The First Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Service for the Lord's Day | October 4, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



Dorothea B. Kennedy and Gloiela Yau Dolak, Peacemaking Offering, 1997. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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 our Coffee & Fellowship in the Lobby and 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.

Mission Review Survey
Scan to complete the Congregational Survey.

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 — "Plea, from *A Little Liturgical Suite*" — Geoffrey Atkinson
"Silent Prayer" — Mikhail Shukh

Pealing of the Carillon

Welcome

Call to Worship

Please stand in body or spirit.

God of gentleness,
be strong in your tenderness.
God of creative love,
you bring us forth from all your being.
God of spirit,
breathe into us the breath of life.
God of sustenance,
feed our deep hungers with the living bread.
God of love, hear us now as we worship you.

Hymn 361 — "O Christ, the Great Foundation" — AURELIA

Call to Confession

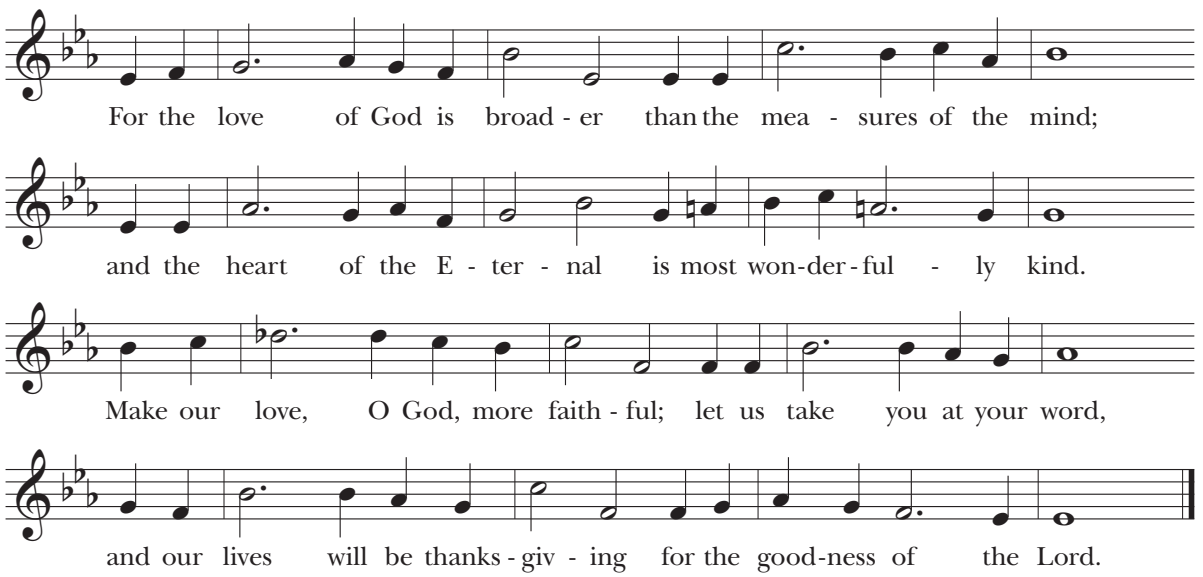
Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we know that you love us
and that you call us to fullness of life,
but around us and within us we see
the brokenness of the world and of our ways.
Forgive our neglect of our relationship with you,
of our insensitivity to the needs of others,
and our failure to feed the Spirit within us.
Restore us in your mercy and love...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response — CORVEDALE



Lighting of the Peace Candle and Sharing Signs of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Reception of New Members

Children's Prayer

Children are welcome to come forward for the prayers. Afterward, children ages 3–5th grade are invited to Church School; families may pick them up at the end of the service.

Hearing the Word

Lesson — Matthew 21:33–46

pew Bible, New Testament page 24/large print, New Testament page 29

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

Sermon — "Choosing a Cornerstone" — Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith — from *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada*

Please stand in body or spirit.

We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Moment for Mission

Offering Invitation

Offertory — Victor Pilgrim; arr. Patrick Prescod

Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. O God be gracious and bless us, and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known on earth and all the nations learn your saving help. The earth has yielded its fruit, for God, our God, has blessed us. May God still give us a blessing, till all of the earth revere the Lord. Let all the nations be glad and exult, for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. You guide all the nations upon the earth. — Psalm 67

Hymn 769 — "For Everyone Born" — FOR EVERYONE BORN

Please stand in body or spirit. — stanzas, 1–3 and 5

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

Invitation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus
Holy, holy, holy Lord God Sabaoth.
Holy, holy, holy God, Almighty One.
All heaven and earth manifest your glory, O God.
Praise be to God. In the highest sing hosanna. Thanks be to God.
Blessed is the Savior who comes, blessed is Christ, coming in the name of the Lord.

The Lord's Prayer
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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements
Please come forward at the direction of the ushers, those in the back of the center aisle will be invited forward first. The servers will give you bread; please take a juice glass from the tray. You may take the juice in your own time and leave your cup in the pew holders. Gluten-free bread and self-contained bread and juice are available, please ask your server. The cups contain unfermented juice, so all may partake.

Anthem — KINLEY LANGE
Esto les digo, si dos de ustedes se ponen, se ponen en aquerdo, en la tierra para pedir, pedir algo en oracion, mi padre que esta en en cielo, se lo dará. Porque donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre, allí estoy yo, en medio de ellos.
— Matthew 18:19–20

Hymn 515 — "I Come with Joy" — DOVE OF PEACE

Prayer after Communion
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe,
for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of your grace.
Keep us faithful in your service, nourished by your grace. Amen.

Sending

Hymn 373 — "O Day of Peace" — JERUSALEM
Please stand in body or spirit.

Blessing

Choral Response — Psalm 150 — Anglican Chant; George S. Talbot

Postlude — "Toccata" — Gyorgi Mushel

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 Daniel Duque

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*

New Members
Matthew Fisher
Mary Grace Holt
Agustin Leon
Jean Powell
Jeremy Tsuei

MUSIC NOTE On many Sundays, the music of our worship thoughtfully incorporates the diversity of our global culture. For World Communion Sunday, this diversity is broadened to reflect traditions from Barbados to Zimbabwe, Scotland to Uzbekistan. Of note is the introspective "Silent Prayer" by the Ukrainian composer Mikhail Shukh (1952–2018). Shukh trained under the Soviet system of the 1970s, where his music was perceived as being under the "harmful influence of the West" and branded as "ideological sabotage." He composed small- and large-scale works, including music for the theatre and film, turning his focus to sacred music in the late 1980s. "Silent Prayer" is from the choral cycle *Three Prayers*, composed in 2000. A wordless choral vocalise, it was later adapted by Shukh for organ solo.

This Week at First Church

Today, October 4	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Church School
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	12:20 p.m.	Student Choristers
	12:30 p.m.	Mission Review Listening Session
	12:30 p.m.	Presbyterian Women
	2:00 p.m.	Make it Meaningful
Monday, October 5	5:30 p.m.	Qigong (virtual)
	6:30 p.m.	Inquirers Class (virtual)
	7:00 p.m.	Current Events (virtual)
Tuesday, October 6	11:30 a.m.	Coffee with the Pastor
	5:30 p.m.	Village Campus Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	What Happens When the People Decide? Film Screening
	8:00 p.m.	Presbyterian Women (virtual)
Wednesday, October 7	12:30 p.m.	Bible Study (hybrid)
	6:00 p.m.	Art at First (virtual)
Thursday, October 8	12:30 p.m.	Senior Luncheon
	6:00 p.m.	Gospel According to The Beatles
Saturday, October 10	10:00 a.m.	Soup Kitchen
	4:00 p.m.	Facing Racism Listening Session (Virtual)
Sunday, October 11	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Bibles & Bagels
	11:15 a.m.	Church School
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	12:20 p.m.	Student Choristers
	12:30 p.m.	LGBTQ Brunch

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

Announcements

Inquirers Class | Monday, October 5 | 6:30 p.m. | Online
We are offering an online Inquirers Class via Zoom on Monday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. This gathering is open to anyone who is unable to attend a Saturday class, including those who live outside New York City or overseas and would like to become part of our community of faith. To register, contact Aileen at acaba@fpcnyc.org.

What Happens When the People Decide? Film Screening | Tuesday, October 6 | 6:00 p.m.
Join Mission and Social Justice for a screening of *Goodbye Politicians, Hello Democracy*, a documentary exploring citizens' assemblies and how everyday people can help shape public policy. A discussion will follow, and a light dinner will be provided. RSVP to mission@fpcnyc.org.

Add Your Voice to the Mission Review
The Mission Review is a foundational step before the Church may recruit candidates for an Associate Pastor. The congregational engagement portion of the Mission Review has begun. Survey data is being collected via SurveyMonkey. The survey is anonymous and will close October 14. You can access the survey by scanning the QR code on the inside page of your bulletin.
Please also join us for one of two remaining Listening Sessions:
- Today, October 4, 12:30–1:30 p.m., in the rooftop lounge
- Saturday, October 10, 4:00–5:00 p.m., via Zoom

Coffee with the Pastor | Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.
Drop by for coffee and conversation with Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell about life, church, faith, current events, or simply to get to know one another. All are welcome, and no RSVP is required. Join us Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

The Bible, Theology, and *The New Yorker*
This fall, our adult education programs will explore the Bible, theology, and *The New Yorker* through two recent articles examining American theology and the life and influence of the Apostle Paul.
- Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Coffee & Theology gathers for hybrid conversation and theological reflection. The next meeting will be Sunday, October 18.
- Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Bible Study meets in a hybrid format for a deeper exploration of the articles alongside scripture. Bible Study will return October 7 with a study of the New Yorker article, *World on a String: What Prepared St. Paul to Transform Human History*.

For Zoom links, see First Matters or contact the front desk at frontdesk@fpcnyc.org.

The Gospel According to the Beatles | Thursday nights through October 22 | 6:00 p.m
Join Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell for a six-week journey through the music of The Beatles and the enduring themes of faith, love, hope, loneliness, memory, and resurrection.

Youth & Family Ministries
This year, our Youth & Family Ministries programs offer children and young people opportunities to grow in faith, build friendships, ask big questions, and experience God's love through worship, learning, music, and fellowship.
- Worship Circle with Babies and Toddlers (ages 0–3 and their caregivers), 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. first and third Sundays of each month, September through July
- Church School (ages 3–grade 5), Sundays, 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Student Choristers (grades 1–6), Sundays, 12:20 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.
- Club 345 (grades 3–5), last Sunday of the month, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Youth Leadership Council (grades 6–12), seasonal weeknight dinners throughout the year
- Bibles & Bagels (middle and high school), twice a month during worship

Art at First: Call for Submissions
Art at First invites artists to submit work for Tell Me a Story, an exhibition exploring narrative through contemporary art. Artists may submit up to three pieces of two-dimensional work, along with a short statement about how the work connects to the theme. Submissions are due November 1. The exhibition will be on view in the Great Hall beginning January 17, 2027. Questions may be directed to sherman.barbara@gmail.com.

FPCNS Applications for 2027–28 Are Now Open!
Applications for FPCNS's 2027–28 school year are now available online for children who will be age 2 or older by August 31, 2027. Early Decision Notification is available to eligible sibling, alumni, and First Church member families. For more information, contact Ashleigh Roscishewska at aroscishewska@fpcnyc.org or (646) 230-3923.

Deacons of the Month
The October deacons of the month are **Matthew Power** and **Kelsey Price.** They'll be wearing name badges at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.



Inquirers Class

Monday, October 5 | 6:30 p.m. | Online

Email acaba@fpcnyc.org to rsvp.

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