

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 26, 2023 • 11:00 AM



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, gathered in the Sanctuary and online, 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. Introduce yourself to one of our clergy or someone at our Welcome Table. We have lots of programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

Scott Black Johnston Senior Pastor

New to Fifth Avenue?

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 if off at the Welcome Table (inside the Fifth Avenue entrance). You may also complete the welcome form online at *fapc.org/welcome*. Our friends at the Welcome Table can provide you with information about our ministries, programs and volunteer opportunities.

Large-Print Worship Materials

Please speak with an usher if you would like to use a large-print bulletin or hymnal to follow the service.

Families with Children

Children are always welcome in worship! Families are free 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, as well as easy access to our Family Room, located just outside the Sanctuary. We also provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9 am to 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

Worship Resources Online

A replay of today's service will be available this afternoon at *fapc.org/playback*. This morning's Prayers of the People can be found at *fapc.org/pray*. Details about the upcoming service each week can be found at *fapc.org/this-sunday*. For information about future worship services, visit *fapc.org/worship*.

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. Please provide your mobile phone number or an email address to the staff person at the 55th Street reception desk. You will receive a QR code to use at the garage. (The garage no longer provides physical validation stickers.)

We recommend that all who worship with us in person be vaccinated (and boosted) against Covid-19. If you are experiencing cold or flu symptoms, please stay home and worship with us via livestream. You will find the livestream service every week at *fapc.org/live*.



We provide mask-required and mask-optional seating areas in the Sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you have questions.

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 Chaconne in E minor, BuxWV 160

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

Prelude in B minor, BWV 544 • J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

* Call to Worship

Deacon Jane Henn One: We do not live by bread alone,

All: but by every word

that comes from the mouth of God.

One: Let us bind God's words to our hearts.

All: Let us worship our Creator

who is both steadfast and true.

* Hymn 167

Forty Days and Forty Nights

* CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Sarah Speed

* 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.

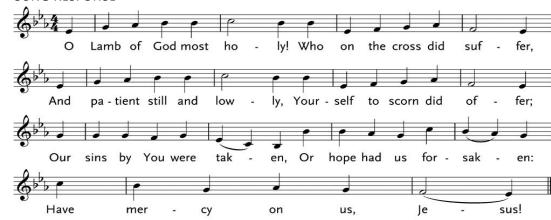
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

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.

to the given, or your many manner

Silent Reflection and Confession

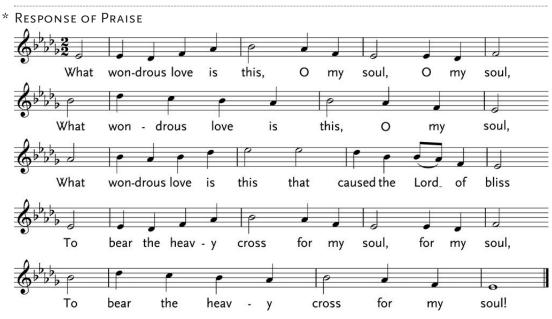




Music: Nikolaus Decius, c. 1541 - O LAMM GOTTES. Text: Nikolaus Decius, c. 1541, trans. Arthur Tozer Russell, (1806-1874)

3

^{*} Assurance of Pardon



Music: Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835 - WONDROUS LOVE. Text: American folk hymn, c. 1811.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

One:

All:

And also with you.

Children (pre-K through second grade) are invited to exit the Sanctuary for Children's Church. If this is your child's first time at Fifth Avenue, please accompany them downstairs.

LITANY OF PARTING

May God be with you there.

Children:

May God be with you here.

Announcements

TESTIMONY Seminarian Caroline Grindrod

ANTHEM God So Loved the World • Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Text: John 3:16

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son

That whoso believeth in him,

should not perish but have everlasting life.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Genesis 1:1-2 (The Message)

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 (The Message)

Life, lovely while it lasts, is soon over. Life as we know it, precious and beautiful, ends. The body is put back in the same ground it came from. The spirit returns to God, who first breathed it.

John 3:1-8 (The Message)

There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we all know you're a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren't in on it."

Jesus said, "You're absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it's not possible to see what I'm pointing to—to God's kingdom."

"How can anyone," said Nicodemus, "be born who has already been born and grown up? You can't re-enter your mother's womb and be born again. What are you saying with this 'born-from-above' talk?"

Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind hovering over the water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit. So don't be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be 'born from above'—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next. That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God."

One: This is the Word of God; for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

"Spirit"

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

 $from \ \textit{Belonging to God: A First Catechism}$

Presbyterian Church (USA), 1998

One: Who are you?

All: I am a child of God.

One: What does it mean to be a child of God?

All: That I belong to God, who loves me. Amen.

* HYMN 291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Invitation to Lent

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

One: I invite you, my friends, in the name of Jesus,

to observe a holy Lent.

All: We know what Christ calls us to do.

Let us seek quiet places. Let us examine our hearts.

Let us repent where we have strayed.

Let us abstain from choices

that harm us and our relationships.

Let us return to God in prayer.

Let us read and meditate on Scripture.

Let us encourage one another to love and good deeds.

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Let us care for the poor and those in need. Lead us, gracious God, in your way this Lent. Guide our steps.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Pilgrim Song • Traditional, arr. Ryan Murphy (b. 1971)

My brethren, I have found a land that doth abound with fruit as sweet as honey;

The more I eat, I find,

the more I am inclined to shout and sing hosanna.

My soul doth long to go

where I may fully know the glory of my Savior;

And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,

I'm going to live forever.

Perhaps you think me wild, or simple as a child;

I am a child of glory;

I am born from above, my soul is filled with love;

I love to tell the story. My soul doth long to go

where I may fully know the glory of my Savior;

And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,

I'm going to live forever.

My soul now sits and sings and practices its wings,

and contemplates the hour

When messenger shall say, "Come quit this house of clay,

and with bright angels tower."

My soul doth long to go

where I may fully know the glory of my Savior;

And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,

I'm going to live forever.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

* Doxology

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* HYMN 166 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

* BENEDICTION

Please remain in your pew until the conclusion of the Choral Response.

A Celtic Prayer • Barry Peters, Text: Traditional * CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet

walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands

stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart

open up your hearts to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,

And may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.

Postlude

Fugue in B minor, BWV 544 • J.S. Bach

The ministry of music this morning is offered by the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir Dr. Ryan Jackson, William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries Dr. Patrick Kreeger, Associate Organist • Rebecca Soelberg, Soprano

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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 that 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.

Please pray for:

Candy Asman, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad, Benjamin Bradley Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat, Ella Calderon, Denise Campbell, Phoebe Chiu Sookjoong Choi, Anne Coffey, Dr. Johanna Cook, Edna Craddock, William Cuffee Athanassia Doucas, Sherian Edgreen, David Elissa and Barbara Mitchell, Michael Elissa Narmella Elissa, Sohn Fong and Kyu Fong, Sterling Gillis IV, Wanda Roush Hannan Christopher Henderson, Maggie Hendrix, Juliet Kaldanie, Susan Kempler, Frederick Loomis Louis Sterling King, Ceciwa Khonje, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson, Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma Keiko Matsuzaki, The McCall Family, Gerry & Lynn Nagy, Frank Owarish, Dexter Ramcharan Pauline Sample, Robert Scheuer, Tshombe Selby, Steve Sheppard, Taylor Shultz Spencer Robert Smith, Frieda Sompotan, Neva Strom, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither Susan Tobiason, Betty Ty, Henny Waisapy, Bill Wanek, 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 Lisauri Marizan (congregationalcare@fapc.org, 212.247.0490).

Today

9 am Little Lambs Nursery. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

9:30 am Chapel Church. Kirkland Chapel.

Children's Choir. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.

11 am Worship. Sanctuary. The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

11:15 am Children's Church. Kirkland Chapel and Christian Education Center.

Tour the Church. Meet at the rear of the Sanctuary.

12:30 pm Coffee Hour. Jones Auditorium.

30s + 40s Community Group: Bagels & Bible. Fourth Floor Innovation Station.

New members welcome!

1 pm Game Day with Homeless Neighbors. Jones Auditorium.

This Week

Wed March 1 Community Choir. 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices welcome!

FAYA Midweek. 6:30 pm • Corning Logan Room. Weekly young adults' gathering.

Contact: The Rev. Sarah Speed (youngadults@fapc.org).

Thu March 2 Sandwich Generation Community Group. 6 pm • Zoom. New community group

meets weekly through April 6. Contact: Ashley Gonzalez (community@fapc.org).

Sat March 4 Meals on Heels. 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Volunteers prepare and deliver meals to

homebound neighbors. New volunteers are welcome and needed! Contact: John

Wyatt (moh@fapc.org).

Coming Up

Sun March 12 Deacons Clothing Drive. 9 am • 55th Street lobby. This week the Deacons are

collecting new and lightly used clothing for the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership and Samaritan's Closet. The drive concludes on Sunday, March 19.

Believing & Belonging: New Member Class. 9:30 am • Zoom. A two-week class

for prospective members begins today. Registration at fapc.org/membership. Contact: Ashley Gonzalez, director of engagement (membership@fapc.org).

Congregational Meeting. 12:15 pm • Sanctuary. This meeting, for the election of officers, begins at the close of the 11 am worship service. All members are

encouraged to attend.

Sun March 19 Adult Education: Lenten Labyrinths. 12:30 pm • Jones Auditorium. This class

explores a variety of labyrinths for Lenten spiritual practice. Instructor: Jaime

Staehle, director of Christian education.

Next Sunday • Second Sunday in Lent

"Truth" • John 4:5-29

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching

Congregational Meeting: March 12

On Sunday, March 12, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church will convene a Congregational Meeting for the election of officers for the 2023-24 program year. The meeting will begin at the close of the 11 am worship service in the Sanctuary. All members are encouraged to attend.

Starting Thursday: Community Group for the Sandwich Generation

This Lent, the Sandwich Generation will meet to swap wisdom and practical tips for raising families and caring for aging parents and relatives at the same time. Jama Toung leads this new, online community group on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7 pm, starting this week (March 2). The group will meet weekly on Zoom through April 6. Contact Ashley Gonzalez, director of engagement (community@fapc.org) if you would like to join. Or look for the enrollment form at fapc.org/community-groups.

Next Week: Confirmation Sunday

Next Sunday our Confirmation Class takes its final step toward full membership in the church. Join us during the 11 am service as our confirmands share portions of their statements of faith, participate in worship, and confirm their baptism into Christ's church.

Coming Up: Deacons Clothing Drive

The annual Deacons Clothing Drive begins two weeks from today (Sunday, March 12) and concludes on Sunday, March 19. This year's drive benefits the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership (our ministry to the homeless, refugees and others in need) and the Samaritan's Closet, a collaborative ministry of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and St. James Episcopal Church. The Deacons will be in the 55th Street lobby on each Sunday to accept your donations of new and lightly used clothing for men, women and children. There is a particular need for casual spring and summer clothing, and packages of new underwear and socks (especially men's).

New Date for the Pauli Murray Documentary

A screening of the acclaimed documentary My Name Is Pauli Murray, originally scheduled for early January, will take place on Sunday, April 2, at 12:30 pm in the Corning Logan Room. This event is hosted by The Word Is Out (Fifth Avenue's LGBTQ+ community group) and the Anti-Racism Response Team. Released in 2021, the documentary explores the life and career of an overlooked figure from history. Pauli Murray was a non-binary Black lawyer, activist and poet whose arguments about freedom and justice influenced Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Thurgood Marshall. No registration is required, and refreshments will be served.

Save the Date: Betsey Jackson Dedication

The dedication of the Betsey Jackson Board Room, and the unveiling of her recently commissioned portrait, will take place following worship on Sunday, May 21. The artist, Clayton Singleton, will be our special guest. The dedication and portrait honor the memory of one of the founding members of our congregation, long identified as a "household slave." Recent research revealed her connection to the household of Dr. John Romeyn, our founding pastor. Watch for details about this event to be announced soon.

The Session

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, *Moderator* • The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, *Executive Pastor* Porter Binks, *Clerk of Session* • John Wyatt, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

The Rev. Werner Ramirez, Associate Pastor · The Rev. Sarah Speed, Associate Pastor

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Porter Binks	Jill Borrero	Eric Daniels
Bryn Hartzell	Mae Cheng-PaVon	Ann Marie Koehler
Jake Myers	Bruni Fernandez	Sara Rodgers
Patrick Obeng-Frimpong	Paul Griggs	Chris Rogers
Spencer Roberson	Claire Kedeshian	Janeen A. Sarlin
Emily Sytsma	John Kern	Meg Sheehan
Jama Toung	William Stone	Sylvia Winrich
	John Wyatt	

The Board of Deacons

Matt Roush, *Moderator* · Emi Iwaida, *Vice Moderator* · Carolyn Ferguson, *Secretary* Shane Markstrum, *Treasurer*

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Ed Fagan	Jennica Carmona	Kirsten Aiello
Carolyn Ferguson	Greg Dow	Kelly Baer
Emi Iwaida	Joann Harrah	Jessica Carmona
Lori Lauman	Beverly Elmyra Johnson	Hope Griggs
Marco Michael	Lydia Kalmen	Jane Henn
Glenda Moreland	Shane Markstrum	Sarah McKoy
Bryan Rombot	Auguste Nipabi	Jeannine Rodgers
Matt Roush	Joyce Nolen	Chad Schepp
Vijay Wijesundera	Branden Wang	Dicky Tuwaidan
	Lynn Wishart	Arthur Wong

The Board of Trustees

Carol Kenney, President · Ken Henderson, Vice President · Janet Otto, Secretary Glenn Hubbard, Treasurer · Alyce Andrews, Assistant Treasurer

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Christian Bailey	Alyce Andrews	Susan Cersovsky
Amy Chung	Paula Berry	Jose Guardado
David Clark	Bob Henn	Ken Henderson
Carol Kenney	Glenn Hubbard	Joanna McNurlen
Jimmy Liu	Daniel Krueger	Jeff Rowbottom
Janet Otto		Mark Snyder

CLERGY & STAFF



The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So Executive Pastor

The Rev. Werner Ramirez Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Family Ministries

The Rev. Sarah A. Speed Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Membership

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The Rev. Kate Dunn. Parish Visitor

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen, Parish Associate

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

The Rev. Randy Weber, Associate Pastor Emeritus

Christine Boyle, Director of Outreach & Missions

Ashley Gonzalez, Director of Engagement

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

Donna Ketchledge, Program Coordinator & Assistant to the Executive Pastor

Dr. Patrick Kreeger, Associate Organist

Derek Maddalena, Director of Facilities

Katherine Miller, Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor & Director of Special Projects

Timothy Palmer Curl, Interim 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 Jaime Staehle familyministries@fapc.org



Fund the altar flowers

Lisauri Marizan congregationalcare@fapc.org



Join the church
Rev. Sarah A. Speed
membership@fapc.org





Plan your wedding
Donna Ketchledge
weddings@fapc.org



Planned giving
Richard Schexnider
finance@fapc.org



Jaime Staehle familyministries@fapc.org

Add a name to the prayer list • Lisauri Marizan, congregationalcare@fapc.org
Hire our caterer • Rodrigo Rosas, rodrigo@roxoevents.com

Notify us of a death or illness • Lisauri Marizan, congregationalcare@fapc.org

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

Update contact information in our database • update@fapc.org

We livestream our worship services and provide online playback on demand. We also shoot videos and photos from time to time in the church house (interior and exterior). By your presence, you grant Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit or telecast your image or likeness in communications related to the church.

Please contact Timothy Palmer Curl (fapc@fapc.org) if you have questions or concerns.

If you prefer to sit outside of camera range during the service, please speak with an usher.

10

1

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church



Save the Date! May 19-21

Whether you are local or you worship with us from a distance, please put the weekend of May 19–21 on your calendar. We are inviting all of you who live outside the New York area to come to the city for our first-ever Beyond the Walls Weekend. And we hope our local members will attend as well! See the schedule of events at <code>fapc.org/beyond</code>.

We hope to see you!

Support the Church

Scan this code using the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions to make a secure donation to our ministries.

fapc.org/give



Building Hours

Mon • Thu • Fri Tuesday • Wednesday

Saturday

Sunday

9 am - 5 pm

9 am – 8 pm

8 am – 1 pm

8 am - 2:30 pm









