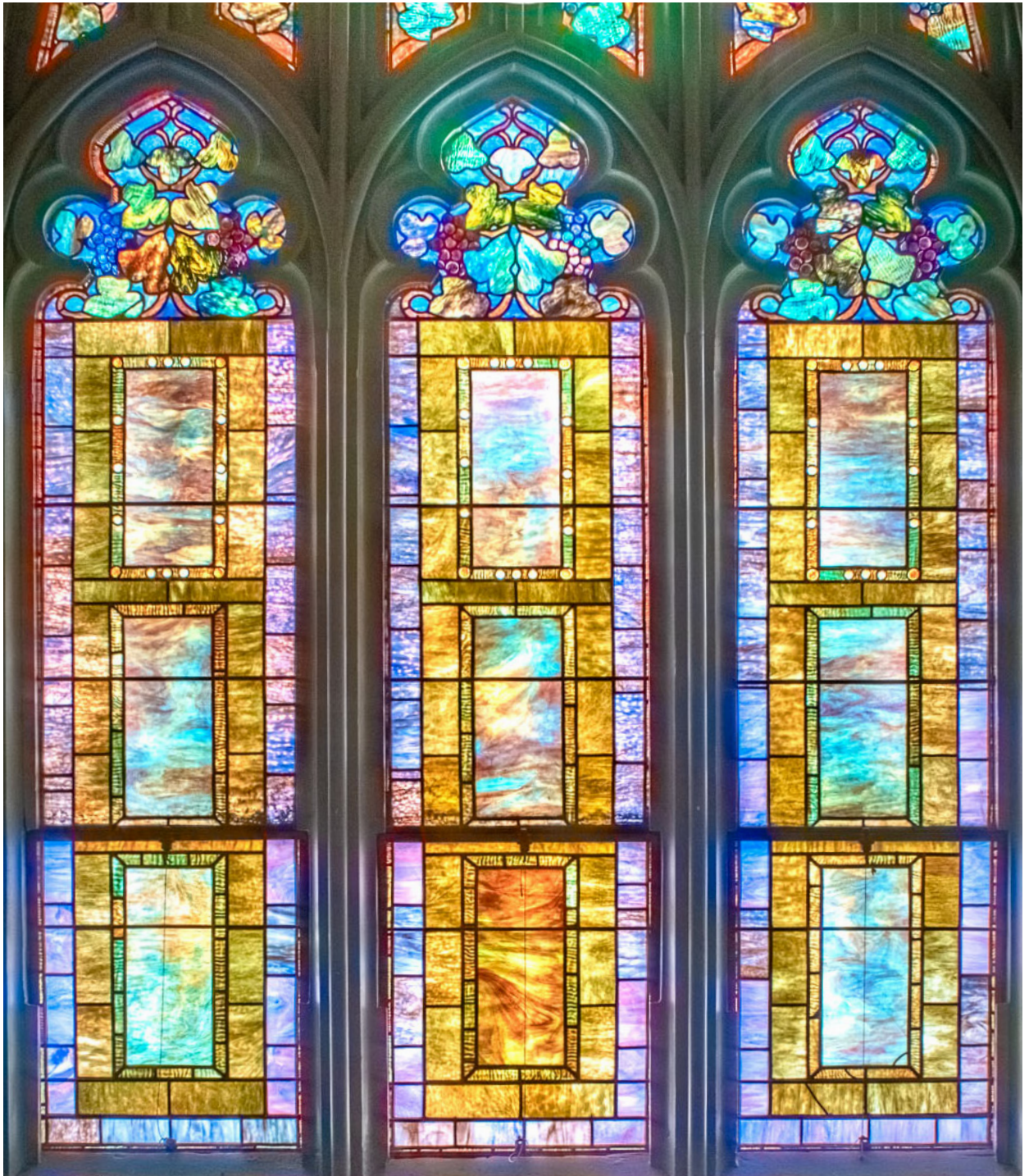


The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD/EASTER

Service for the Lord's Day | April 5, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



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 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?**



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

“Choral, op. 37, no. 4”

Joseph Jongen
arr. Rich Mays

“Jubilate”

Fela Sowande

“Fantasy on *O Sons and Daughters*”

Walter L. Pelz

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Brightness of God’s glory
and exact image of God’s person,
whom death could not conquer
nor the tomb imprison,
as you have shared our frailty in human flesh,
help us to share your immortality in the Spirit.
Let no shadow of the grave terrify us,
and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.
Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days,
as the first and the last, the Living One,
our immortal Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HYMN 232

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN
arr. Richard R. Webster

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Eleanor Daley

“Christ the Lord is risen today!” All on earth with angels say, alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, ye heavens and earth reply, alleluia! Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell, alleluia! Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened paradise, alleluia! Soar we now where Christ has led following our exalted Head, alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise; ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven; praise to thee by both be given, alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now; hail the resurrection thou, alleluia!

—Charles Wesley, alt.

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

John 20:1–18

pew Bible, New Testament page 114/large print, New Testament page 140

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“In Your Eyes”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 246

“Christ Is Alive!”

TRURO

arr. Richard R. Webster

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.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Horatio Parker
arr. Stephen Buzard

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky; heaven thunders forth its victor cry; the glad earth shouts her triumph high, and groaning hell makes wild reply, while He the King, the mighty King, despoiling death of all its sting, and trampling down the powers of might, brings forth His ransomed Saints to light.

That Eastertide with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light, when to their longing eyes restored the Apostles saw their risen Lord: He bade them see His hands, His side, where yet the glorious wounds abide; these tokens true which made it plain their Lord indeed was risen again.

O Jesu, King of gentleness do Thou Thyself our hearts possess; that we may give Thee all our days, the tribute of our grateful praise. O Lord of all with us abide, in this our joyful Eastertide; from every weapon death can wield, Thine own redeemed for ever shield. *The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won, the song of triumph has begun.*

Alleluia. Amen. All praise be Thine, O risen Lord, from death to endless life restored, all praise to God, the Father be, and Holy Ghost eternally. Alleluia. Amen. —5th century Latin hymn; trans. John Mason Neale

DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God all crea-tures
high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise
God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it
one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 238

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS
arr. Robert A. Hobby

BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

George Frederic Handel
—Revelation 19:6; 11:15, 19:16

POSTLUDE

“Tocatta, from *Symphonie V, op. 42, no. 1*”

Charles-Marie Widor
arr. Sterling Procter

*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-bearers are Jack Griem (9:00 a.m.) and Richard Korchak (11:00 a.m.).

LEADING THIS MORNING
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

The First Church Choir
Andrew Martens, *Bass-Baritone*
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

David Krauss and Melissa Muñoz, *Trumpet*
Javier Gandara, *French horn*
Julia Dombroski-Jones, *Trombone*
Taylor Peterson, *Bass Trombone*
Sean Ritenauer, *Timpani*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today,
April 5**

8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship with Communion
8:30 a.m. Congregational Breakfast
8:45 a.m. Childcare
9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship
9:15 a.m. Church School (for 3–5 year olds)
11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School (for 3–5 year olds)
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
1:00 p.m. Open Gallery: Connecting Dot

**Monday,
April 6**

Building Closed on Easter Monday
7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

**Tuesday,
April 7**

8:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women (virtual)

**Wednesday,
April 8**

5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)

**Thursday,
April 9**

12:30 p.m. Senior Luncheon

**Saturday,
April 11**

10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen

**Sunday,
April 12**

9:30 a.m. Childcare
11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
11:15 a.m. Church School
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
12:15 p.m. Closing Reception of Connecting Dot & Live Performance
12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
12:30 p.m. LGBTQ Brunch (offsite)
12:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women



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

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.

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 Book Discussion: "There is Confusion" by Jessie Redmon Fauset | 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.

One of music's towering masterworks, performed in full — celebrating 180 years of First Church on Fifth Avenue. Featuring the First Church Choir, soloists, and orchestra. Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Free; no tickets required.

Creatives Create: Deep & WIDE | Opens Sunday, May 3

You're invited to participate in a creative exhibition on partnerships around the world: "Deep & WIDE." Work in any media is welcome (literary, crafts, photos, visual and performing arts...whatever your creation might be!) Creative creations will be displayed in the Great Hall in May and June, with performances scheduled for May 17 and June 14. Everyone who participates will be included. **Submission deadline: Sunday, April 26.** For more information and to apply, please contact creativescreate@fpcnyc.org

Adult Education

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

- **Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. starting April 15, Bible Study focusing on The Gospel of John.** Join us as we engage in themes from Dorothy A. Lee's new commentary. We will consider ideas integral to this late first-century community, including wisdom, glory, light, and revelation, among others, hybrid.
- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. starting April 19, Coffee & Theologians.** The Work of Discipleship in Today's World, hybrid.

For details and Zoom links, contact the front desk at 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
- **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. 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, April 26.**

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

Deacons of the Month

The April deacons of the month are **Matthew Power and Doug Krehbiel**. 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 or go to sjsk.nyc.

We wish to express our love and prayers for the following persons we remember this Easter in these gifts of flowers for the sanctuary.

Nancy & Anthony Bowe in memory of *Thomas & Mary Board, John & Katherine Bowe*

Sally Collins and Faye Timmer in celebration of life and gratitude for God's abundant blessings

Chance Carpenter in honor of *Fernando Cadena, Berniece Holeman, Helen Lloyd, Jeff Malloy, Juanita Moser, Jeffrey Simpson, and Frances Vance*

The Rev. Dr. Barbara E. Davis and Marnie Shrader in memory of *Robert Livingston Davis, Robert Livingston Davis, Jr., and David E. Davis*; and in honor of *Nathaniel, Emma, Sam, and Hannah*

Don Eddy & Leigh Behnke in honor of *Ruth C. King, Allen & Jane Behnke*

Irene Gilman in memory of *beloved family and friends*

The Gray-White Family in loving memory of *Lydia Gray-White*

Jack Griem in memory of *Elizabeth A. Clarke, Edwin R. Clarke II, Gwendolyn P. Griem and John D. Griem*

Lesley Hoopes in honor of *George & Georgina Bissell, Robert B. Field Jr., Zissimos A. Frangopoulos, Joseph & Elizabeth Hoopes, Michael & Beverly Sullivan*

Betty Jones in memory of *family members and dear friends*

Kathryn Ketcham in loving memory of my cousins; *Frances Horres, Alice Brown, Linda Shuey, Constance Crane, and Karen Hasiotis*

The Korchak Family in memory of *Adeline Vichiconti*

Nancy Ellen Micco in honor of *Joseph & Hendrina La Fleur*

Natalie Miller in honor of *Carole Miller*

Joan Reutershan & Meg Harper in loving memory of *all the Harper-Reutershans that have passed*

Sarah Ann Rodgers in memory of *Decatur & Linda Rodgers*

Ashleigh Roscishewska in memory of *Deborah J. Oram*

Michael Shake in gratitude and celebration of *the Music Ministry of First Church*

Laurie Speer in memory of *Rev. Dr. James G. Speer*

Ann & Andrew Spindler in honor of *Susan Oliver and Maureen Steinbruner*

Wendy Williams in memory of my parents; *Kenneth Eugene & Elaine Williams*, and my brothers; *Gay Neal & Drew Warren Williams*

Flowers were anonymously contributed in memory of *Robert Wilson*, theater director and playwright

HANDEL *Messiah*

VESPERS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

12 West 12th Street | April 26 | 4:00 p.m. **FREE ADMISSION**



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



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