



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2, 2026 • 6:30 PM



T. Denise Anderson, *Threshold*, 2022

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.

➔ **Worship Resources Online**

A replay of today’s service will be available tomorrow at fapc.org/playback. Details about the services for Holy Week can be found at fapc.org/lent.

➔ **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 begin our preparation for worship.
Please **silence all electronic devices** and do not take flash photos during the service.*

PRELUDE

Le banquet céleste ("The Heavenly Banquet")
Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992)

* CALL TO WORSHIP *Elder Sylvia Winrich*

Adapted from Psalm 116

One: In the deepening darkness,
in the shadow of the cross

All: we gather in the name of Christ.

One: Order our steps to follow you

All: wherever the path may lead.

One: Cleanse our feet to show us how

All: to serve as your disciples in the world.

One: Teach us your commandment,

All: so we may love as you loved.

One: Gather us now in your holy name.

* HYMN 202

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

* CALL TO CONFESSION *The Rev. Werner Ramirez*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God,
whose covenant with us is never broken,
we confess that we fail to fulfill your will.
Though you have bound yourself to us,
we will not bind ourselves to you.
In Jesus Christ, you serve us freely,
but we refuse your love
and withhold ourselves from others.
We do not love you fully
or love one another as you command.
In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us.
Lead us once again to your table, and unite us to Christ,
who is the bread of life
and the vine from which we grow in grace.**

Silent Reflection and Confession

* SUNG RESPONSE

O Lamb of God most ho - ly! Who on the cross did suf - fer,
 And pa - tient still and low - ly, Your - self to scorn did of - fer;
 Our sins by You were tak - en, Or hope had us for - sak - en:
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus!

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

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 What won - drous love is this, O my soul,
 What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
 To bear the heav - y cross for my soul, for my soul,
 To bear the heav - y cross for my soul!

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

ANTHEM

Ubi caritas • Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)
Traditional Maundy Thursday Antiphon, 8th century
Text by Paulinus of Aquileia, circa. 796

<i>Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.</i>	Where charity and love are, God is there.
<i>Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.</i>	Christ's love has gathered us into one.
<i>Exsulemus, et in ipso jucundemur.</i>	Let us rejoice and be pleased in him.
<i>Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.</i>	Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
<i>Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.</i>	And may we love each other with a sincere heart.
<i>Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.</i>	Where charity and love are, God is there.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 13:1-15

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

"Teacher & Lord"

* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God who kneels to wash our feet,
We give you thanks for this night
Christ shared with his disciples.
Help us now, even as we do not fully understand,
To follow in Christ's footsteps.
Help us to serve as Jesus served,
To love as Jesus loved,
Until the day of our reconciliation in you. Amen.

* SUNG RESPONSE

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be,
And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

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

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

SUNG RESPONSE

(Sung repeatedly throughout the Reaffirmation of Baptism)

Wash me in the wa - ter: the riv - er of God is pure.
Heal me! Lord, have mer - cy: your prom - ise and pow'r are sure.

Music and Text: John L. Bell © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland. GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-721169.

CALL TO GIVE

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come and Taste • *Traditional, arr. Alice Parker (1925–2023)*
Text by John Leland (1754–1841)

Come and taste along with me
Consolation flowing free,
From the Father's wealthy throne,
Sweeter than the honeycomb.

Refrain

I'll praise God and you praise God,
And we'll all praise God together;
We'll praise the Lord for the work that He has done,
And we'll bless His name forever.

All that come with free good will
Make the banquet sweeter still;
Now I go to Mercy's door,
Asking for a little more.

Refrain

Goodness, running like a stream
Through the new Jerusalem,
By a constant breaking forth
Sweetens earth and heaven both.

Refrain

O, return, ye child of grace,
Turn and see God's smiling face.
Hark, God calls backsliders home,
Then from God no longer roam.

Refrain

* 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Rev. Chris Palmer

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

Communion of the People

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks
Herbert Howells (1892–1983), Text: Psalm 42:1-3

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,
So longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God,
Yea, even for the living God.

When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night,
While they daily say unto me,
Where, where is now thy God?

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* HYMN 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

TENEBRAE: THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

(Each section will be sung first by the cantor, then with the congregation.)

Austin Applebach, The Shadow of Betrayal: Matthew 26:20-25
Director of Engagement

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Claudia Chwe The Shadow of Inner Agony: Luke 22:40-44

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Willie Kalema The Shadow of Loneliness: Matthew 26:40-45

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Neva Strom The Shadow of Desertion: Matthew 26:47-50, 55-56

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Bruce Ramsden The Shadow of Accusation: Matthew 26:59-67

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Michael Franch The Shadow of Mockery: Mark 15:12-20

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Ailih Weeldreyer The Shadow of Death: Luke 23:33-46

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

THE LIGHT DEPARTS

THE STREPITUS

THE LIGHT RETURNS

* BENEDICTION

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

The ministry of music this evening 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*

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Early Christian churches had beautiful and dramatic services to commemorate the events of Holy Week. They called one of these services Tenebrae—a Latin word meaning “shadows” or “darkness.”

The distinctive feature of a Tenebrae service is the gradual extinction of lights in the Sanctuary. As the readings proceed, the Sanctuary grows darker until a solitary candle remains. This candle represents Christ alone, surrounded by the forces of darkness, when all of his disciples have fled. Finally, even this candle is removed and hidden, symbolic of the apparent victory of the powers of darkness over our Lord in his Passion. Christ has gone: “crucified, dead and buried.”

At this moment in the service, in the dark silence of the church, there is a sudden, sharp noise. This Strepitus (or “loud sound”) symbolizes the earthquake that came at the moment of Christ’s death. The powers of death and destruction have done their worst—yet all is not lost. The lone candle that was hidden returns to the Sanctuary, beckoning us to return on Easter morning for the coming of the Light.

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) we offer Sunday School for Pre-K through second grade at 9:30 am and Pre-K through fifth grade following the Litany of Parting during the 11 am worship service. 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. Visit fapc.org/family to learn more, or 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	Green City Force
Church of Gethsemane	Hands Along the Nile
Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar	Development Services
The Farminary Project	Holmes Camp and Retreat Center
Frontera de Cristo	Ministry of Hope Lesotho
Garden of Hope	Parity
Good Samaritan Project	PC(USA) Global Liaisons Cobbie and Dessa Palm
of First Spanish Presbyterian Church	Urban Outreach Center NYC

To learn more, visit fapc.org/outreach, or contact Ruben Nuño, director of the Ecumenical Outreach Partnership (212.247.0490 ext 3038, 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

Holy Week & Easter Services

Good Friday:

Service of Sacred Music & Reflection | April 3
12–3 pm • Sanctuary & Livestream

Easter: Resurrection of the Lord | April 5

9:30 am, Sanctuary • 11:15 am, Sanctuary & Livestream
The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

We invite you to bring fresh-cut flowers for 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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