

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Service for the Lord's Day | May 10, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



Denial of Saint Peter, Caravaggio, 1610

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.

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, 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 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

“Prelude and Fugue in G Major, op. 37, no. 2”

Felix Mendelssohn

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

INTROIT

Walker's *Southern Harmony*

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms. In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms. Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power. Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome; God's free bounty glorify, true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. I will arise and go to Jesus...
—stanzas, Joseph Hart, 1759, alt.; refrain, anon.

HYMN 299

“You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

HANOVER

Please stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

creator of all that is, and giver of life:

hear our prayer.

There are chasms in our lives,

deep valleys that separate us

from you and one another.

We confess we have allowed those rifts to grow,

for fear of admitting our part in the separation,

for fear of being rejected when we reach out.

You call us to a reconciled life,

to healed relationships,

to a wholeness with each other and with you.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations

through the power and love of Christ,

in whose name we pray...

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

He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved.

Felix Mendelssohn
—Matthew 24:13 (King James Version)

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Peter 3:13–22

pew Bible, New Testament page 234/large print, New Testament page 284

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“In Defense of Your Faith”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 738

Please stand in body or spirit.

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

MARYTON

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

Charles D. Coleman

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness, all ye lands. Come before God singing, all ye lands. Know ye that the Lord is our God: it is God that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture. Enter into God's gates with thanksgiving, and into God's courts with praise: be thankful unto God, and bless God's holy name. For the Lord is good; and whose mercy is everlasting; and whose truth endureth to all generations. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord and read God's holy word and bless God's holy name, all ye lands.

—Psalm 100 (King James Version)

DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Please stand in body or spirit.

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 363

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”

DARWALL'S 148TH

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Postlude on HANOVER”

Eric Thiman

*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 Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

**Today,
May 10**

- 9:30 a.m. Childcare
- 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
- 12:00 p.m. Open Gallery: Creatives Create
- 12:20 p.m. Student Choristers

**Monday,
May 11**

- 5:30 p.m. Qigong (virtual)
- 6:30 p.m. Earth Care Action Group (virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Current Events (virtual)

**Wednesday,
May 13**

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

**Thursday,
May 14**

- 8:30 a.m. Prayer Writing (virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. Senior Luncheon

**Saturday,
May 16**

- 10:00 a.m. Clean it Up and Make it Pretty
- 10:00 a.m. Soup Kitchen
- 11:30 a.m. Voices Project Film & Reception

**Sunday,
May 17**

- 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theologians
- 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. Coffee & Fellowship
- 12:20 p.m. Student Choristers Party
- 1:00 p.m. Creatives Create: Performance & Reception



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Luncheon | Thursday, May 14 | 12:30 p.m.

The Elder Care Committee invites you to attend the Senior Luncheon. Laurie Petersen, Communications Director at Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS), will be our speaker. She will share about the many programs and resources available for seniors.

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 in the Parlor. Tickets are available at cinemavillage.com.

AIDS Walk | Sunday, May 17th

Support our AIDS WALK TEAM! The NYC AIDS Walk is on Sunday, May 17 in Central Park. Join us in person or donate online to this important cause! Go to gmhc.donordrive.com/teams/FPCNYC. If you have questions, contact jamielboswell1@gmail.com or Sally Collins at mission@fpcnyc.org.

New Member Cookout | Thursday, May 21 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.

All First Church members are invited to a cookout and potluck on the North Lawn as we welcome our new (and newish) members, especially those who joined through the Inquirer's Class beginning February 2024. Burgers, buns, and condiments will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share and anything you would like to grill. To RSVP, email Mark Fontaine at mkfontaine@gmail.com and include the number attending.

Summer Music and Community for All Ages | June and July

Join us this summer for a range of musical offerings for all ages, including Summer Choir (high school and up, Sundays in June), Summer Strummers (intergenerational ukulele, select Sundays in June and July), Summer Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers (select Sundays in June and July), and Family Summer Music (Fridays outdoors in June and July). For full dates and details, please contact mshake@fpcnyc.org, rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org, or jbennett@fpcnyc.org.

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. | 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 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 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)**, 9:30–10:15 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.; **Confirmation Sunday is May 17.**

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

Deacons of the Month

The May deacons of the month are **Caroline Fjeldheim, Aurora Jones, and Matthew Power**. They'll be wearing name badges at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.



SUMMER MUSIC at First Church



MUSIC AND COMMUNITY
FOR ALL AGES

Summer Choir

High school and up | Sundays in June

Summer Strummers

Intergenerational ukulele | Select Sundays in June & July

Summer Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers

Select Sundays in June & July

Family Summer Music

Fridays outdoors | June & July



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