

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 25, 2025 • 10:00 AM



Luca Signorelli & Bartolomeo della Gatta, *Moses's Testament and Death*, 1481–82

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 in worship! You will find children’s Bibles in the first 10 rows of pews on the far north side of the Sanctuary. Ushers can also provide children’s bulletins and worship bags. If you need to leave the service to attend to your child, the ushers can direct you to the nearest changing table and livestream monitor. We provide childcare for infants and toddlers from 9:30 to 11:30 am 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.)

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

Cuatro Piezas para la Misa • José Lidón (1748–1827)
I. Cantabile • II. Ofertorio • III. Elevación • IV. Allegro

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Louisa Raitt

Psalm 67

One: O God, be merciful to us and bless us;
show us the light of your countenance
and come to us.

All: **Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

All: **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

One: Come, let us worship God, tender and just.

* HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

* 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 Je - sus, King of gen - tle - ness, Do all our
in - most hearts pos - sess; O Lord of all, with us a -
bide In this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

Music: Trier ms., 15th century; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609 - PUER NOBIS NASCITUR.

Text: Latin hymn, 15th century; trans. John Mason Neale, 1852.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es; heaven - ly mu - sic— let it ring.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1867 - REGENT SQUARE. Text: William M. James, 1979 © The United Methodist Publishing House.
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* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

ANTHEM

Alleluia! Now is the hour of darkness past
Daniel Pinkham (1923–2006)
Text by Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Alleluia!

Now is the hour of darkness past;
Christ hath assumed his reigning power.
Behold the great accuser cast
Down from the skies, to rise no more.

Alleluia!

'Twas by thy blood, immortal Lamb,
Thine armies trod the tempter down;
'Twas by thy word and powerful name
They gained the battle and renown.

Alleluia!

Rejoice ye heavens!
Let every star Shine with new glories round the sky!
Saints, while ye sing the heavenly war,
Raise your Redeemer's name on high.

Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 31:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

“Say Amen to Transition”

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *Study Catechism*, Presbyterian Church (USA)

**The important question for the church
is not so much where an insight may come from
as the norm by which to test it.
Truth is where one finds it, whether inside or outside the church,
and whether supporting or contradicting
one’s own most cherished opinions.
Our faithful discernment of what is true, however,
depends finally on God’s Word as conveyed in Holy Scripture.
The church is therefore reformed and always being reformed
according to the Word of God. Amen.**

* HYMN 684

Faith Begins by Letting Go

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Rev. Chris Palmer

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

"Hallelujah, Amen," from *Judas Maccabaeus*
G.F. Handel (1685–1759)

Hallelujah, Amen.
O Judah, rejoice, in songs divine,
With Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join.
Hallelujah, Amen.

* DOXOLOGY

**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.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

* HYMN 610

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

* BENEDICTION

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

* CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Blessing of God Be upon You • *William H.M. Wright*
Text by R. Gordon Nodwell

May the blessing of God be upon you.
May God's love light all your way.
May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay.
May the Spirit of God dwell within you.
May you live in joy each day.

POSTLUDE

Sinfonia from Cantata no. 29
J.S. Bach (1685–1750), arr. Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

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*

WORSHIP NOTES

Daniel Pinkham's *Alleluia! Now is the Darkness Past* is notable for its distinctive use of modes, non-traditional musical scales such as Dorian, Mixolydian, and Phrygian. These modal scales deviate from the standard major and minor tonalities that we hear most often today, lending the music a distinctively medieval or Renaissance-like quality. By emphasizing modal harmony, Pinkham creates a striking sonic landscape that feels at once ancient and modern, evoking a sense of spiritual connection across time and culture.

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:

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Eliseo Batuon, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad
Patricia Blair, Teresita Block, Sarah Boyce, Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat
Ella Calderon, Denise Campbell, Nina S. 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, Daniele Engome
Irene P. Gilman, Anthea and Neville Graham, Florence Hall, Torian Hall, Peter S. Hawkins
Carol Healy, Christopher Henderson, Donna Marie Henderson, Emi Iwaida, Tara Kay Johnson
Juliet Kaldanie, Ceciwa Khonje, Louis Sterling King, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson
Frederick Loomis, Violet Lorenzen, Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Octavia McLaren
Epifania Mercado, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy, Frank Owarish, Roy Owens, Emmett Raitt
Dexter Ramcharan, Debbie Rogers, Ramon Rosa, Pauline Sample, Norma Santos, Robert Scheuer
Taylor Shultz, Bonnie Smith, Monica Smith, Spencer Robert Smith, Willie Gerald Smith
Frieda Sompotan, Neva Strom, Lorraine Sukhu, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither, Susan Tobiason
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 Natalie Wardius (congregationalcare@fapc.org, 212.247.0490).

CALENDAR

Today

- 9:30 am** **Little Lambs.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
- 10:15 am** **Children's Church.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11:15 pm** **Coffee Hour.** Weber Terrace. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and friends.
- Tour of the Church.** After worship, look for a docent in the back of the Sanctuary with a "tour starts here" sign.
- 12 pm** **Dr. Ryan Jackson Organ Recital.** Sanctuary.
-

This Week

- Mon May 26** **Memorial Day Holiday.** Building closed.
- Tue May 27** **Weekly Word Bible Study.** 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email bible-study@fapc.org. To register, visit fapc.org/bible.
- Wed May 28** **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Bonnell Hall. All voices are welcome!
- Asian American Bible Study.** 6:30 pm • 6th floor conference room & Zoom.
- Thu May 29** **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit fapc.org/groups to learn more and to sign up.
- Sat May 31** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Volunteers prepare and deliver weekend meals to homebound seniors. New volunteers are welcome and needed! Contact: John Wyatt (moh@fapc.org).

Coming Up

- Tue June 3** **Staff Day.** Building closed.
- Fri June 6** **Family Camp.** To learn more, visit fapc.org/camp.
- Fri June 6 – Sun June 8** **Beyond the Walls Weekend.** Visit fapc.org/beyond to join.
- Sat June 14** **Women's Spring Sabbath.** 10 am • Jones Auditorium & Zoom. Join the Women's Ministry for a rejuvenating day-long Sabbath! Register at fapc.org/women.
- Sun June 22** **Margaret Shafter Picnic.** 12 pm • Bonnell Hall. To learn more, visit fapc.org/picnic.

Next Sunday • Seventh Sunday of Easter

"Say Amen to Sabbath" • Exodus 16

The Rev. Werner Ramirez, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

TODAY: Dr. Ryan Jackson Organ Recital

Come by the Sanctuary at 12 pm for a stirring selection of moving music played on our Mighty Austin organ by Dr. Ryan Jackson, Fifth Avenue's William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries. Free and open to the public!

Friday, June 6 – Sunday, June 8: Beyond the Walls Weekend

Mark your calendars for Beyond the Walls weekend! Join us in New York for a weekend of special events and fellowship, specially planned to integrate our online campus with our onsite church community! Whether you're as close as Connecticut or as far away as California, come experience worship in person, enjoy an evening welcome on the Fifth Avenue terrace with the clergy and staff, share in a Bible study on the scriptures that inspire this hybrid church ministry, and deepen our relationships as we break bread together. Learn more and register at fapc.org/beyond.

Saturday, June 14: Women's Spring Sabbath

All women are invited to a rejuvenating day-long Sabbath retreat at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church! Starting at 10 am, we'll come together for a rich day of fellowship, insightful study, and a delicious lunch. We'll wrap up this inspiring time with a closing worship by 3 pm, leaving you refreshed and renewed. The cost for this retreat is \$25 in-person and free for Zoom. To learn more and register, visit fapc.org/sabbath.

Sunday, June 22: Margaret Shafer Picnic

Every summer our volunteers gather to serve a picnic lunch to neighbors in our community who are experiencing homelessness or simply in need of a relaxed meal among friends. This event is named in honor of the late Margaret Shafer, our former associate for outreach and a beloved friend and advocate of the homeless in our community. To learn more and register to volunteer, please visit fapc.org/picnic.

Summer Schedule

Today we begin our summer schedule with one weekly worship service each Sunday at 10 am. We will keep this schedule until Homecoming Sunday, September 7.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

If you have included a bequest for the church in your will or estate plans, please let us know! You are eligible to join our Legacy Circle, a group of members and friends who have remembered the church in their financial arrangements. Please reach out to Sean McAvoy, Director of Communications and Development, at fapc@fapc.org, to let him know of your generous provision.

Monday, June 30: Kirkland Chapel Campaign closes

Thank you to all who have supported the campaign to renovate our beloved Kirkland Chapel! Your generosity is at work every day to make the chapel ready for the next one hundred years. If you would like to join this historic effort, there is still time! We will close the campaign on Monday, June 30. Make your donation today to be sure your name appears on a plaque that will grace the chapel's walls. Visit fapc.org/give and select "Kirkland Chapel Renovation" in the *Fund* dropdown. Someone from the church will reach out to you this summer to confirm how you want your name to appear. Thank you!

OFFICERS BY CLASS

The Session

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, *Moderator* • The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, *Executive Pastor*
The Rev. Werner Ramirez, *Associate Pastor* • The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Chris Palmer, *Associate Pastor* • Meg Sheehan, *Clerk of Session*
Dennis Bushe, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

Class of 2025

Eric Daniels
Carol Kenney
Ann Marie Koehler
Chris Rogers
Janeen A. Sarlin
Meg Sheehan
Sienna Toung
Sylvia Winrich

Class of 2026

Rachel Brenner
Dennis Bushe
Roseanne Lind
Nate Mahrer
Brian McLendon
Louisa Raitt
Martha Van Hise

Class of 2027

Chloe Hawker
Josie Lawrence
Persis Luke
Patrick Obeng-Frimpong
Thomas Pak
David Roberson
Beth Rumore Stanley
Jama Toung

The Board of Deacons

Kirsten Aiello, *Moderator* • Chad Schepp, *Vice Moderator* • Sarah McKoy, *Secretary*
Susan Roberson, *Treasurer*

Class of 2025

Kirsten Aiello
Kelly Baer
Jessica Carmona
Hope Griggs
Jane Henn
Sarah McKoy
Jeannine Rodgers
Chad Schepp
Dicky Tuwaidan
Arthur Wong

Class of 2026

Chrissy Badger
Brendan Birth
Joshua Code
Rumel Francois
Jeanne Lehman French
Bruce Ramsden
Susan Roberson
Betsy Ross
Amelia Vogler Topping
Julia Ward

Class of 2027

Jesse Allen
Andy Craven
Myra Ford
Mary Sue Highmore
Kyle Hughes
Susie Hunter
Trevor Illingworth
Jamie Ku
Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough
Kathy Peterson
Nicole Rusk

The Board of Trustees

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Assistant Treasurer, Constance Pond • Meredith Fleck, *Assistant Treasurer*

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Jose Guardado
Ken Henderson
Joanna McNurlen
Jeff Rowbottom
Mark Snyder

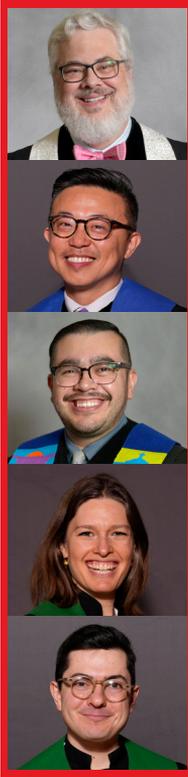
Class of 2026

Christopher Duffy
Chris Edwards
Meredith Fleck
Jane Hong
Susan Neunaber
Thomas Wesley

Class of 2027

Joyce Hansen
Mark Moreland
Marran Ogilvie
Constance Pond Hubbard
Phil Ryan
William Stone

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. Natalie Owens-Pike *Associate Pastor for Ministry to the Online Campus*

The Rev. Chris Palmer *Transitional Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Membership*

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

The Rev. Randy Weber, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

Austin Applebach, *Director of Engagement*

Christine Boyle, *Director of Outreach & Missions*

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

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

Donna Ketchledge, *Program Coordinator & Assistant to the Executive Pastor*

Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist*

Derek Maddalena, *Director of Facilities*

Sean McAvoy, *Director of Communications & Development*

Dr. Can Olgun, *Director of Chapel Church Music*

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



Join the online campus

Natalie Owens-Pike

hybridchurch@fapc.org



Join the church

Austin Applebach

membership@fapc.org



Make a donation

fapc.org/give



Make a bequest

Richard Schexnider

finance@fapc.org



Plan your wedding

Donna Ketchledge

weddings@fapc.org



Prepare for baptism

Jaime Staehle

familyministries@fapc.org

Add a name to the prayer list • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org

Fund the altar flowers • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org

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

Notify us of a death or illness • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org

Request a bulletin announcement • Sean McAvoy, 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 Sean McAvoy (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.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church



Beyond the Walls June 6–8

Join us in New York for a weekend of special events and fellowship with our hybrid members.

Register today!
fapc.org/beyond

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



Monday, May 26, the building will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

Building Hours

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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