



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 18, 2025 • 12:00 PM



Kelley Latimore, *The Crucifixion*

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 it 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 Bulletins**

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! You will find children’s Bibles in the first 10 rows of pews on the far north side of the Sanctuary (to the right when looking down the aisle). Ushers can also provide children’s bulletins and worship bags. If you need to leave the service with your child, the ushers can direct you to the nearest changing table and livestream monitor. Every Sunday, we provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. There is Sunday school for children in preschool through 5th grade at 9:30 am and Children’s Church for children in preschool through 2nd grade at 11:15 am.

➔ **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.)

GOOD FRIDAY

*As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we begin our preparation for worship.
Please **silence all electronic devices** and do not take flash photos during the service.*

PRELUDE

Suite, Op. 5: Prelude • *Maurice Duruflé* (1901–1986)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

One: Surely he has borne our grief

All: and carried our sorrows;

One: Yet we esteemed him stricken,

All: smitten by God and afflicted.

One: Amen.

* HYMN 220

Go to Dark Gethsemane

WELCOME

COLLECT FOR GOOD FRIDAY

One: It is Friday, Holy One,
and we stand at the foot of the cross.
Where shall we cast our eyes?

**All: We look down. We glance to the side.
We stare inward. We look up... at him.**

One: My God, my God, what does this mean?
How is this sacred?
How can this save?
How is this love?

**All: This is a hard place to stand.
We want to run away.
Yet you, gracious God, bid us stay.**

One: So we ask for courage, patience and calm.
Help us to watch and listen and pray.

**All: It is Friday,
and we stand at the foot of the cross.
Hold on to us here.
Do not let us go.
This we pray in the precious name of Jesus,
our suffering Lord. Amen.**

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

The Rev. Werner Ramirez, and The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

Silent Reflection

I. "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING."

* HYMN 224

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

* UNISON PRAYER

**God of the cross, God of the garden and the tomb,
sit with us in our sorrow, hold us when we fear.
We call on your words, spoken through suffering,
on the days we hurt the most.
Remind us that you are nearer than our next breath,
and strengthen us in solidarity with all who suffer. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Drop, Drop Slow Tears • *Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)*
Text by Phineas Fletcher (1582–1650)

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.
Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

Silent Reflection

II. "TRULY I TELL YOU, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."

* HYMN 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

* UNISON PRAYER

**God of the cross, God of the garden and the tomb,
sit with us in our sorrow, hold us when we fear.
We call on your words, spoken through suffering,
on the days we hurt the most.
Remind us that you are nearer than our next breath,
and strengthen us in solidarity with all who suffer. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Bring us, O Lord God • *William H. Harris (1883–1973)*
Text by John Donne (1572–1631)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
Into the house and gate of Heaven,
To enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
Where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,
But one equal light;

No noise nor Silent Reflection, but one equal music;
No fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
No ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity:
In the habitation of thy glory and dominion,
World without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

HOMILY

Seminarian Erin Braun

Silent Reflection

III. "WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON... HERE IS YOUR MOTHER."

* HYMN 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

* UNISON PRAYER

**God of the cross, God of the garden and the tomb,
sit with us in our sorrow, hold us when we fear.
We call on your words, spoken through suffering,
on the days we hurt the most.
Remind us that you are nearer than our next breath,
and strengthen us in solidarity with all who suffer. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Mary Was the Queen of Galilee
Traditional Spiritual, arr. Wendell Whalum (1931–1987)

Who was Mary? Who was Mary? Who was Mary?
Mary was the queen of Galilee.

Mary rode to Bethlehem,
Mary was the queen of Galilee.
There she brought forth the Holy Lamb.
Mary was the queen of Galilee.

Mary saw him crucified,
Mary was the queen of Galilee.
When her Lord cried out and died,
Mary was the queen of Galilee.

Oh, she wept and Martha moaned.
Mary was the queen of Galilee.
Sky turned purple all around.
Mary was the queen of Galilee.

Now, after Sunday down at the Tomb,
When the stone was rolled away,
She didn't find her Lord.
Angel came unto her, telling the good news
That Jesus Christ is risen and will appear again.
Who was Mary? Who was Mary? Who was Mary?
Mary was the queen of Galilee.

SCRIPTURE *John 19:26-27*

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

HOMILY
Seminarian Kari Swanson

Silent Reflection

IV. "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

* HYMN 210

Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me

* UNISON PRAYER

**God of the cross, God of the garden and the tomb,
sit with us in our sorrow, hold us when we fear.
We call on your words, spoken through suffering,
on the days we hurt the most.
Remind us that you are nearer than our next breath,
and strengthen us in solidarity with all who suffer. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*Crucifixus • Antonio Lotti (1667–1740)
Text from the Nicene Creed*

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato: He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate:
Passus, et sepultus est. He suffered and was buried.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

HOMILY
The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

Silent Reflection

V. "I AM THIRSTY."

* HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

* UNISON PRAYER

**God of the cross, God of the garden and the tomb,
sit with us in our sorrow, hold us when we fear.
We call on your words, spoken through suffering,
on the days we hurt the most.
Remind us that you are nearer than our next breath,
and strengthen us in solidarity with all who suffer. Amen.**

ANTHEM

O vos omnes • Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611)

Text: Lamentations 1:12

*O vos omnes qui transitis per viam,
attendite et videte:*

Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.

*Attendite, universi populi, et videte
dolorem meum.*

Si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.

O, all ye that pass by the way,
attend and see:

If there be any sorrow like to my sorrow.

Attend, all ye people, and see
my sorrow:

If there be any sorrow like to my sorrow.

SCRIPTURE

John 19:28

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture),
'I am thirsty.'

HOMILY

Seminarian Shannon Duke

Silent Reflection

VI. "IT IS FINISHED."

* HYMN 217

On a Barren Hilltop

* UNISON PRAYER

**God of the cross, God of the garden and the tomb,
sit with us in our sorrow, hold us when we fear.
We call on your words, spoken through suffering,
on the days we hurt the most.
Remind us that you are nearer than our next breath,
and strengthen us in solidarity with all who suffer. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Were You There? • *Traditional Spiritual,*
arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

SCRIPTURE

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

HOMILY

Seminarian Anne Nelson

VII. "FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT."

* HYMN 221

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

* UNISON PRAYER

**God of the cross, God of the garden and the tomb,
sit with us in our sorrow, hold us when we fear.
We call on your words, spoken through suffering,
on the days we hurt the most.
Remind us that you are nearer than our next breath,
and strengthen us in solidarity with all who suffer. Amen.**

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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last.

HOMILY

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

Silent Reflection

ANTHEM

Alleluia. May Flights of Angels Sing Thee to Thy Rest
John Tavener (1944–2013), text from the Orthodox Funeral Service and Shakespeare's Hamlet

Alleluia. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.

Alleluia. Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your kingdom.

Alleluia. Give rest, O Lord, to your servant who has fallen asleep.

Alleluia. The Choir of Saints have found the well-spring of life and door of paradise.

Alleluia. Life: a shadow and a dream.

Alleluia. Weeping at the grave creates the song: Alleluia.

Alleluia. Come, enjoy rewards and crowns
I have prepared for you.

Silent Reflection

* BENEDICTION

You are invited to stay for a time of silent meditation following the service.

The ministry of music this afternoon 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* • Rachel Mikol and Rebecca Soelberg, *Sopranos*

WORSHIP NOTES

The final anthem this afternoon is a piece composed by British composer, John Tavener in 1993. *May Flights of Angels* is characterized by a distinctive sound inspired by the music of the Eastern Orthodox Church: an F is sustained by various voices throughout the duration of the work, interwoven with beautiful chant-like settings of the texts. Although those of us who are not members of the Orthodox Church traditionally avoid Alleluias during Lent and other somber occasions, solemn Alleluias are an important feature of these times for Orthodox Christians, as a representation of the light that is always present, even in the darkest moments.

GETTING CONNECTED

Adult Education

Each spring and fall, we offer courses in theology and Scripture, spirituality, social issues and other disciplines. We offer classes in person, online and via podcast. All classes are free and open to all. Information on upcoming classes is available at fapc.org/adult-ed.

Community Groups

We have over 20 community groups to help you form closer bonds within the Fifth Avenue family. Options available online and in-person. Learn more at fapc.org/community-groups, or email (membership@fapc.org).

Congregational Care

If you (or someone you know) are going through a difficult time, we are here for you. We are available for counseling, home and hospital visits, medical escorts and prayer. Please visit fapc.org/care to submit a prayer request and learn more about our Congregational Care program.

Family Ministries

Family Ministries nurtures diverse, strong, faithful families. Our Little Lambs nursery for infants and toddlers is available every Sunday from 9 am to 12:30 pm during the program year (September–May). Sunday School (PreK – 5th Grade) is at 9:30 am and Children’s Church (PreK – 2nd Grade) is following the Litany of Parting during the 11 am worship service during the program year. Youth Group worships at Chapel Church at 9:30 am and meets at 11 am. On the first Sunday of the month, Youth Group worships at both services. Learn more at fapc.org/family. Contact: Jaime Staehle (212.247.0490 ext 3003, familyministries@fapc.org).

FAYA | Fifth Avenue Young Adults

FAYA is an open and affirming community for those in their 20s and 30s. During the program year, we meet every Wednesday night for small groups, supper, Bible study and fellowship. Find out more about our weekly gatherings, monthly fellowship events and weekend retreats at fapc.org/faya or on Instagram [@fapcfaya](https://www.instagram.com/fapcfaya).

Hybrid Church

Did you know that this church has a vibrant online community? Whether you’re a New Yorker worshipping from home, a longtime member who moved, or a visitor new to our livestream, you are a part of our online campus! There are many ways you can get involved. Don’t miss our virtual small groups, online office hours for pastoral care, retreat programming and seasonal gatherings here at Fifth Avenue. Contact Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike at hybridchurch@fapc.org for more information.

Membership

When we say “All are welcome,” we mean it. Whether you live in the neighborhood, or across the country, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through our Believing and Belonging seminars, you explore what it means to be a part of the Christian church, the Presbyterian tradition and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Whether you’re sure membership is right for you, or you’re just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we’d love to have you in an upcoming in-person or online class. Visit fapc.org/membership or email membership@fapc.org to register.

Music & Arts

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is home to a versatile program of music and arts in our worship and community life that endeavors to inspire, challenge and comfort all who encounter it, and to provide opportunities to share our artistic gifts. In addition to the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir and Chamber Choir, we offer the Fifth Avenue Community Choir for anyone who loves to sing. Visit fapc.org/choirs to learn more. The Arts & Our Faith Committee sponsors exhibitions of art, history and photography in the Chesnut Gallery, often featuring work by members of the congregation. Theatre Fellowship is a community of artists and artisans that promotes congregational fellowship through our shared love of the theater.

Outreach Ministries

Through our Outreach Ministries, hundreds of members and friends of the church are engaged in volunteering, advocacy and service. Our programs include our Befriending Ministry on behalf of our neighbors experiencing homelessness; the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership, a collaborative ministry with Saint Thomas Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral that serves the homeless population of Midtown; A Place at the Table, a twice-weekly sidewalk lunch for our homeless and hungry neighbors; and Meals on Heels, Saturday-morning meal preparation and delivery to homebound seniors. We also maintain mission partner relationships with local, national and international organizations. Our current mission partners are:

Asylum Support Clinic	Mission co-workers in Madagascar,
Church of Gethsemane	the Philippines & the U.S.–Mexico border
The Farminary Project	Parity
Garden of Hope	Search and Care
Hands Along the Nile Development Services	Urban Outreach Center NYC
Holmes Camp and Retreat Center	West Side Federation for Senior
Ministry of Hope Lesotho	and Supportive Housing

To learn more, visit fapc.org/outreach, or contact Christine Boyle, director of outreach and missions (212.247.0490 ext 3006, outreach@fapc.org).

Volunteering

Volunteering is one of the most important ways we show that God's house is truly a place where all are welcome. Each week, members of this community serve as ushers and greeters, prepare and deliver meals to the homebound, provide comfort and support to the elderly, lead tours for members and visitors, and work with the underserved of New York City. To learn more about our diverse volunteer opportunities, and how you can join in, visit fapc.org/volunteer.

Fifth Avenue Women's Ministry

For generations, the women of Fifth Avenue have gathered for service, fellowship, and deeper faith. Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before, we continue to connect and would love to include you in our community. The women's ministry at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is trans affirming and welcoming to women of any age and stage. We meet for annual retreats, fellowship events, Bible study, and small groups. To learn more and get involved, email womensministry@fapc.org or visit fapc.org/women.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church



Join us on Sunday for our Easter services
at 9:30 and 11:15 am in the Sanctuary.
The 11:15 am service will be available on livestream.

We invite you to bring fresh-cut flowers to add
to the Flowering of the Cross outside on Fifth Avenue.

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

Monday,
Wednesday – Friday
9 am – 6 pm

Tuesday
9 am – 9 pm

Saturday
8 am – 1 pm

Sunday
8 am – 2:30 pm



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