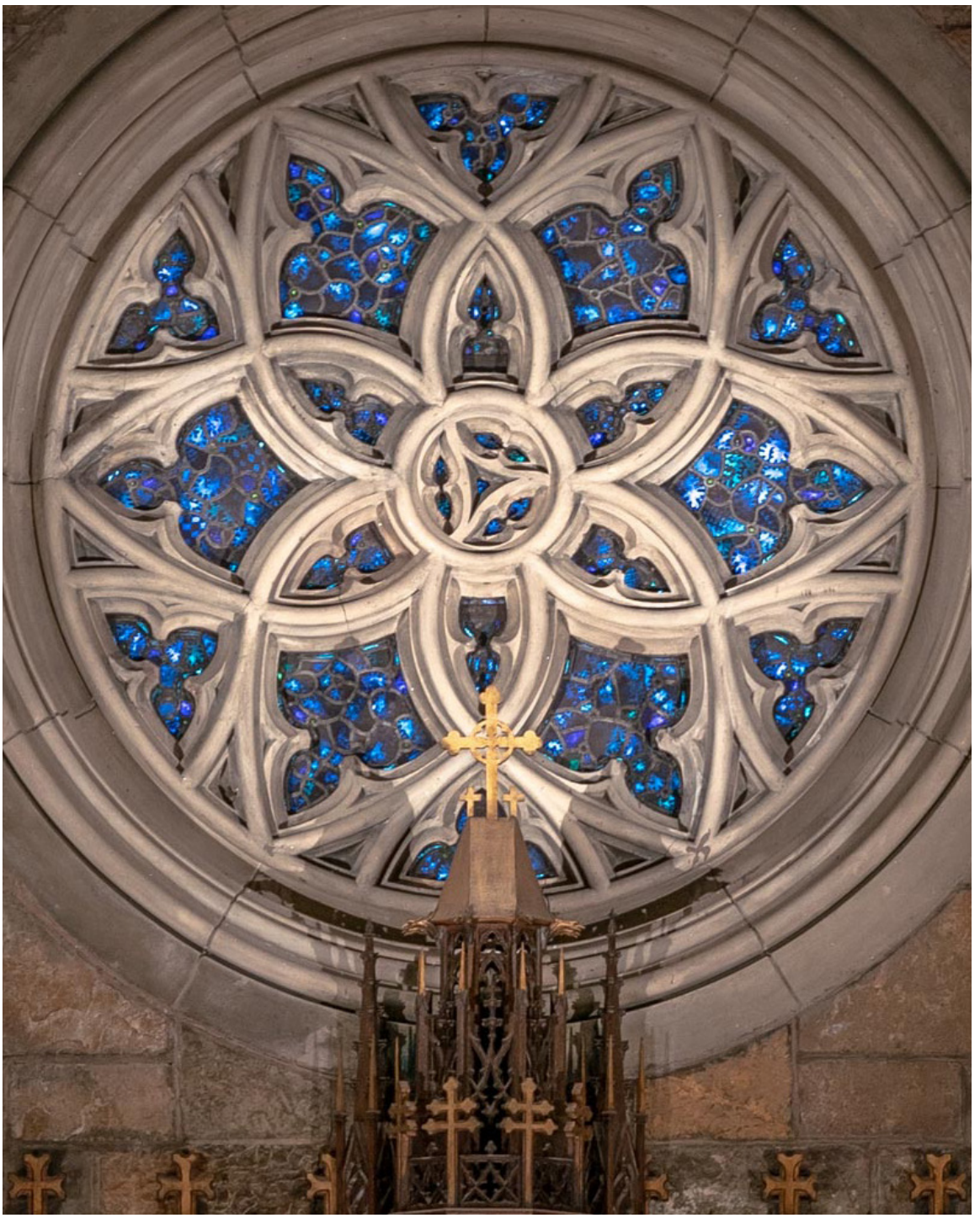
The First Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/REFORMATION SUNDAY

Service for the Lord's Day | October 25, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



Rose window, First Presbyterian Church

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 Great Hall 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, BWV 541" J.S. Bach

Pealing of the Carillon

Welcome

Introit Felix Mendelssohn

Thou, Lord, our refuge hast been from age to age. Ere Thou had'st brought forth the mountains, or the earth hast formed, or the world created. Thou art God from everlasting, world without end. Hallelujah. —Psalm 90:1–2

Hymn 624 "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" TOULON

Please stand in body or spirit.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
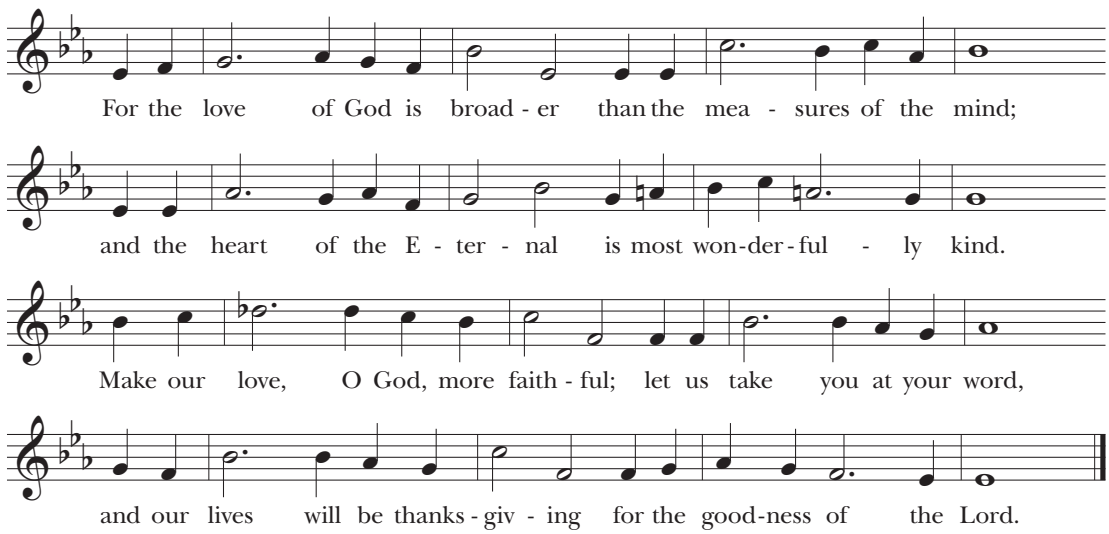
Everlasting God,
you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Since the creation of the world,
you have nurtured us with your love.
Yet we shamefully acknowledge
that we do not always share your love with others.

Loving God,
teach us to love you more fully.
For in loving you, our lives will show love to all others.
Hear us as we open our hearts in confession...

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.

Children's Prayer and the Lord'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.

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 — Ned Rorem

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love, who, from yon bright throne above, ever watchful o'er our race, still to us extends his grace. Heaven and earth by him were made; all is by his scepter swayed; what are we that he should show so much love to us below? —Anonymous, ca. 1800

Hearing the Word

Lesson — Matthew 22:34–46

pew Bible, New Testament page 25/large print, New Testament page 30

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

Sermon — "Loving God. Loving Neighbor." — Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

Responding to the Word

Hymn 766 — "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound" — MC KEE

Please stand in body or spirit.

Affirmation of Faith

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

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.

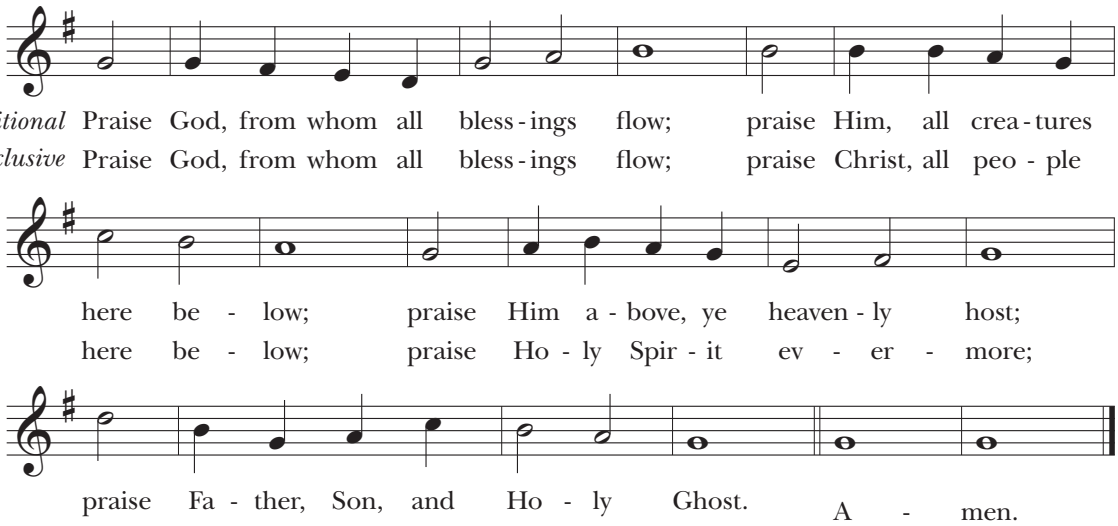
Offering Invitation

Offertory — Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; e'en the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you. —John 14:15–18

DOXOLOGY — OLD HUNDREDTH

Please stand in body or spirit.



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" — EIN' FESTE BURG

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE "Marche Triomphale, op. 65, no. 59" — Sigfrid Karg-Elert

The congregation is invited to continue worshiping 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 D. Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

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

This Week at First Church

Today, October 25	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee & Theology
	10:00 a.m.	Family & Music Ministries Parent Breakfast
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Church School Pumpkin Decorating
	11:15 a.m.	Bibles & Bagels
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	12:20 p.m.	Student Choristers
	12:30 p.m.	Print Fair Opening/First Acts Program
	1:00 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study
	1:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir
	1:30 p.m.	Literary Group
Monday, October 26	5:30 p.m.	Qigong
	6:00 p.m.	AI at First
	7:00 p.m.	Current Events
Tuesday, October 27	11:30 a.m.	Coffee with the Pastor
	5:30 p.m.	Village Campus Ministry
Thursday, October 29	7:30 p.m.	LGBTQ Bible Study
Saturday, October 31	10:00 a.m.	St. Joe's Soup Kitchen
Sunday, November 1 All Saints' Day	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers
	11:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
	11:15 a.m.	Church School
	12:20 p.m.	Student Choristers
	12:30 p.m.	Open Gallery: Print Fair
	12:30 p.m.	Presbyterian Women
	1:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir

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

Announcements

Handbell Choir | Today, October 25 | 1:30 p.m.
Join Rachel Barker-Asto for our new intergenerational handbell choir! No experience necessary. Rehearsals continue October 25 and November 1, 8, and 15 at 1:30 p.m., with music shared in worship November 22. Questions? Contact rbarkerasto@fpcnyc.org.

Print Fair Opening and First Acts Program | Today, October 25 | 12:30 p.m.
Join us for the opening of Print Fair, a traveling social justice poster exhibition making its final stop at First Church. Beginning between 12:30 and 12:45 p.m., the curators will discuss the exhibition and answer questions, followed by First Acts presentation, *E Pluribus Unum: Out of Many, One*. The afternoon will conclude with a wine and cheese reception.

Young Adult Bible Study | Today, October 25 | 1:00 p.m.
Young adults (20s & 30s) are invited to a special ghost stories Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, featuring two Bible passages and Halloween treats. No RSVP needed. Contact emilydawson1992@gmail.com to join the email list.

Artificial Intelligence: Ethics, Dangers, and Tools | Monday, October 26 | 6:00 p.m.
Join Pastor Greg in the Library on Monday, October 26, at 6:00 p.m. for a special presentation exploring the rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence. Offered in response to interest from the Presbytery, this session will welcome Presbytery guests alongside members of First Church. This is the same presentation offered here last March but updated to reflect the latest advances and developments. Drawing on his background in electronic engineering and telecommunications, and decades of experience working with AI, Greg will guide the conversation and offer live demonstrations of AI tools alongside "Connie," his personal AI assistant. All church members are welcome to attend. Dinner will be served. Please RSVP to Aileen at acaba@fpcnyc.org.

Art at First: Call for Submissions | Due November 1
Artists are invited to submit up to three two-dimensional works and a short statement for Tell Me a Story, an exhibition opening January 17, 2027. Questions? Contact sherman.barbara@gmail.com.

RIF Annual Coat Drive | Drop off by Wednesday, November 4
Help keep our neighbors warm this winter! The Deacons are collecting 40 new, heavy-duty winter coats in all sizes for RIF Asylum Support. Sign up at the front desk or during Coffee Hour with the coffee servers, and drop off coats in the lobby by Wednesday, November 4. Monetary donations are also welcome by check payable to First Church, with "Annual RIF Coat Drive" in the memo. Questions? Contact mvireland92@gmail.com.

Inquirers Class | Saturday, November 21 | 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Interested in joining the church? Join us for an Inquirers Class to learn more about who we are, what we believe, and how to get involved. To reserve a spot, please email Aileen Caba at acaba@fpcnyc.org.

Coffee with the Pastor | Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. | Travelers Poets & Friends
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. at Travelers Poets & Friends.

Adult Education
This fall, our Adult Education programs will explore the Bible and theology alongside contemporary questions for our faith.

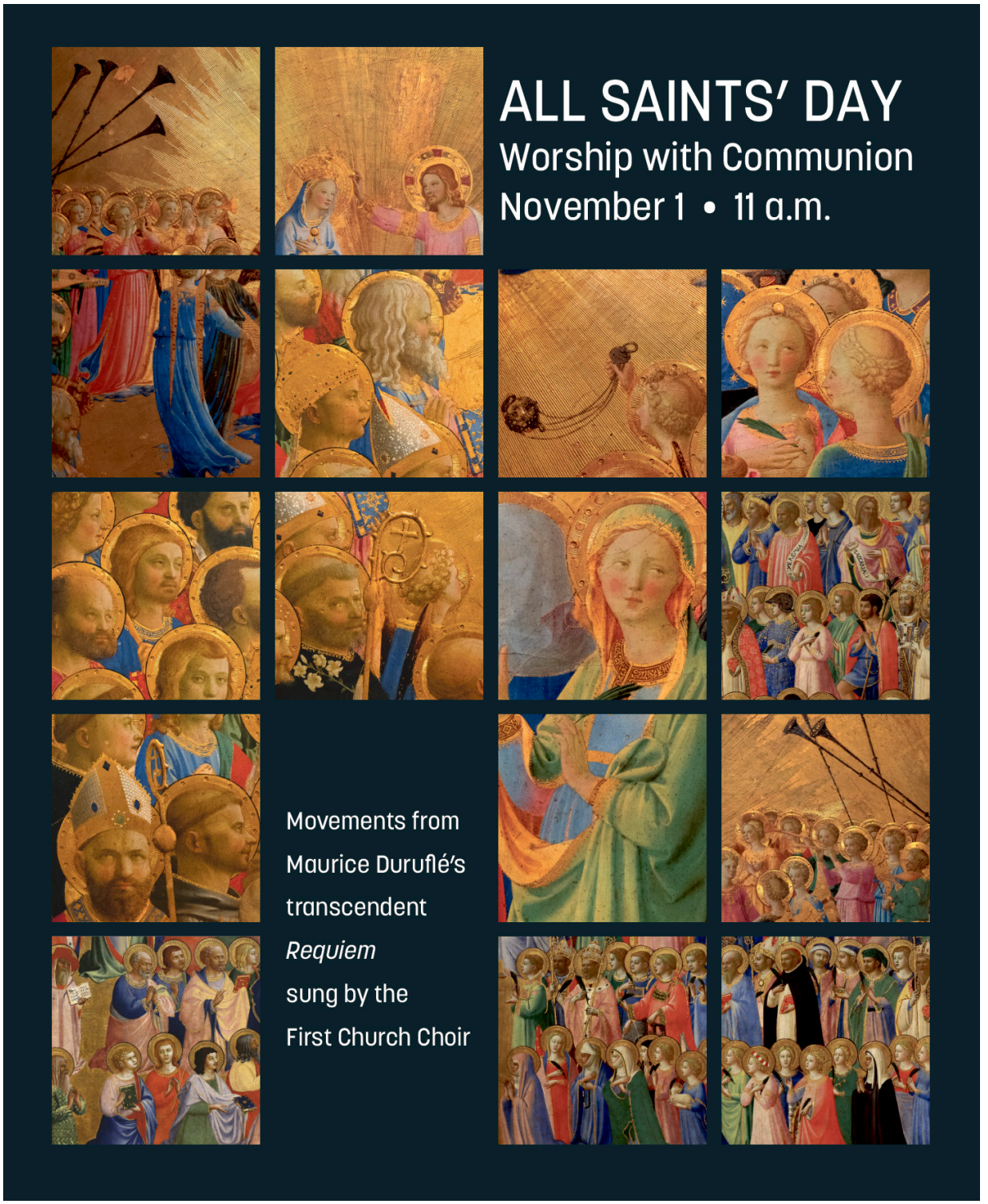
- Sundays at 9:30 a.m. | Coffee & Theology. Starting November 8, join us for a hybrid conversation around "Common Errors Made about Early Judaism" as we explore the relationship between the Jesus movement and Judaism and how that impacts our theology today.
- Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. | Bible Study. Join us in a hybrid format for a deeper exploration of the Pharisees in Luke's gospel as we consider three familiar parables.

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

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
- 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.
- Youth Leadership Council (grades 6–12), seasonal weeknight dinners throughout the year
- Bibles & Bagels (middle and high school), twice a month during worship

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



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