



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3, 2026 • 12:00 PM



Donald Jackson, *The Crucifixion*, 2006

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

Adagio for Strings • *Samuel Barber (1910–1981)*
Arr. William Strickland (1914–1991)

* 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. JOHN

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, The Rev. Chris Palmer,
The Rev. Werner Ramirez, The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, and Austin Applebach, Director of Engagement*

Silent Reflection

I. "SUFFERING SERVANT"

* HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

* UNISON PRAYER

**Suffering Servant,
the pain of today weighs on us.
It begs us to ask—by what name shall we call on you?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Call each of us by name. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Wondrous Love • *Traditional, arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, O my soul,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I am,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

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 joyful be,
And thro' eternity I'll sing on.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

HOMILY

The Rev. Chris Palmer

Silent Reflection

II. "THE MAN"

* HYMN 210

Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me

* UNISON PRAYER

**Suffering Servant,
the pain of today weighs on us.
It begs us to ask—by what name shall we call on you?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Call each of us by name. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Drop, Drop Slow Tears • *Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)*
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

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

HOMILY

Austin Applebach, Director of Engagement

Silent Reflection

III. "BLASPHEMER"

* HYMN 224

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

* UNISON PRAYER

**Suffering Servant,
the pain of today weighs on us.
It begs us to ask—by what name shall we call on you?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Call each of us by name. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Been in de Storm *and* Wayfaring Stranger
Traditional Spirituals, arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

I've been in de storm so long,
I've been in de storm so long, children,
I've been in de storm so long,
Oh, give me little time to pray.

Oh, let me tell my mother how I come along,
Oh, give me little time to pray.
With a hung down head and an aching heart,
Oh, give me little time to pray.

Oh, when I get to heaven gonna walk all about,
Oh, give me little time to pray.
There'll be nobody there to turn me out,
Oh, give me little time to pray.

I've been in de storm, I've been in de storm,
I've been in de storm so long,
Oh, give me little time to pray.

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me,
I know my way is rough and steep,
But golden fields lie out before me
Where God's redeemed shall ever sleep.

I'm goin' there to see my mother,
She said she'd meet me when I come,
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a-goin' over home.

I'm goin' there to see my Savior,
To sing his praise forevermore.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a-goin' over home.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 14:64

"You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death.

HOMILY

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

Silent Reflection

IV. "THE KING"

* HYMN 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

* UNISON PRAYER

**Suffering Servant,
the pain of today weighs on us.
It begs us to ask—by what name shall we call on you?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Call each of us by name. Amen.**

ANTHEM

King of Glory • *Chant, arr. Elmer Iseler (1927–1998)*
Text by George Herbert (1593–1632)

King of glory, king of peace, I will love thee;
And that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee;
And the cream of all my heart I will bring thee;
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
And alone when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is in this poor sort to enroll thee;
E'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

SCRIPTURE

John 18:37

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

HOMILY

Barron Flood, Outreach & Engagement Intern

Silent Reflection

V. "MESSIAH"

* HYMN 217

On a Barren Hilltop

* UNISON PRAYER

**Suffering Servant,
the pain of today weighs on us.
It begs us to ask—by what name shall we call on you?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Call each of us by name. Amen.**

ANTHEM

The Crown of Roses • *P.I. Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)*
Text: Plechtchéev, trans. Geoffrey Dearmer

When Jesus Christ was yet a child
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein he cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.

Now once, as summertime drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree,
With shouts they plucked them merrily.

“Do you bind roses in your hair?”
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there.
The boy said humbly: “Take, I pray,
All but the naked thorns away.”

Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers pressed it down,
Till on his forehead fair and young
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:32-43

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself.”

There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the King of the Jews.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

HOMILY

Jaime Staehle, Director of Christian Education

Silent Reflection

VI. "WOUNDED HEALER"

* HYMN 212

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

* UNISON PRAYER

**Suffering Servant,
the pain of today weighs on us.
It begs us to ask—by what name shall we call on you?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Call each of us by name. 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 19:32-34

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

HOMILY

Isabel Packevicz, Parish Visitor

VII. "SON OF GOD"

* HYMN 221

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

* UNISON PRAYER

**Suffering Servant,
the pain of today weighs on us.
It begs us to ask—by what name shall we call on you?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Call each of us by name. 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

Matthew 27:50-56

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

HOMILY

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

Silent Reflection

ANTHEM

Funeral Ikos • *John Tavener (1944–2013)*
Text from the Orthodox funeral sentences for the burial of priests,
trans. Isabel Hapgood (1850–1928)

Why these bitter words of the dying,
O brethren, which they utter as they go hence?
I am parted from my brethren.
All my friends do I abandon and go hence.
But whither I go, that understand I not,
neither what shall become of me yonder;
only God who hath summoned me knoweth.
But make commemoration of me with the song:
Alleluia.

But whither now go the souls?
How dwell they now together there?
This mystery have I desired to learn,
but none can impart aright.
Do they call to mind their own people
as we do them?
Or have they forgotten all those
who mourn them and make the song:
Alleluia.

We go forth on the path eternal,
and as condemned, with downcast faces,
present ourselves before the only God eternal.
Where then is comeliness?
Where then is wealth?
Where then is the glory of this world?
There shall none of these things aid us,
but only to say oft the psalm: Alleluia.

If thou hast shown mercy unto man,
O man, that same mercy
shall be shown thee there;
and if on an orphan thou hast shown compassion,
the same shall there deliver thee from want.
If in this life the naked thou hast clothed,
the same shall give thee shelter there,
and sing the psalm: Alleluia.

Youth and the beauty of the body fade
at the hour of death, and the tongue
then burneth fiercely, and the parched throat is inflamed.
The beauty of the eyes is quenched then,
the comeliness of the face all altered,
the shapeliness of the neck destroyed;
and the other parts have become numb
nor often say: Alleluia.

With ecstasy are we inflamed if we
but hear that there is light eternal yonder;
that there is paradise, wherein every soul
of righteous ones rejoiceth.
Let us all, also, enter into Christ,
that all we may cry aloud thus unto God: Alleluia.

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, Francesca Lionetta, and Rebecca Soelberg, *Sopranos*

WORSHIP NOTES

The final anthem this afternoon is a piece composed by British composer, John Tavener in 1981. *Funeral Ikos* is characterized by a distinctive spare, chant-like quality inspired by the music of the Eastern Orthodox Church. 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.

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 flowers for the Flowering of the Cross 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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