

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Service for the Lord's Day | March 15, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, *Stained Glass, North Side Balcony*

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

Join us after worship for Coffee Fellowship in the Lobby 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

Cry out and shout, ye people of God! The Lord is strength and song! Therefore with joy shall ye draw water from the wells of salvation with joy! Cry out and shout, ye people of God! The Lord is strength and song!

Knut Nystedt

—Isaiah 12, adapt.

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth.

—John 14:15–17 (King James Version)

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Pie Jesu, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem. Agnus dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem. Sempiternam.

Blessed Jesus, who takes away the sins of the world, give them rest. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, give them rest. Everlasting.

—ancient liturgical text; sung in Latin

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled.

Amy Beach

—John 14:27 (King James Version)

HYMN 756

Please stand in body or spirit.

“O God of Every Nation”

LLANGLOFFAN

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

God, do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors.

Adapted from Psalm 79:8–9

**Forgive us, merciful God,
for our history of violence.**

Let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought low.

**With haste come to us
for we are bent beneath the weight of war-making.**

Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name.

**Rescue us, O Wind of the Spirit,
from the sea of despair.**

Deliver us and forgive us our sins,
for your name’s sake.

**Jesus, have mercy on our nation,
for the sake of God’s reign...**

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

Early American melody; Mark Hayes, arr.

The words can be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 649, stanzas 1–3 and 5.

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

Matthew 5:1–12

pew Bible, New Testament page 4/large print, New Testament page 4

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“For the Living of These Days”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 307

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

Please stand in body or spirit.

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

Felix Mendelssohn

Grant us thy peace, Almighty Lord, thou source of every blessing! Feeble and frail, trust we thy word, all things in thee possessing. In thee is our hope and safety.

—Martin Luther



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 450

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Fugue on the Carillon of Soissons, op. 12”

Maurice Duruflé

*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 Steven White.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

The Allen High School Choir

Trenton Davis, *Conductor*

Cathy Koziatek and Kaitlin Davis, *Soloists*

The First Church Choir

Michael Genese, *Assisting Conductor*

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

MUSIC NOTE Today we welcome the Allen High School Choir, Allen, Texas to our worship. The Allen High School Choir is home to 480 students across 14 performing ensembles, making it one of the largest and most dynamic choral programs in the Lone Star State. Under the direction of Trenton Davis, Cathy Koziatek, Kaitlin Davis, and Spencer Tripp, the Allen Choir continues a longstanding tradition of musical excellence and pride in performance.

Throughout the year, students present diverse repertoire representing a wide range of genres, styles, and languages. Each ensemble is committed to achieving the highest standards of artistry, musicianship, and collaboration. Beyond the choir room, Allen Choir students are deeply involved across campus. Members participate in athletics including football, basketball, soccer, baseball, and volleyball, as well as theatre, band, JROTC, and National Honor Society.

In addition to their extracurricular involvement, many choir students are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, demonstrating a strong commitment to academic achievement alongside their musical journey. The Allen Choral Program is known for its dedication to excellence, leadership, and community.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today, March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 a.m. Childcare 9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies & 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 12:20 p.m. Student Choristers 12:30 p.m. Confirmation 12:30 p.m. Artificial Intelligence: Ethics, Dangers, and Tools with Rev. Greg Stovell 1:00 p.m. Open Gallery: "Connecting Dot: The Art of Dorothy C. Sheppard" 1:00 p.m. LGBTQ Brunch
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Monday, March 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 p.m. Earth Care Action Group (virtual) 7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)
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Tuesday March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 p.m. Facing Racism Action Group (virtual)
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Wednesday, March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 p.m. Music Meditation 12:45 p.m. Open Sanctuary 5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual) 7:00 p.m. LGBTQ Bible Study (virtual)
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Thursday, March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing (virtual) 12:30 p.m. Lent Bible Study (hybrid)
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Saturday, March 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen
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Sunday, March 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 a.m. Childcare 10:30 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 1:00 p.m. Art at First Performance w/ Cheese & Wine Reception 1:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)

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

Artificial Intelligence: Ethics, Dangers, and Tools | Sunday, March 15 | 12:30 p.m.

Join Pastor Greg in the Library on Sunday, March 15 at 12:30 p.m. for a one-hour presentation exploring what AI is, how it works, its risks, and how it can be used responsibly. Drawing on his background in engineering and decades of experience with AI, Greg will share insights and live demonstrations alongside his AI assistant, “Connie.” A light lunch will be served. All are welcome, no reservation needed.

LGBTQ Brunch | Sunday, March 15 | 1:00 p.m.

All are invited to the LGBTQ+ Brunch on Sunday, March 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the Esther Morrow room. Join us as we host our friends from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church! Please RSVP to LGBTQ.fpcnyc@gmail.com.

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.

Lent Midweek Music Meditation with Adrienne Kim, *piano*; Jorge Ávila, *violin*; and Robert Burkhart, *cello* | Wednesday, March 18 | 12:00–12:45 p.m.

Pianist Adrienne Kim, violinist Jorge Ávila, and cellist Robert Burkhart perform music for piano trio by Handel, Schubert, Messiaen, and Beethoven. All are welcome to step away from the day and be renewed through music this Lenten season.

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

Art At First/First Acts invites the congregation, family and friends to a reading of: *Love Letters, The Sonnets of Shakespeare*, on Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m., in the Great Hall. Included will be a demonstration incorporating theatrical masks from Dorothy Sheppard’s art show that is on display. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

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. Reading of the Gospel of Mark.** Please join us as we gather 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. Library, hybrid.
- **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. LGBTQ Bible Study: Queer Bodies, Boundaries, and Healing.** Join us for LGBTQ Bible Study as we explore themes of queer bodies, boundaries, and healing. Together we will consider inclusion, wholeness, and the sacredness of our lived experience. The final session meets virtually on March 18.
- **Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing.** Encountering the Holy, meets virtually on March 19, 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 19 and 26.

For details and Zoom links, contact the front desk at 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, March 15.**
- **Club 345 (grades 3–5)**, fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **The next meeting will be Sunday, March 22.**

For more information, contact Jenny at 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**

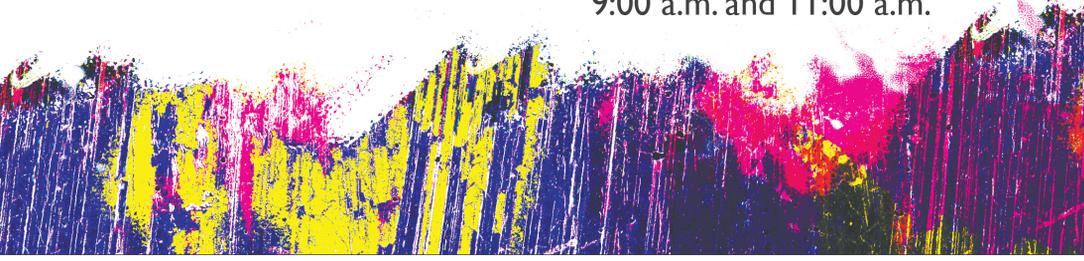
Worship at 7:00 p.m.
with Communion

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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