

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Service for the Lord's Day | April 19, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH

We are an open and inclusive community, gathered by God's grace and shaped by many cultures, identities, and experiences.

Together, we are a tapestry of God's children, seeking to respond to God's call in our lives and to witness to God's love, grace, and justice in the world.

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, we pray today's service will be a blessing to you. If this is your first time here, a member of the pastoral staff would be glad to greet you and answer any questions 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, greet 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 on the south side. Additional restrooms are located in the lobby on the north side.

GET INVOLVED

STAY CONNECTED



Scan to receive our weekly newsletter, *First Matters*.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



Learn more about becoming part of our community.

GIVE



Support the life and ministries of the church.

If you are in need of care, such as prayer, a call from a pastor, or a ride to the church, 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Variations on *Now the Green Blade Rises*”

Philip Moore

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

African American spiritual; Richard Smallwood, arr.

The words may be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal, 799*.

HYMN 485

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

ENGLEBERG

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,

hear the cry of those who yearn for forgiveness;

convicted, in need of your grace,

contrite, humble, and bowed down.

You are full of compassion.

You rescue our feet from stumbling,

so that we can once again walk in your ways.

Forgive our sins,

and grant us your peace...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

MFURAHINI, HALELUYA



Christ has a - ris - en to set us free.
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



Al - le - lu - ia, to him prais - es be.
he reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy. Death's fear - ful



sting he has come to de - stroy. Our sin for - giv - ing,



al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE AND SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children are welcome to come forward for the prayers. Afterward, children ages 3–6th grade are invited to Church School; families may pick them up at the end of the 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

This is the day that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad therein. O give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
and his mercy endureth forever.

Gerald Near

–Gradual for Easter Day

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON

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

Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19

pew Bible, Old Testament page 564/large print, Old Testament page 694

SERMON

“The Song of Our Hearts”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 828

Please stand in body or spirit.

“More Love to Thee, O Christ”

MORE LOVE TO THEE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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.**

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: *Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.* For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: *Lord of all...* For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Lord of all...* For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth, and buds of heaven: *Lord of all...* —Folliott S. Pierpont

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 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Paeon”

Philip Moore

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

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Zora Afriyie Quarshie
Daughter of Robyn Whitney d'Avignon & Nana Osei Quarshie
Kristen Plank

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

The First Church Choir
Shanelle Woods, *Assisting Conductor*
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today,
April 19**

- 9:30 a.m. Childcare
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians (hybrid)
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies and Toddlers
- 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. Lunch & Learn: 11th Street Women's Shelter Introduction
- 3:30 p.m. Facing Racism Book Discussion (hybrid)

**Monday,
April 20**

- 6:30 p.m. Tartan Fair Meeting (virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

**Tuesday,
April 21**

- 6:30 p.m. Facing Racism Action Group Meeting (virtual)

**Wednesday,
April 22**

- 12:30 p.m. Bible Study (hybrid)
- 5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)

**Thursday,
April 23**

- 6:00 p.m. Français du Monde

**Saturday,
April 25**

- 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen
- 12:00 p.m. RIF Asylum Support

**Sunday,
April 26**

- 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. Earth Care Sunday Neighborhood Clean Up
- 1:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)
- 4:00 p.m. Vespers Festival of Music



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lunch & Learn: 11th Street Women's Shelter Introduction | Today, 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, called **Compass House**. 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 | Today, April 19 3:30 p.m.

This book discussion group is developed collaboratively with The Literary Society 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. You can find the Zoom link in this week's *First Matters*.

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. 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 season, our hybrid adult education offerings explore hope through ancient and contemporary voices. All are welcome.

- **Bible Study | Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. | April 22; May 6, 13, 20, 27; June 10, 17** Join us as we explore the Gospel of John, engaging themes from Dorothy A. Lee's commentary. Together, we will reflect on ideas central to this late first-century community, including wisdom, glory, light, and revelation. (Hybrid)
- **Coffee & Theologians | Sundays at 9:30 a.m. | April 26; May 10, 17, 31; June 14** *The Work of Discipleship in Today's World*, Gather for thoughtful conversation as we consider what it means to live out our faith today. (Hybrid)
- **Virtual Prayer Writing | Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. | May 7, 14, 21, 28** A quiet, reflective space to explore prayer through writing and shared practice. (Virtual only)

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 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 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 Sunday, May 17. All are welcome to come sing!
- **Confirmation (grades 7–9)**, select Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; **the next meeting is after worship today, April 19.**
- **Club 345 (grades 3–5)**, fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **The next meeting will be before 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 (10:30–1:00 p.m.) and afternoon food service (1:00–3:30 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.

HANDEL

Messiah

VESPERS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

One of music's towering masterworks, performed
in full — celebrating 180 years of First Church on Fifth Avenue.
The First Church Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra
Michael Shake, conductor

12 West 12th Street
Sunday, April 26 | 4:00 p.m.

**FREE
ADMISSION**



PERMISSIONS All public domain except: Variations on *Now the Green Blade Rises*. ©2013 Oxford University Press. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry*. Music Arr. ©1975 Richard Smallwood (admin. Conexion Entertainment Group LLC). All rights reserved. Used by permission. *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*. Words ©1977 Howard S. Olson (admin. Augsburg Fortress). Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *This Is the Day*. ©1971 Augsburg Publishing House. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *For the Beauty of the Earth*. ©1980 Oxford University Press. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*. Music Harm. ©1969 Hope Publishing Company. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. Words ©1989 Hope Publishing Company. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Paeon*. ©2010 Novello and Company Limited. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, ©1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved. COVER IMAGE The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York, *Stained Glass, North Side*



This paper contains 100% post-consumer waste content, is made with windpower and made carbon neutral.
Neenah Paper is certified by Preferred by Nature for FSC® standards and Green Seal Certified. 3-05077-F

12 W 12th Street, New York, NY 10011
212.675.6150 • fpcnyc.org