

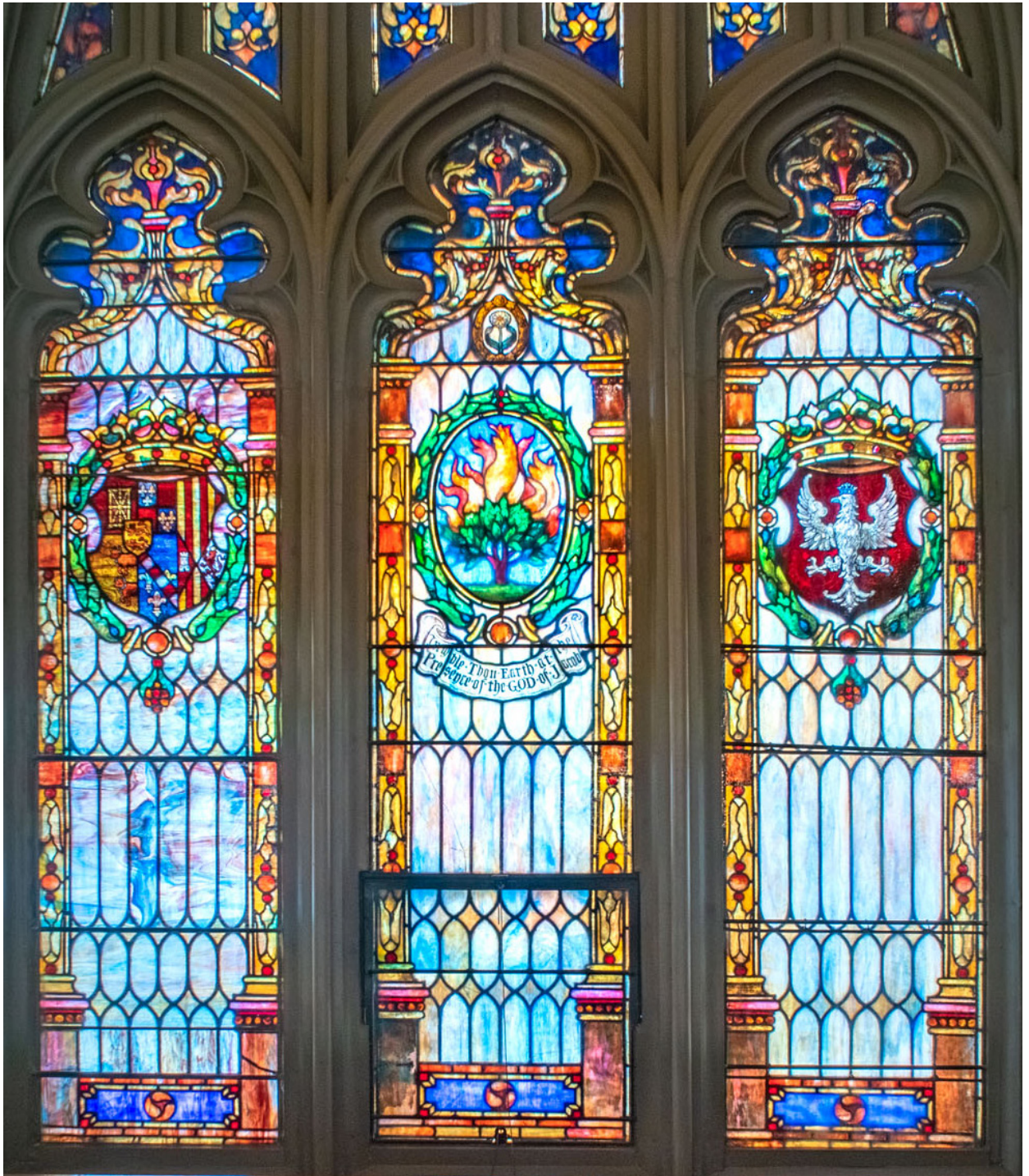
# *The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York*

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*Service for the Lord's Day* | March 22, 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

“Out of the Depths”

Jean Langlais

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

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. Frederick Jacobi  
—Psalm 19:14

HYMN 49

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

**Tender and compassionate God,  
sustain in our hearts the spirit of loving-kindness.  
Strengthen our work with neighbors and strangers alike.  
Guide us as we strive to bring healing to all people  
and creatures we encounter.  
Preserve in our hearts songs of peace  
and rhythms of justice...**

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.**

ANTHEM

Sing, be, live, see. This dark stormy hour, the wind, it stirs. The scorched earth cries out in vain: O war and power, you blind and blur, the torn heart cries out in pain. But music and singing have been my refuge, and music and singing shall be my light. A light of song shining strong: Kyrie! Through darkness, pain, and strife, I’ll sing, be, live, see...peace.

Frank Ticheli

—Frank Ticheli

# HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Exodus 3:1-6

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*pew Bible, Old Testament page 50/large print, Old Testament page 62*

SERMON

“Thin Places: Consumed by the Holy”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 687

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”  
omit stanza 5

ST. ANNE

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

*For elders* Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*For deacons* Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people’s help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the Iona Community

**We believe that God is present  
in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God  
who sits down in our midst  
to share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith  
that takes us beyond the safe place  
into action, into vulnerability,  
and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change,  
to bear responsibility, to take risks,  
live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit  
for God’s new community of hope.**

**Amen.**

## OFFERING INVITATION

## OFFERTORY

Anton Bruckner

*Christus factus est pro nobis obediens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.*

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even to the death, death on the cross. Therefore God exalted him and gave him a name which is above all names.  
—Liturgy for Maundy Thursday; sung in Latin

## DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



*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 547

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

AR HYD Y NOS

## BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

“Toccata”

Eugène Gigout

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

The cross is dedicated

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

Our cross-bearer today is Irenka Jakubiak.

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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 First Church Choir

Robbie Cowan, *Assisting Conductor*

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

# THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

<b>Today, March 22</b>	9:30 a.m.	Childcare
	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.	Sign Making for the No Kings March
	1:30 p.m.	Literary Group (hybrid)
2:00 p.m.	Art at First Performance with Cheese & Wine Reception	

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<b>Monday, March 23</b>	6:30 p.m.	Tartan Fair Meeting (hybrid)
	7:00 p.m.	Current Events (virtual)

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<b>Wednesday, March 25</b>	12:00 p.m.	Music Meditation
	12:45 p.m.	Open Sanctuary
	1:00 p.m.	Open Gallery: Connecting Dot
	5:30 p.m.	Conversational Spanish (virtual)

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<b>Thursday, March 26</b>	8:30 a.m.	Prayer Writing (virtual)
	12:30 p.m.	Lent Bible Study (hybrid)

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<b>Saturday, March 28</b>	10:00 a.m.	Soup Kitchen
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<b>Sunday, March 29</b>	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	

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

## EASTER FLOWERS | DUE BY TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Remember or honor a loved one with a contribution toward the beautiful flowers that will adorn the Chancel on Easter Sunday. Contributions of any amount are welcome. Your dedication will be printed in the Easter Sunday order of worship. Forms are available in the lobby and the Narthex. Complete and return the form with your contribution to the reception desk in the Mellin-Macnab Building. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. Please clearly print the names of those you wish to remember or honor.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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.

## **Sign Making for the No Kings March | Sunday, March 22 | 12:30 p.m.**

We invite you to join our group attending the No Kings March on March 28. As you prepare to rally—or even just to have a voice, come next Sunday and make a sign. You may take your sign home or leave it at church for you or another to use. We provide the supplies and you the expression! All are invited, especially families, young children, and youth (of all ages!).

## **Art At First | Sunday, March 22 | 2:00 p.m.**

Art at First/First Acts invites you to a reading of *Love Letters: The Sonnets of Shakespeare* in the Great Hall. The program will include a theatrical mask demonstration featuring pieces from Dorothy Sheppard's current exhibition. Join us for an engaging presentation of Shakespeare's most beloved works. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

## **Lent Midweek Music Meditation with the Riverside Brass Quintet | Wednesday, March 25 | 12:00–12:45 p.m.**

Pause midweek in the historic Sanctuary at First Church for the final Lent Music Meditation of this year. The Riverside Brass Quintet returns in a program that blends original contemporary works—including pieces by Stephen Sacco, Chloe Rowlands, and David Biedenbender—with imaginative arrangements of jazz (Chick Corea's *Children's Songs*), American classical (Copland's *Grover's Corners*), and the spiritual *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*. All are welcome to step away from the day and be renewed through music as this Lenten season draws to a close.

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

## **Palm Sunday Procession to Washington Square Park | Sunday, March 29 | 9:30 a.m.**

Begin Holy Week with the Palm Sunday Peace and Justice procession to Washington Square Park. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. and depart at 9:45 a.m. to walk together to the park for this shared time of prayer, song, and witness. After the procession, return to First Church for Palm Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to take part in this joyful beginning to Holy Week.

## **Adult Education**

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

- **Wednesday, April 1 at 12:00 p.m., hybrid, Reading of the Gospel of Mark.** All are welcome to attend and listen, you do not need to be one of the readers. Lunch will be provided.
- **Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing.** Encountering the Holy, meets virtually on March 26 and April 2 with themes including Fire, Water, Sky, Sea, Creatures, Humans, and Garden.
- **Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Bible Study.** Join us for Lenten Bible Study: Stories of Resistance, hybrid, March 26.

For details and Zoom links, contact the front desk at [frontdesk@fpcnyc.org](mailto:frontdesk@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. Children ages 4–6 are warmly invited to join the Chorister rehearsals. Young singers will prepare alongside our Student Choristers and share in leading worship on Palm Sunday, March 29. All are welcome to come sing!
- **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, March 22.**

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.



# 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**

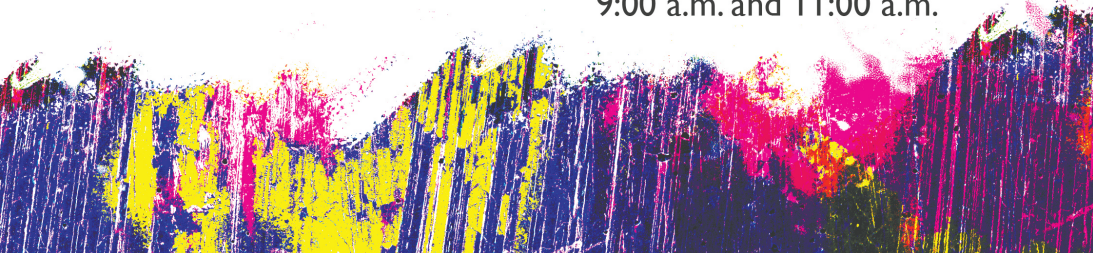
Worship at 7:00 p.m.  
with Communion

## **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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COVER IMAGE *Huguenot Window* (upper section). Designed by D. Maitland Armstrong, 1915. The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York.



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