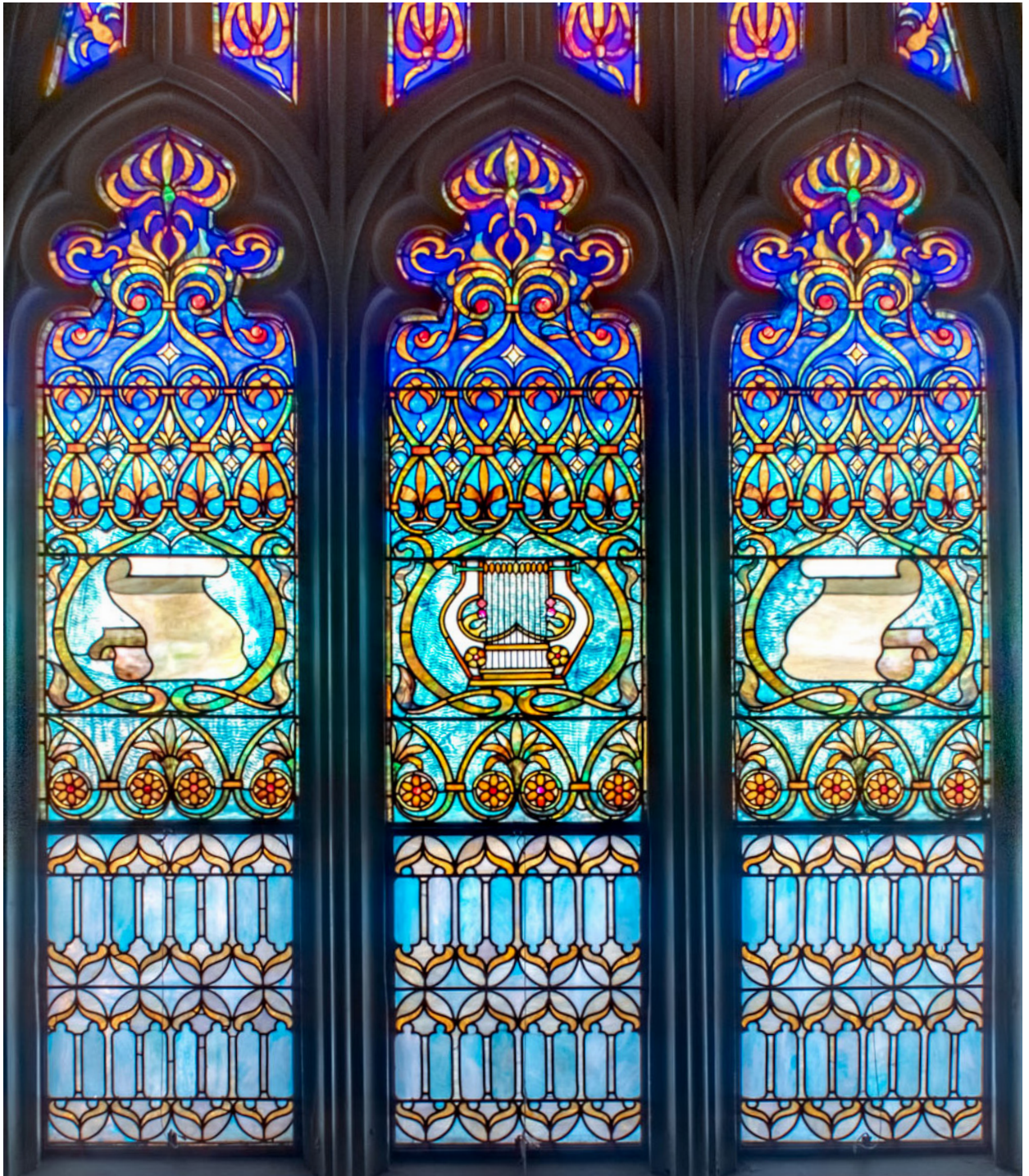
# *The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York*

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PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

*Service for the Lord's Day* | March 29, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.

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# 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 after worship for Coffee Fellowship in the Lobby or 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?**



**STEWARDSHIP 2026**



*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

“Fanfare”

Alec Wyton

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

CHORAL ACCLAMATION

Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever.

Dmytro Bortnianskyi  
—Psalm 113:2

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**Let us enter the city with God today,  
and sing hosannas to our God,  
Let us turn our backs on the powers that grasp and control,  
and open our hearts to the divine riding on a donkey.  
Let us join the crowds.  
Let us follow the one who brought freedom and peace.  
Let us worship God!**

HYMN 196

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

ANTHEM

Hosanna to the Son of David. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna to the Son of David. Glory be to God on high! The people heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem riding on a donkey’s colt, palm branches spread before him. The disciples didn’t understand what was happening at first; but when Jesus, the King, was glorified, then they remembered it had all been written!

Jody W. Lindh

—Jody W. Lindh, based on John 12:12–16

CALL TO CONFESSION

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Margaret Burk  
—ancient liturgical text

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you:  
we confess that our wills are as rebellious as theirs,  
our faith is often weak,  
our hearts are in need of cleansing.  
Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives.  
Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are,  
trusting you to forgive what is sinful,  
to heal what is broken,  
to welcome our praises  
and to receive us as your own...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHORAL AMEN

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, and afterward, 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.**

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

## HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Matthew 21:1–11

*pew Bible, New Testament page 23/large print, New Testament page 27*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Earth Shakes on Palm Sunday”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING INVITATION

ANTHEM

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

George Frideric Handel

—John 1:29

# SENDING

HYMN 218

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

READING OF THE PASSION NARRATIVE

Mark 14:32–15:20

*pew Bible, New Testament page 52/large print, New Testament page 63*

ANTHEM

Giovanni Croce

*O vos omnes qui transitis per viam: attendite et videte si est dolor sicut dolor meus.*

O all ye that pass by the way, attend and see if there be any sorrow like to my sorrow. —Lamentations 1:12; sung in Latin

PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK AND BENEEDICTION

HYMN 209

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

LOVE UNKNOWN

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

omit stanza 4

PRELUDE TO HOLY WEEK AND PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

“Thou Man of Grief, Remember Me”

Gardner Read

*The solemn Prelude to Holy Week and Procession of the Cross prepare us for the sacred days that follow as we prepare to remember again the final events of Jesus’ life and death.*

The cross is dedicated

“In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community.”

Our cross-bearer today is Meg Harper.

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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 Music Makers

The Student Choristers

Rachel Barker-Asto, *Family Music Coordinator*

The First Church Choir

Robbie Cowan, *Assisting Conductor*

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

# THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today,  
March 29**

- 9:30 a.m. Childcare
- 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Processional to Washington Square Park
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Church School
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:15 p.m. Open Gallery: Connecting Dot
- 12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
- 12:30 p.m. Conversation with Personnel Committee

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**Monday,  
March 30**

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

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**Wednesday,  
April 1**

- 12:00 p.m. Reading of the Gospel of Mark (hybrid)
- 5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)
- 6:00 p.m. Art at First (virtual)

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**Thursday,  
April 2**

- 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing (virtual)
- 9:00 a.m. NY Artist Circle
- 5:00 p.m. Elder Care Committee (virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship (hybrid)

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**Friday,  
April 3**

- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship (hybrid)

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**Saturday,  
April 4**

- 10:00 a.m. Family Easter Party with Egg Hunt
- 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen
- 12:00 p.m. RIF Asylum Support

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**Sunday,  
April 5**

- 8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship with Communion
- 8:45 a.m. Childcare
- 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Church School
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 1:00 p.m. Open Gallery: Connecting Dot

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Stay connected with all that's  
happening at First Church.  
Scan to receive our weekly  
newsletter, First Matters.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Conversation with the Personnel Committee | Today, March 29 | 12:30 p.m.**

As requested following the report on the HR Consultant's work that was presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Personnel Committee will be available for further discussion in the Rooftop Lounge.

## **Connecting Dot: The Art of Dorothy C. Sheppard | Open now through April 15**

This exhibition honors the life and work of Dorothy C. Sheppard through paintings, prints, and theatrical masks, with live mask demonstrations during the run of the show. Gallery hours are Tuesdays 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. (except April 7), Wednesdays 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. through April 15.

## **Lunch & Learn: 11th Street Women's Shelter Introduction | Sunday, April 19 | 12:30 p.m.**

Join us as we welcome Eric Rosenbaum, Director and CEO of Project Renewal, who oversees the new 11th Street Women's Shelter. Located right around the corner and scheduled to open in May, this residential shelter supports women preparing for employment. As these will be our neighbors, come learn more about the facility, its programs and residents, and how we might begin building this relationship together.

## **Facing Racism | Sunday, April 19 | 3:30 p.m.**

This book discussion group is developed collaboratively with the New York Literary Society Book Club and members of First Church. It is open to the community in person and on Zoom and will be part of a larger set of programs to recognize Jessie Redmon Fauset (1882–1961), an important Black writer, literary editor at *Crisis* magazine, and figure in the Harlem Renaissance movement. The discussion will be moderated by Jane Tillman Irving, member of The Literary Society, retired broadcast journalist, and professor of Journalism at Columbia University.

## **Vespers Festival of Music: Handel's *Messiah* | Sunday, April 26 | 4:00 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE! We celebrate 180 years of First Church on Fifth Avenue with a complete performance featuring the First Church Choir, soloists, and orchestra. Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free; no tickets required.

## **Adult Education**

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

- **Wednesday, April 1 at 12:00 p.m. Reading of the Gospel of Mark.** Please join us as we gather in the Library and hear together the gospel of Mark read out loud in its entirety. All are welcome to attend and listen, you do not need to be one of the readers. Lunch will be provided. Hybrid.
- **Thursday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing.** Encountering the Holy, meets virtually with themes including Fire, Water, Sky, Sea, Creatures, Humans, and Garden.

For details and Zoom links, contact the front desk at [frontdesk@fpcnyc.org](mailto:frontdesk@fpcnyc.org).

## **Youth & Family Ministries**

- **Easter Sunday Children's Program & Childcare** On Easter Sunday, we will offer a special program for children ages 3–5 during both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Childcare for infants through age 3 will also be available at both services, provided by the Babysitters Guild. Following the 11:00 a.m. service, all are invited to enjoy lawn games and an Easter StoryWalk on the North Lawn, weather permitting.
- **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.
- **Confirmation (grades 7–9)**, select Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; **the next meeting is after worship on Sunday, April 19.**
- **Club 345 (grades 3–5)**, fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **The next meeting will be after worship on Sunday, April 26.**

For more information, contact Jenny at [jbennett@fpcnyc.org](mailto:jbennett@fpcnyc.org).

## **Deacons of the Month**

The March deacons of the month are **Mary Virginia Ireland and Caroline Fjeldheim**. They'll be wearing a name badge at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.

## **Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed**

St. Joe's Soup Kitchen, now housed at First Church, has been serving meals to folks who need them for more than 40 years. Volunteers are needed each Saturday for 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.). No experience is necessary, but please sign up in advance to volunteer. For questions or to get involved, contact [sjskvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:sjskvolunteer@gmail.com) or go to [sjsk.nyc](http://sjsk.nyc).



# HOLY WEEK

Come gather in prayer, reflection, and hope  
as we journey toward Easter together.

## **PALM SUNDAY** **MARCH 29**

Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
Procession to Washington  
Square Park at 9:30 a.m.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY** **APRIL 2**

Worship at 7:00 p.m.  
with Communion

## **GOOD FRIDAY** **APRIL 3**

Worship at 12:00 p.m.

## **EASTER SUNDAY** **APRIL 5**

Worship at 8:00 a.m.  
with Communion  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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