



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 19, 2025 • 11:00 AM



The Brunswick Monogrammist, *Parable of the Great Banquet*, circa 1525

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. Sunday School for pre-K through fifth grade follows the Litany of Parting during the 11 am worship service.

➡ **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

Rhosymedre • *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Chrissy Badger

Adapted from the Iona Community in Scotland

One: Christ beside me, Christ before me,

All: Christ behind me, Love of my heart.

One: Christ within me, Christ below me,

All: Christ above me, never to part.

One: Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,

All: Christ all around me, Shield in the strife.

One: Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,

All: Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

One: Let us worship our Lord, God's Love,
Shield and Light.

* HYMN 511

Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven

* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

* 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

(Cantor sings once; then the congregation sings once.)

Send your Ho - ly Spir - it on your gath - ered peo - ple,

mer - ci - ful and lov - ing God, hear us, as we pray.

Music & Words: Jim Stratheide, 1993.
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* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE



Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979. Words: Traditional Liturgical Text.
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* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

ANTHEM

Children & Youth Choir

God is Here Today • *arr. Tom Trenney (b.1977)*

God is here today; as certain as the air I breathe,
As certain as the morning sun that rises,
As certain when I sing, you'll hear my song.

God is love, and when we love each other,
God lives in us, abides with us when we love our neighbor.

*Dios está aquí, tan cierto como el aire que respiro,
Tan cierto como la mañana se levanta,
Tan cierto como mi canto que me puedo oír.*

*Children (pre-K through fifth 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

All: **May God be with you there.**
Children: **May God be with you here.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Chris Palmer

MOMENT FOR COMMITMENT

Elder Kirsten Aiello, 2026 Pledge Campaign Co-Chair

ANTHEM

I sat down under His shadow • *Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)*
Text: *Song of Songs 2:3-4*

I sat down under His shadow with great delight,
And His fruit was sweet to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
And His banner over me was love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON*Matthew 22:1-14*

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. The king sent his servants to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized the king's servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

SERMON*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston***"Attire"***** PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**God of Truth, God of Justice,
Do not give up on us.
Do not lose patience with us.
Keep sending us invitations
Keep calling us to faithfulness.
Help us heed your summons with joy.
Amen.**

*** HYMN 767****Together We Serve****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE***The Rev. Dr. Jonah So***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*The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O How Amiable • *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)*
Text from Psalms 84 and 90

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 an 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 always 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 handywork, O prosper thou our handywork.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

* 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 755

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

* 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

Prelude in E-flat major, op. 99, no. 3
Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921)

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*
Children & Youth Choir
Dr. Eugenia Oi Yan Yau, *Director* • Pablo Molano, *Pianist*

WORSHIP NOTES

The Anthem, *I sat down under his shadow*, was composed by Edward Bairstow, one of England's foremost cathedral musicians of the early twentieth century. Bairstow served for many years as Organist and Master of the Music at York Minster, where he established a tradition of musical excellence that continues to this day. Written in 1925, this radiant motet sets a text from the *Song of Songs* that evokes the image of a divine banquet: a place of rest, delight, and overwhelming generosity. In Bairstow's setting, the music unfolds with a warm simplicity, evoking the inner joy and peace that arises in the awareness of God's boundless abundance.

The Offertory Anthem was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, a leading figure in twentieth-century music who wrote extensively in all genres. Williams, an English composer, conductor, and organist, also made an important contribution to sacred music as the editor of *The English Hymnal*, which was published in 1906 and is still in use today. *O how amiable* was written for a church festival in 1934 and combines texts from Psalms 84 and 90. It concludes with *Our God, our help in ages past* set to William Croft's great hymn tune "St. Anne."

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 Batuan, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad
Patricia Blair, Teresita Block, Sarah Boyce, Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, 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 Engorme, Jeanne Lehman French
David Getz, 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, Violet Lorenzen, Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Octavia McLaren
Epifania Mercado, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy, Joyce Nolen, Frank Owarish, 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, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither, Susan Tobiason, Henny Waisapy
Bill Wanek, John Weisel, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich, Deborah 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** **Chapel Church.** Jones Auditorium.
Little Lambs Nursery & Sunday School. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 10:15 am** **Children's Choir.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
Little Lambs Nursery, Sunday School & Youth. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 12:15 pm** **Coffee Hour.** Bonnell Hall. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and friends.
Sermon Springboard. Zoom. Join Rev. Natalie and members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.
Tour of the Church. After worship, look for a docent in the back of the Sanctuary with a "Tour Starts Here" sign.
- 12:45 pm** **Faith in the Age of AI.** Jones Auditorium. Explore the intersection of faith and AI through theology, ethics, culture, and lived experience.
- 2 pm** **Memorial for Connie Klages.** Sanctuary.
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This Week

- Mon Oct 20** **SAGES.** 12 pm • Zoom. Join elder members for fellowship and study. Contact community@fapc.org to join.
- Tue Oct 21** **Weekly Word Bible Study.** 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email community@fapc.org. To register, visit fapc.org/community.
- Wed Oct 22** **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!
Supper Club. 6:30 pm. For more information or to register, email Austin Applebach at community@fapc.org.
FAYA Midweek. 6:30 pm • The Living Room. To learn more, contact youngadults@fapc.org.
- Thu Oct 23** **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit fapc.org/community to learn more and to sign up.
Asian American Bible Study. 6:30 pm • 6th Floor Conference Room & Zoom.
- Fri Oct 24** **Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards.** 6:30 pm. Jones Auditorium and Bonnell Hall. Buy your tickets today at fapc.org/jones.
Youth Group Last Friday Hangout. 7 pm • LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- Sat Oct 25** **Meals on Heels.** 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Contact: John Wyatt (moh@fapc.org).

Next Sunday • Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
"Unfair" • Luke 16:1-9 • *The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.*

NEWS & EVENTS

Today: Faith in the Age of AI

Come to Jones Auditorium after worship to continue our exploration of AI and ethics. Dr. Isaac Sharp invites us to reflect on how our faith traditions speak to the promises and perils of artificial intelligence. From questions of justice and human dignity to power, agency, and moral responsibility, we'll consider how Christian ethics can help us navigate the ethical terrain of emerging technologies. Dr. Sharp recently joined the Faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary from Union Theological Seminary where he explored AI, ethics, and social justice themes.

Friday, October 24: Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards

It's one of our biggest nights of the year as Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church celebrates the Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards! The Jones Awards honor dedicated lay leaders for their outstanding service to the church. The event begins at 6:30 pm with cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a three-course dinner and the awards presentation. Today is the last day to purchase your tickets at fapc.org/jones. Please join us on Friday!

Sunday, October 26: Family Ministries Fall Festival

All families with children are invited to join us at 12:30 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center for fun games, crafts and, of course, a costume contest! Lunch will be served and a donation of \$10 per person is requested. Visit fapc.org/fall to learn more and register.

Sunday, October 26: Parents Community Group

Parents of children all ages and stages are invited to join us in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center each month this fall as we gather for coffee, fellowship and study. To learn more, please email Jaime Staehle, Director of Christian Education, at familyministries@fapc.org.

Sunday, November 2: Encoded Inequity: Race, Faith, and Power in the Age of AI

As artificial intelligence becomes more deeply woven into our daily lives, the systems we build increasingly reflect the same racial injustices and power imbalances present in our society. Join us on Zoom at 7 pm as we explore how Christian communities can respond to these challenges with clarity, courage, and a commitment to equity. Dr. Grace Y. Kao is a Christian ethicist and a professor at Claremont School of Theology, engaging emerging questions in the ethics of artificial intelligence through the lens of justice, faith, and public responsibility. Learn more and register at fapc.org/encode.

Friday, November 7, & Sunday, November 9: Love, Loss and What I Wore

Theatre Fellowship returns to the stage this fall with a reading of *Love, Loss and What I Wore* by award-winning writers Nora and Delia Ephron. Known for their wit and wisdom, they delve into the emotions that are evoked by the clothes that they wore. Get your tickets today at fapc.org/theater.

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.

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* • Dennis Bushe, *Clerk of Session*
Persis Luke, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Rachel Brenner	Chloe Hawker	Evelyn Acosta
Dennis Bushe	Josie Lawrence	Amanda DeMeola
Roseanne Lind	Persis Luke	Kathy Henderson
Nate Mahrer	Patrick Obeng-Frimpong	Phillip Ma
Brian McLendon	Thomas Pak	Thomas Mann
Erica Moffett	David Roberson	Glenda Moreland
Martha Van Hise	Beth Rumore Stanley	McKenna Nelson
Suri Wong (Youth Elder)	Jama Toug	Lynn Wishart

The Board of Deacons

Brendan Birth, *Moderator* • Jeanne Lehman French, *Vice Moderator* • Kyle Hughes, *Secretary*
Susan Roberson, *Treasurer*

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Chrissy Badger	Jesse Allen	Lisa Cinelli
Brendan Birth	Andy Craven	Linda Ferm-Fagan
Joshua Code	Myra Ford	Debbie Goetz
Rumel Francois	Mary Sue Highmore	Tingting Markstrum
Jeanne Lehman French	Kyle Hughes	Gary McKoy
Bruce Ramsden	Susie Hunter	Charlotte Nichols
Susan Roberson	Trevor Illingworth	Matt Roush
Betsy Ross	Jamie Ku	Anggryani Sumenge
Amelia Vogler Topping	Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough	David Sytsma
Julia Ward	Kathy Peterson	Suzanne Zywicki
	Nicole Rusk	

The Board of Trustees

Jane Hong, *President* • Joyce Hansen, *Vice President* • Chris Edwards, *Secretary*
Marran Ogilvie, *Assistant Secretary* • Christopher Duffy, *Treasurer* • Constance Pond, *Assistant Treasurer*

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Christopher Duffy	Joyce Hansen	Julie Hennighausen
Chris Edwards	Mark Moreland	Tammi Kenton
Meredith Fleck	Marran Ogilvie	Daniel Krueger
Jane Hong	Constance Pond Hubbard	Janet Nettleton Otto
Susan Neunaber	Phil Ryan	Sean Topping
Thomas Wesley	William Stone	Chrissy Wojcik

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*

Austin Applebach, *Director of Engagement*

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*

Isabel Packevicz, *Parish Visitor and Young Adult & Youth Associate*

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



The Kenneth O. Jones Distinguished Service Awards

Friday, October 24 • 6:30 pm

Visit fapc.org/jones to get your tickets today!

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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