



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 26, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Marinus van Reymerswaele, *Parable of the Unjust Steward*, circa 1540

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

Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott
("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"), BWV 720
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Trustee Susan Neunaber

One: We are weary of arrogance,
All: so we gather in humility.
One: We have had our fill of aggression,
All: so we gather with gentleness.
One: We have tasted the bitter fruit of hate,
All: so we gather to pursue love.
One: When God's people dwell together in unity,
All: a new day will dawn.
One: Our hearts will be shaped by truth.
All: We will walk in the light of God.
One: Let us worship, sing and pray.

* HYMN 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

* 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

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

I wait-ed, I wait-ed on the Lord; I wait-ed, I wait-ed on the
Lord; who bent down low and re-mem-bered me and who heard my prayer.

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* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;
light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.
Vic-tory is ours; vic-tory is ours through God who loves us. us.

Music: John L. Bell, 1996. Text: Desmond Tutu, 1994.

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* PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*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. Dr. Jonah So

MOMENT FOR COMMITMENT *Deacon Jennica Carmona and Deacon Joel Arandia*

ANTHEM

Beati quorum via • C.V. Stanford (1852–1924)
Text: Psalm 119:1

*Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.*

Blessed are those who live with integrity,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 16:1-9

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned the manager and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation

than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest mammon, so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

“Unfair”

* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**Righteous God,
in this messy world,
we ask for the gift of focus.
When we handle mammon,
keep our eyes ever on you,
so that all that we might forge
would be grounded in eternity. Amen.**

* HYMN 436

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

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

Let the People Praise Thee, O God
William Mathias (1934–1992) Text from Psalm 67

Let the people praise thee, O God;
Yea, let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
For thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
And govern the nations upon earth.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
And God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
God shall bless us, and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us:
And show us the light of his countenance,
And be merciful unto us.
That thy way may be known upon earth,
Thy saving health among all nations.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. 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 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

* BENEDICTION

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

* CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Grace of Christ • William Smith Rockstro (1823–1895)
Text by John Newton (1725–1807)

May the grace of Christ our Savior,
And our Maker's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union
Held together by the Word,
And possess in rich communion
Joys which earth cannot afford.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in F major, BWV 540 • *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*

WORSHIP NOTES

The Anthem is a very famous setting by one of the great-grandfathers of English choral music, Charles Villiers Stanford. *Beati quorum via* ("Blessed are those"), is the second in a set of three motets for unaccompanied choir, composed around 1892 and published in 1905. The motets are dedicated to Alan Gray and the choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, and are widely considered to be amongst Stanford's finest choral compositions. In particular, the elegant six-voice part writing in *Beati quorum via* ensures its place as one of Stanford's most exquisite compositions for unaccompanied choir.

The Offertory Anthem, *Let the People Praise Thee, O God*, is a joyful anthem composed by William Mathias for the wedding of Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1981. Mathias's strikingly individual choral style is characterized by a distinctive rhythmic fluency, which often has been compared to his famous compatriot, Benjamin Britten. This exciting piece also perfectly illustrates the colorful organ parts that buttress many of Mathias's choral compositions. The contrasting soft, tender passage for sustained voices (with a gently rocking accompaniment) midway through the anthem is a wonderful example of Mathias's melodic gift for fashioning sustained passages from almost plainsong-like fragments.

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, 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, 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. 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.
- 12:30 pm** **Family Ministries Fall Festival.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
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This Week

- Tue Oct 28** **Weekly Word Bible Study.** 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email community@fapc.org. To register, visit fapc.org/community.
- Wed Oct 29** **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!
FAYA Midweek. 6:30 pm • The Living Room. To learn more, contact youngadults@fapc.org.
- Thu Oct 30** **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit fapc.org/community to learn more and to sign up.
- Sat Nov 1** **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

- Sun Nov 2** **Encoded Inequity: Race, Faith, and Power in the Age of AI.** 7 pm • Zoom. To learn more and register, visit fapc.org/adulted.
- Mon Nov 3** **SAGES.** 12 pm • Zoom. Join elder members for fellowship and study. Contact community@fapc.org to join.
- Fri Nov 7 & Sun Nov 9** **Love, Loss & What I Wore.** Jones Auditorium. Learn more and purchase your tickets at fapc.org/theater.
- Sun Nov 9** **A Faith & AI Panel: Reflections from our Community.** 12:45 pm • Jones Auditorium.

Next Sunday • All Saints Day

"Spectacle" • Luke 18:9-14

The Rev. Chris Palmer, preaching.

NEWS & EVENTS

Today: 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/adulted.

Friday, November 7, and 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.

Sunday, November 9: A Faith & AI Panel - Reflections from Our Community

Join us in Jones Auditorium or on YouTube at 12:45 pm after worship! After weeks of exploring artificial intelligence through the lenses of ethics, theology, and culture, a panel of Fifth Avenue members whose professional lives intersect with AI—from medicine and education to the arts and technology—will reflect on what they've heard and how it resonates in their fields. Together, we'll consider how faith might help us respond to the challenges and possibilities of AI with wisdom, integrity, and hope.

Friday, November 14: FAYA Fall Retreat

Calling all young adults! Community takes time to develop, which is why we go on two retreats every year. Together we take a bus from the lobby of Fifth Avenue on Friday evening and head to New Jersey for a weekend of worship, nature, and friendship. Learn more and register at fapc.org/retreat.

Tuesday, November 18: Warmly Wrapped—Winter Coat Distribution Day

The Ecumenical Outreach Partnership (EOP) hosts its annual winter coat distribution day to provide coats, winter clothing, and other essentials to our homeless and vulnerable neighbors. Volunteers are needed in two, three-hour shifts, from 10 am to 3 pm in the LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center. Meals along with coffee will also be served! To volunteer, register online at fapc.org/serve or email outreach@fapc.org.

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

SOWING
Abundance

+30%

The 2026 Pledge Campaign

This congregation has pledged over \$1.15 million for *Sowing Abundance*, our 2026 pledge campaign. We are over 30% towards our goal. Thank you!

Your pledge supports Fifth Avenue's abundant worship services, music ministries, robust hybrid church family, outreach to the vulnerable, and so much more.

To help our church meet its \$3.7 million goal, please make your pledge today at fapc.org/pledge.

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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