

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Service for the Lord's Day | April 26, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



Christ as the Good Shepherd, mosaic, Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna, c. 425 AD.

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

“Pastorale”
“Caprice”

Percy Whitlock
Graham Twist

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Melchior Vulpius

Now God be praised in heaven above. Praises be for God's great love. Wherein all creatures live and move. Alleluia. Praise God yet more for conquering faith. Which feareth neither pain nor death. But, trusting God rejoicing saith. Alleluia. God's grace defends us from all ill. The Christ shall be our leader still. Till heaven and earth shall do God's will.

-Michael Weisse; trans. Henry Wilder Foote

HYMN 236

“The Strife Is O'er”

VICTORY

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Shepherd of our lives,
like sheep we wander and stray.
We come to you for sustenance,
yet distance ourselves from you when you require more from us.
We bite one another with words that cut
and attitudes that reflect more apathy than care.
We give you thanks for not giving up on us
and continuing to lead us by your Spirit.
Give us courage and confidence
to do your will and to love with our lives...**

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.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER 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

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

George Frideric Handel
—Isaiah 53:6 (King James Version)

HEARING THE WORD

PSALM 23

King James Version

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

**I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

LESSON

John 10:1–10

This is the word of the Lord.

pew Bible, New Testament page 103/large print, New Testament page 126

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Good Shepherding”

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 802

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

ST. COLUMBA

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

Virgil Thomson

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name. In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream. He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways, and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace. When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay; one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

—Psalm 23; Isaac Watts, para.

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 274

Please stand in body or spirit.

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

PICARDY

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Chorale Prelude on GELOBT SEI GOTT”

Healey Willan

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

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
Michael Genese, *Assisting Conductor*
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today,
April 26**

- 9:30 a.m. Childcare
- 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
- 1:30 p.m. Literary Group (hybrid)
- 4:00 p.m. Vespers Festival of Music

**Monday,
April 27**

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

**Wednesday,
April 29**

- 5:30 p.m. Conversational Spanish (virtual)
- 6:00 p.m. Facing Racism Public Reading

**Saturday,
May 2**

- 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen
- 11:00 a.m. Caring for the Earth Discussion
- 12:00 p.m. RIF Asylum Support

**Sunday,
May 3**

- 9:30 a.m. Childcare
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Church School
- 12:00 p.m. Creatives Create: Deep & WIDE Opening Reception
- 12:00 p.m. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:20 p.m. Student Choristers
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 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

Vespers Festival of Music: Handel's *Messiah* | Today, 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 | Submissions Due Today, April 26 | Exhibition 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 (poems, 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. For more information and to apply, email creativescreate@fpcnyc.org.

The Harlem Renaissance: Honoring Roots on W. 12th Street | Wednesday, April 29 | 6:00 p.m.

This community event includes quiet reading time (please bring a Harlem Renaissance book), scholarly presentations, and music. It commemorates the historic 1924 Civic Club dinner at 14 West 12th Street, a key moment in the birth of the Harlem Renaissance. Featuring Dr. David Levering Lewis, Dr. Monica L. Miller, Dr. Jeffrey C. Stewart, and musicians Joy F. Brown and Brandie Sutton. 1920s-inspired attire encouraged. RSVP via the link in *First Matters*.

Clean It Up and Make It Pretty | Saturday, May 16 | 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Join us anytime throughout the day as we care for our neighborhood together. Help clean up our surrounding streets and plant flowers to bring beauty to our shared space. All are welcome—come for as long as you are able. Rain or shine.

The Voices Project: A City Church Film Screening | Saturday, May 16 | 11:30 a.m.

Join us at Cinema Village (22 East 12th Street) for a screening of *The Voices Project: A City Church*, an 80-minute film presented by First Church's Elder Care Committee. Directed by Steve Umberger, this oral history shares the story of First Church through the voices of some of our older members, reflecting on moments that have shaped our life together. The screening will be followed by a talkback and a reception at the church. Tickets are available at cinemavillage.com.

Adult Education

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

- **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)
- **Bible Study | Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. | 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)
- **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!
- **Club 345 (grades 3–5)**, fourth Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **The next meeting is before worship today, April 26.**
- **Confirmation (grades 7–9)**, select Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; **the next meeting is after worship Sunday, May 3.**

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: *Pastorale*. ©1935 Oxford University Press. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Caprice*. Used by permission of the composer. *Now God Be Praised in Heaven Above*. ©1936 E. C. Schirmer Music Company. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*. Words ©1977 Howard S. Olson (admin. Augsburg Fortress). Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*. ©1938 Virgil Thomson; assigned 1947 to H.W. Gray Co. Inc. 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. *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*. Words ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. *Chorale Prelude on GELOBT SEI GOTT*. ©1950, 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used under ONE LICENSE #73497-A. 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.



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