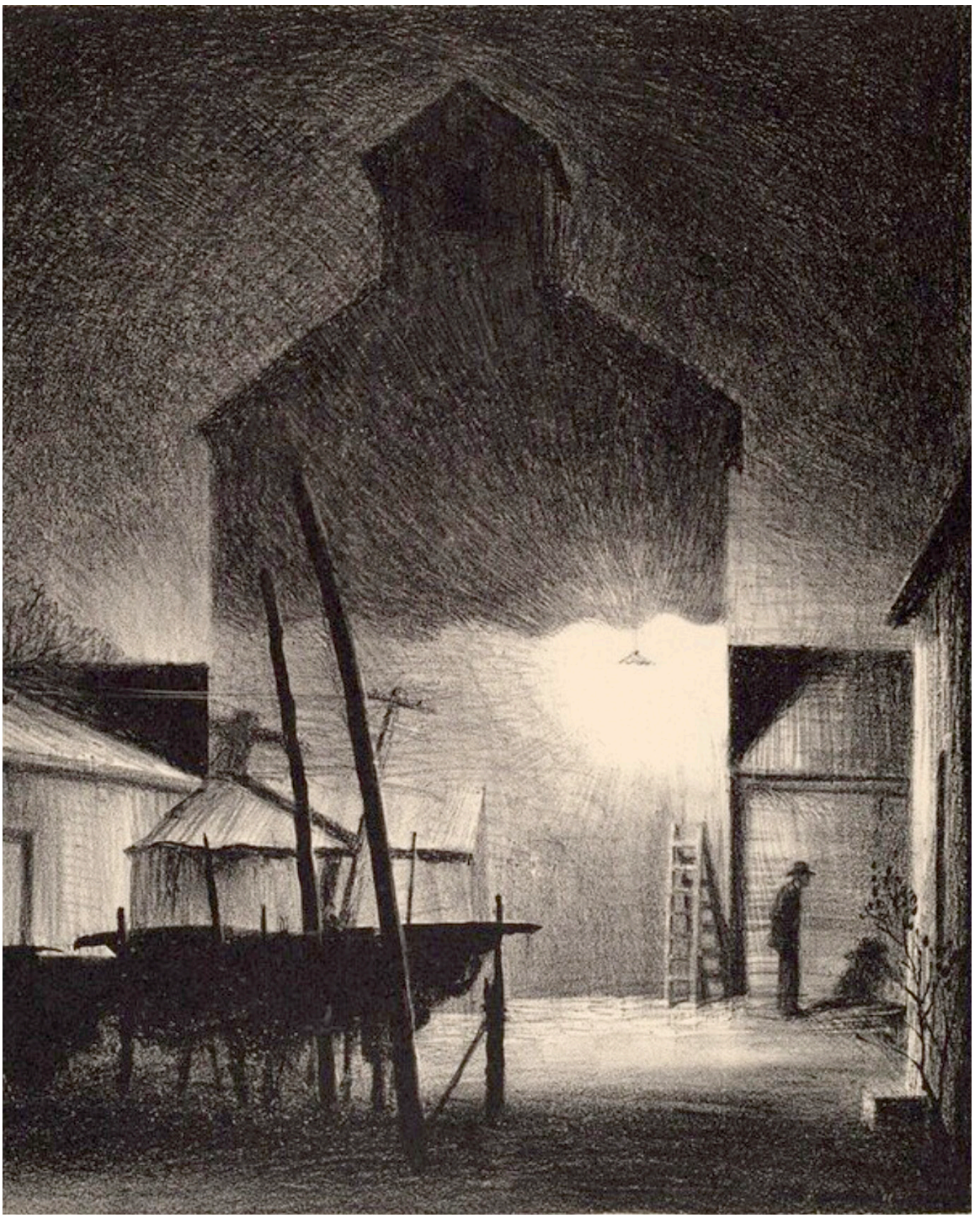
The First Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service for the Lord's Day | November 8, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.



The Night Watchman, Peter Hurd, 1935

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 or North Lawn Walkway 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 — "Meditation on Psalm 42:1" — Peter Hurford
"Sarabande on LAND OF REST" — Gerald Near

Pealing of the Carillon

Welcome

Introit — Amy Beach

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled.
—John 14:27 (KJV)

Hymn 756 — "O God of Every Nation" — LLANGLOFFAN

Please stand in body or spirit.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

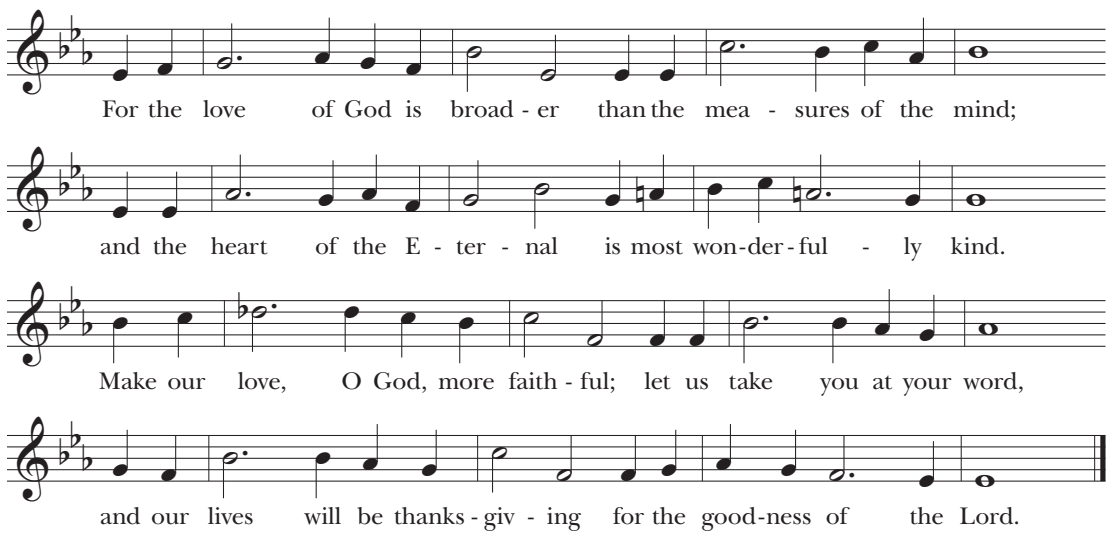
Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.

By your love and mercy,
help us to live in your light
and abide in your ways
to the glory of your holy name...

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.

ANTHEM — Becky Slagle Mayo

Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est. Where there is charity and love, God is there. God is always there. We have gathered in the place, joining hearts in love and praise. Giving thanks to God above, we go out to serve in love.

—Becky Slagle Mayo, based on John 13:34

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.

HEARING THE WORD

LESSON — Habakkuk 1:1–5, 12–17 & 2:1

pew Bible, Old Testament page 871/large print, Old Testament page 1066

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

SERMON — "From My Watchpost" — Barron Flood

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 772 — "Live into Hope" — TRURO

Please stand in body or spirit.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — from *The Confession of Belhar (1986)*

We believe that God has revealed God's self
as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.

We believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,
is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged.

We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this;
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.

We believe that the church must therefore stand by people
in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things,
that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice,
so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

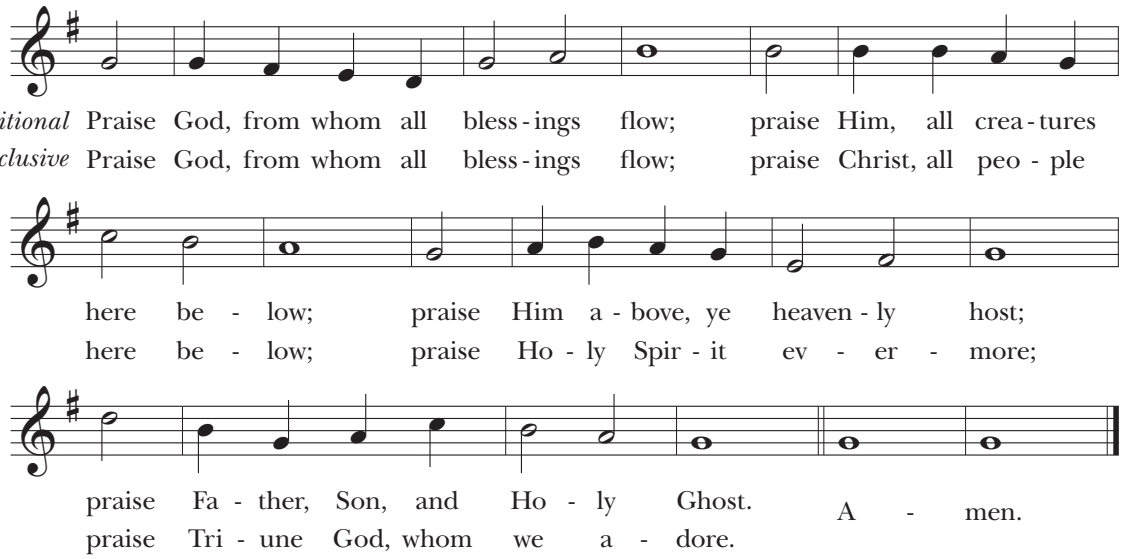
OFFERTORY — Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be alway praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

—Psalm 84:1–4, and 90:17; Isaac Watts

DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

Please stand in body or spirit.



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 837 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" SHOWALTER

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE "Prelude in F Major" Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

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

LEADING THIS MORNING
Barron Flood, *Guest Preacher*
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Jenny Bennett, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

The Student Choristers
Rachel Barker-Asto, *Family Music Coordinator*

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

NEW MEMBERS
James Ferguson
Mia Morrel
Lauren Rechner
Albert Tong
Rebecca Tong
Charles Trovato
Carol Wilson

This Week at First Church

Today, November 8	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee & Theology
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Bibles & Bagels
	11:15 a.m.	Church School
	12:00 p.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	12:00 p.m.	Open Gallery: Print Fair
	12:20 p.m.	Student Choristers
	12:30 p.m.	LGBTQ Brunch
	1:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir
Monday, November 9	5:30 p.m.	Qigong
	7:00 p.m.	Current Events
Tuesday, November 10	11:30 a.m.	Coffee with the Pastor
	5:30 p.m.	Village Campus Ministry
Wednesday, November 11	12:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Thursday, November 12	12:30 p.m.	Senior Luncheon
	7:30 p.m.	LGBTQ Bible Study
Saturday, November 14	10:00 a.m.	St. Joe's Soup Kitchen
Sunday, November 15	9:30 a.m.	Child Care
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee & Theology
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Circle with Babies & Toddlers
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Church School
	12:20 p.m.	Student Choristers
	12:30 p.m.	Open Gallery: Print Fair
	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

LGBTQ Brunch | Today, November 8 | 12:30 p.m.
Join members and friends for brunch in the rooftop lounge following worship.

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

Senior Luncheon | Thursday, November 12 | 12:30 p.m.
Ronald Fatoullah, Esq., of the Elder Law Practice Group at Meltzer Lippe, will discuss new requirements for Health Care Proxies, along with regulations and legal considerations related to health care advocates and Living Wills.

LGBTQ Bible Study | Thursday, November 12 | 7:30 p.m.
Join Bible Study with the Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter on Thursday, November 12, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. For the Zoom link, see *First Matters* or contact lgbtq.fpcnyc@gmail.com.

2026 Nominating Committee | Deadline: Sunday, November 15
The Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations for members to serve as Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. We invite you to recommend congregation members who would be an asset in these leadership roles. Please email your nominations to fpcnyc@fpcnyc.org with the subject line "Nominating Committee 2026" or complete a nomination form in the church lobby.

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.

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.

Vespers Festival of Music: Welcome All Wonders | Sunday, December 6 | 4:00 p.m.
Welcome the season with an afternoon of music for Advent and Christmas! The First Church Choir, conducted by Michael Shake, is joined by the Riverside Brass Quintet, timpani and percussion, and guest organist Andrew Henderson. Inspired by Richard Crashaw's poem "Welcome All Wonders," this festival moves from Advent longing to Christmas joy, from a procession with *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* to Vaughan Williams's beloved *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Daniel Pinkham's brass-filled *Christmas Cantata*. At the intersection of the Village and the City, this free event is our gift to the community, and all are welcome!

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 today, 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.

Deacons of the Month
The November deacons of the month are **Mary Virginia Ireland** and **Bob Reiter**. They'll be wearing name badges at coffee hour and would be happy to answer questions about the church.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES



Faith, music, worship, and community
for infants through 12th grade.
Email JBennett@fpcnyc.org for more information.

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