



FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 29, 2019 • 11:00 AM



He rules the world
With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of
His righteousness
And wonders of His love

—Isaac Watts (1674–1748)



THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us.

The cover of this bulletin reads, “This Is God’s House. All Are Welcome.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God *knows* we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship together as one.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional (very Presbyterian) ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang. Yet, in our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Take a tour of the church. Have a cup of coffee with us. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy. There are tons of opportunities here to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Scott Black Johnston
Senior Pastor

If You Are New Here

Please fill out the Welcome card you will find in your pew. Place the card in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or drop it off at the Visitors Table (inside the Fifth Avenue entrance). You may also complete the Welcome card online at fapc.org/welcome. The folks at the Visitors Table can provide you with information about our ministries, programs and volunteer opportunities. We also invite you on a guided tour of the church, starting from the rear of the Sanctuary shortly after the service.

These May Help During the Service

If you would like a large-print bulletin or a hearing-enhancement device, please ask an usher. You may return the hearing-enhancement device to the rear of the Chapel or Sanctuary after the service.

Welcoming Children

Children are always welcome in worship! Families are welcome to sit anywhere in the Sanctuary, but you may want to take advantage of the first 10 rows on the far north side, which we have equipped for families with young children. You will find children’s Bibles and children’s worship bulletins in the pews, as well as easy access to our Family Room, located just outside the Sanctuary. (See the map on the back of the bulletin for the exact location.) If you are attending worship in Kirkland Chapel, the ushers can provide a worship bag to keep your child engaged. (You may return these materials at the end of the service.) We also provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9 am until 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. Learn more about our Family Ministries at fapc.org.

If You Are in Need of Prayer

Deacons (wearing white stoles) are available to pray with you after the service. Your prayers are confidential unless you request they be shared with our Congregational Care staff. You may also complete a prayer request card (available in the pews and at the entrances) and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. You may submit prayer requests online at fapc.org/prayer-requests.

Help With Parking

We have a parking arrangement with the garage at 51 W. 56th St. For \$16, you may park for up to three hours, seven days a week. Ask for discount coupons at the 55th Street reception desk.



Worship Resources Online

You will find information about future worship services (including the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday) at fapc.org/worship. Recorded sermons are available at fapc.org/sermons and via podcast on iTunes. This morning’s Prayers of the People can be found at fapc.org/pray.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.

*Please **silence all electronic devices and do not take flash photos** during the service.*

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 553 • J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Tabor Hollingsworth

One: Like Joseph and Mary,
we want to protect the child Jesus.

All: We want him to be safe and sound.

One: And when something unexpected happens,
we are frightened.

All: We wonder what we should have done differently.

One: Lord, in this day, help us to remember
that God is ever with us.

**All: Let us place our trust in God's loving presence
as we grow in our own faith.**

* HYMN 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Kellie Picallo

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Silent Reflection and Confession

* SUNG RESPONSE



O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868 - ST. LOUIS. Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
He hath o-pened heav-en's door, And we are blest for-ev-er-more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Music: German folk tune, 14th century - IN DULCI JUBILO. Text: Medieval Latin, trans. John Mason Neale, 1853.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO

Schlafendes Jesuskind ("Sleeping Christ-child")
Hugo Wolf (1860–1903)

*Sohn der Jungfrau, Himmelskind! am Boden
Auf dem Holz der Schmerzen eingeschlafen,
Das der fromme Meister, sinnvoll spielend,
Deinen leichten Träumen unterlegte;
Blume du, noch in der Knospe dämmernd
Eingehüllt die Herrlichkeit des Vaters!
O wer sehen könnte, welche Bilder
Hinter dieser Stirne, diesen schwarzen
Wimpern sich in sanftem Wechsel malen!*

Son of the Virgin, child of Heaven, lying on the floor
Asleep on the wood of suffering
That the pious painter has placed—
A meaningful allusion—under your light dreams;
You flower, even in the bud, darkling and sheathed,
Still the glory of God the Father!
O, who could see, behind this brow, these dark lashes,
What softly-changing pictures are being painted!
Son of the Virgin, child of Heaven!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he

did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

One: This is the Word of God; for the People of God.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

“Joy to the World”

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From “Joy to the World”

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love.
Amen.**

* HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(“...and forgive us our debts...”)

THE OFFERING

You may text your offering to 646.491.8331

OFFERTORY SOLO

Sweet Little Jesus Boy • Robert MacGimsey (1898–1979)

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little holy child, didn’t know who you were.

Didn’t know you’d come to save us, Lord,
To take our sins away.

Our eyes were blind, we couldn’t see,
We didn’t know who you were.

Long time ago you were born, born in a manger low.
Sweet little Jesus boy, the world treats you mean, Lord,
Treats me mean too, but that’s how things are down here:
We don’t know who you are.

You have told us how, we are trying.
Master, you have shown us how even when you were dying.
Just seems like we can’t do right, look how we treated you.
But please sir, forgive us Lord: we didn’t know it was you.

Sweet little Jesus boy, born long time ago.
Sweet little holy child, and we didn’t know who you were.

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* HYMN 134

Joy to the World

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'Mendelssohn' ("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")
David Willcocks (1919–2015)

The ministry of music this morning is offered by:
Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist* • Clayton Kahler Brown, *Baritone*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Please pray for:

Candy Asman, Phyllis Barr, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad, Benjamin Bradley Britta Cabanos, Ella Calderon, Phoebe Chiu, Sookjoong Choi, Dr. Johanna Cook, Edna Craddock William Cuffee, Athanassia Doucas, Narmella Elissa, Sterling Gillis IV, Patricia L. (DeLue) Glimpse Wanda Roush Hannan, Nancy Hatch, Patricia Henry, Bill Jones, Juliet Kaldanie, Susan Kempler Louis Sterling King, Richard J. Lawson, Stephanie Le Cornec, Jorge Martinez, Keiko Matsuzaki The McCall Family, Jean Meek Barker, Joyce Nolen, Phyllis Oblander, Marjorie Quaife Jeff Rowbottom, Pauline Sample, Robert Scheuer, Bernhard Schindler, Taylor Shultz Spencer Robert Smith, Mark & Chrissy Snyder, Frieda Sompotan, Jean Stewart, Rocco Tannehill Steve Teelucksingh, Harold Tither, Arthur Tobiason, Susan Tobiason, Stevanus & Henry Waisapy Johnnie Walker, James & Barbara Wallace, Jennifer Wallis-Eifert, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks Sylvia Winrich, Deborah Wurgler, Doris Wurgler

If you would like to add a name to the church prayer list or the list of faithful departed, please contact Lance Hurst (lhurst@fapc.org, 212.247.0490 ext 3007).

Caregiving Ministries

Fifth Avenue provides space for several community-based ministries and programs. All are open to members and friends of the church. Check the lobby monitor for specific room locations.

Alcoholics Anonymous + AA Beginners

Monday – Thursday, 12:30 pm • ny-aa.org

Al-Anon

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 12:30 pm • nycalanon.org

The Compassionate Friends: A support group for grieving families

Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7 pm • compassionatefriends.org

Health Advocates for Older People

Strength & weight exercise class • Wednesdays, 11 am • hafop.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today

- 10:45 am** **Little Lambs.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary.
- 12:15 pm** **Meet & Greet.** The Gallery. All are invited (visitors especially!) to join the pastors, staff and fellow members for conversation and coffee after worship.
- Historical & Architectural Tour.** Kirkland Chapel.
-

This Week

- Wed Jan 1** **New Year's Day holiday.** Building closed.
- Sun Jan 5** **Breakfast Epiphany.** 9:30 am – Corning Logan Room. Please RSVP to Jaime Staehle (jstaehle@fapc.org).

Coming Up

- Mon Jan 6** **Women's Association Needlework Group.** 11 am – Romeyn Room.
- Tue Jan 7** **Women's Association Luncheon.** 12 pm – Bonnell Hall.
Followed by **Bridge** at 1:30 pm.
- Women's Association Speaking English.** 1:30 pm – Corning Logan Room.
- Women's Association Prayer Group.** 5:30 pm – Romeyn Room.
- Thu Jan 9** **FAPC Community Choir Rehearsal.** 6 pm – Jones Auditorium. All are welcome.
- Sat Jan 11** **Meals on Heels.** 9:30 am – Bonnell Hall. Weekly meal preparation and delivery to homebound seniors. Contact: John Wyatt (moh@fapc.org).
- Sun Jan 12** **Adult Education: On the Road with Saint Augustine.** 9:30 am – Bonnell Hall.
Instructor: James K.A. Smith.
- Worship.** 11 am – Sanctuary. Dr. James K.A. Smith, guest preacher.
- Confirmation Class.** 12:30 pm – Conference Room. Contact: Werner Ramirez (wramirez@fapc.org, 212.247.0490 ext 3013).
- Lunch & Listen: Sacred Songs.** 12:30 pm – Kirkland Chapel.
- Sun Jan 19** **Letter from a Birmingham Jail and Prison Reform Today.** 9:30 am – Bonnell Hall.
A panel discussion on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday.
- Worship.** 11 am – Sanctuary. The Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, guest preacher.
- Lunch and Game Day with Neighborhood Friends.** 12:30 pm – Jones Auditorium. Contact: Meredith Fleck (homelessevents@fapc.org).

Next Sunday • Second Sunday of Christmas

“Can We Turn the Lights On?” • Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-15
The Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen, guest preacher.

Three Important Year-End Reminders

Before you celebrate the New Year, here are three tasks you hope you will attend to. **One: Submit your 2020 pledge**, if you haven't already. Go to fapc.org/pledge and help fund our ministries for the coming year. **Two: Fulfill your 2019 pledge**, if you have a balance outstanding. If you have a question about your balance, contact Richard Schexnider in our business office (rschexnider@fapc.org, 212.247.0490 ext 3044). **Three: Help us identify the next officer class**. If you, or another member you know, would make an outstanding Elder, Deacon or Trustee, go to fapc.org/officer-elections and submit the officer recommendation form.

Today: Historical & Architectural Tour

Following worship we invite you on a special “insider’s” tour of this historic church. Gail Crane, a member of the church for more than 50 years, and Derek Maddalena, director of facilities, are your guides to the history, art and architecture of the Sanctuary, Kirkland Chapel and our other public spaces. This tour includes an optional visit to the Sanctuary attic and our historic clock tower, where the original, manually operated clockworks are still in use after 144 years. Meet Gail and Derek in the rear of Kirkland Chapel at 12:15 pm to begin the tour.

Next Sunday: Celebrating Epiphany

Next Sunday (Jan. 5), on the eve of the Epiphany, we invite you to join us for Breakfast Epiphany (get the pun?), a time for fellowship and conversation about how, and why, we celebrate this holy season. The breakfast is set for 9:30 am (and there will be King Cake!). Please RSVP to Jaime Staehle (jstaehle@fapc.org, 212.247.0490 ext 3003). At 11 am, the Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen, senior pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, will preach here for the first time. There will be no 9:30 am service on this day.

Jan. 12: Dr. James K.A. Smith

On Sunday, Jan. 12, philosopher and best-selling author Dr. James K.A. Smith is our guest for Adult Education and morning worship. At 9:30 am in the Bonnell Hall, Smith will lead a discussion of his newest book, *On the Road with Saint Augustine: A Real World Spirituality for Restless Hearts* (2019). Afterward, he will be our guest preacher for worship at 11 am. There will be no 9:30 am service on this day. Smith, a professor of philosophy at Calvin University, is the author of 24 books, including *You Are What You Love*, which inspired our fall sermon series, *Curate Your Heart*.

Jan. 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday

On Sunday, Jan. 19, the Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle is our guest preacher for Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday. Rev. Brooks-Lytle is the executive presbyter for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. She has built a national following for her ministry of preaching, teaching and pastoral care. The day will begin at 9:30 am with a panel discussion of King's famous “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and what it can teach us about criminal justice today.

Coming Up: A Mission Trip to Lesotho

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church announces our second mission trip to visit our mission partner Ministry of Hope Lesotho. The trip, set for Feb. 27 to March 9, will be led by Sally Harwood, the Mission Partner Committee liaison to Ministry of Hope. Nancy Dimmock, a co-founder of Ministry of Hope, will be our guide. Ministry of Hope is a refuge for orphaned and vulnerable children in the small, landlocked country in southern Africa. Sally and Nancy led a Fifth Avenue mission trip to Lesotho in 2015. To learn more about the organization, visit ministryofhope.org. For details on the mission trip, contact Sally at scharwood2@gmail.com.

OFFICERS BY CLASS

The Session

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, *Moderator* • Greg Dow, *Clerk of Session*

Jane Hong, *Assistant Clerk of Session* • The Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell, *Executive Pastor*

The Rev. Kate Dunn, *Associate Pastor* • The Rev. Werner Ramirez, *Associate Pastor*

Class of 2020

Brenda Berkman
Rusty Breedlove
David DePugh
Greg Dow
Elizabeth Gramley
Josie Lawrence
Matt Martinez
Joanna McNurlen
Melanie Musgrove
Chris Robertson

Class of 2021

Jesse Allen
Amanda DeMeola
Meredith Fleck
Suzan Habachy
Jane Hong
Marc Lovci
Phillip Ma
Jeanne Pape
Cody Powers
Kalen Karnes Strickland

Class of 2022

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Andy Craven
Joyce Hansen
Mary Jo Keeble
Meaghan McFarland
Erica Moffett
Jeneca Parker-Tongue
Jacky Radifera

The Board of Deacons

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Rebecca Tarby, *Treasurer*

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Mae Cheng-PaVon
Twalema Khonje
Roseanne Lind
Robert Pay
Janeen Sarlin
Margie Wagers
Vijay Wijesundera
Sylvia Winrich

Class of 2021

Joel Arandia
Hannah Bell
Lisa Cinelli
Dora DePugh
Gretchen Grant
Tabor Hollingsworth
Trevor Illingworth
Debbie Mullins
Rebecca Tarby
Chrissy Wojcik
Mark Zivkovic

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Darby Blaker
David Blodgett
Ryan Brown
Annie Cheng
Heather Guardado
Will Hubbard
Adam McKoy
Kathy Murray
Aline Razafimampandra

The Board of Trustees

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Glenn Hubbard, *Treasurer* • Alyce Andrews, *Assistant Treasurer*

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Glenn Hubbard
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Class of 2022

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Sandy Lamb
Jes Levine
Mark Moreland
Thomas Pak
Sarah Wolpert

CLERGY & STAFF



The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell *Executive Pastor*

The Rev. Kate Dunn *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Outreach*

The Rev. Werner Ramirez *Associate Pastor for Youth, Young Adults & Community Groups*

The Rev. Helen Jackson, *Parish Visitor*

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen, *Parish Associate*

The Rev. Kellie Picallo, *Parish Associate*

The Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Randy Weber, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

Séamus Campbell, *Director of Outreach Ministries*

Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music & Fine Arts Ministries*

Stephanie Kelley, *Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor & Director of Special Projects*

Morgan King, *Director of Engagement*

Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist*

Derek Maddalena, *Director of Facilities*

Timothy Palmer Curl, *Director of Communications & Development*

Richard J. Schexnider, *Director of Finance*

Jaime Staehle, *Director of Christian Education*

Dr. Eugenia Oi Yan Yau, *Director of Music for Family Ministries*

CONTACT US



**Announce a birth
or adoption**

Virginia Goss
vgoss@fapc.org



Fund the altar flowers

Lance Hurst
lhurst@fapc.org



Join the church

Morgan King
mking@fapc.org



Make a donation

Richard Schexnider
rschexnider@fapc.org



Plan your wedding

Virginia Goss
vgoss@fapc.org



Prepare for baptism

Virginia Goss
vgoss@fapc.org



**Remember the church
in your planned giving**

Richard Schexnider
rschexnider@fapc.org



Schedule an event

Virginia Goss
vgoss@fapc.org

Add a name to the prayer list • Lance Hurst, lhurst@fapc.org

Arrange a private tour • Judy Moseley, tours@fapc.org

Hire our caterer • Rodrigo Rosas, rodrigo@roxoevents.com

Notify us of a death or illness • Lance Hurst, congregationalcare@fapc.org

Request a bulletin announcement • Tim Palmer Curl, tpalmer@fapc.org

Update contact information in our database • Diego Cardona, dcardona@fapc.org

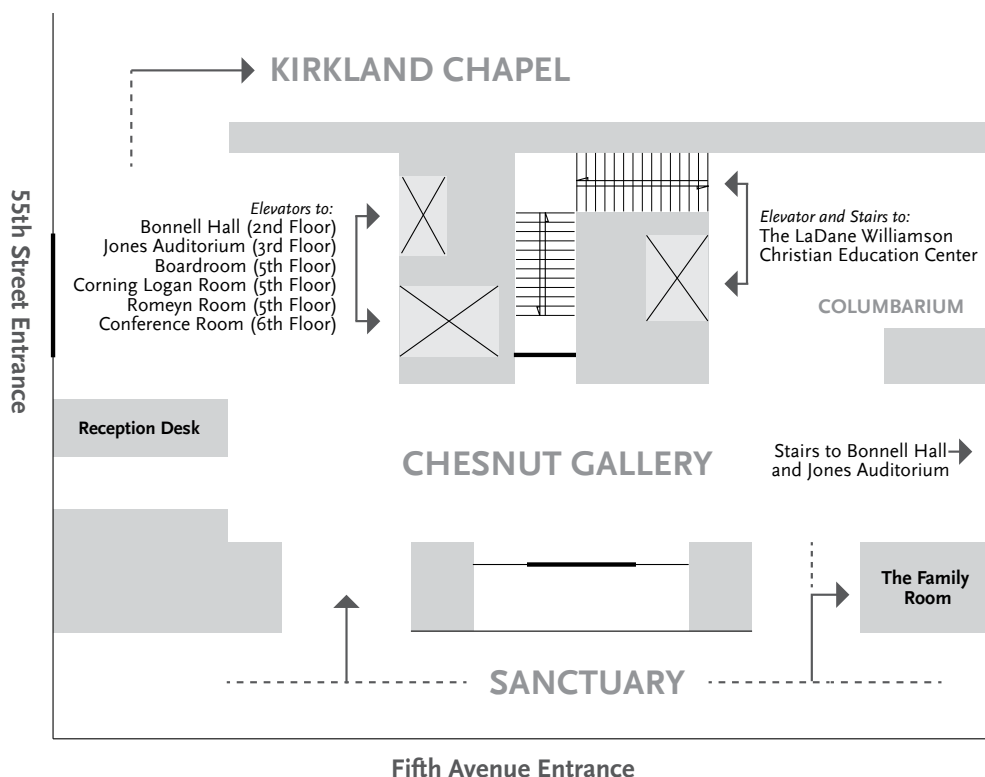
From time to time we may be taking video or photography in the Sanctuary, Kirkland Chapel and other parts of the church house (interior and exterior). By your presence, you grant Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit or telecast images or likeness that may be taken of you for use in communication related to the church. Please contact Tim Palmer Curl, director of communications and development (tpalmer@fapc.org), if you have questions or concerns.

FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7 West 55th Street • New York, NY 10019 • 212.247.0490 • fapc.org • fapc@fapc.org

Great Is Thy Faithfulness!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness: The 2020 Pledge Campaign is nearly 90% to our goal of \$3 million. If you helped to get us this far, thank you! If you have not yet pledged, we need you! You may return your pledge card by mail or drop it in the offering plate. You may also pledge online at fapc.org/pledge, or contact Tim Palmer Curl, director of Communications and Development (tpalmer@fapc.org, 212.247.0490 ext 3001). Thank you for your faithfulness to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church!



Visit Us During the Week

The Sanctuary, Kirkland Chapel and Columbarium are open seven days a week for prayer and reflection.

Building Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8 am to 6 pm • Tuesday: 8 am to 9 pm
Saturday: 8 am to 1 pm • Sunday: 8 am to 2:30 pm



FAPCNYC



FAPC_NYC



fifthavenue
presbyterianchurch



FAPCinNYC