



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29, 2024 • 12:00 PM



Laura James, *Jesus Bears His Cross*, 2002

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 224

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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. LUKE

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, The Rev. Werner Ramirez, The Rev. Sarah A. Speed, The Rev. Dr. Jonah So
Silent Reflection

I. JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN

* HYMN 220

Go to Dark Gethsemane

* UNISON PRAYER

**Resilient God,
the heaviness of today weighs on us.
It begs us ask: Why this suffering? Why this path?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Remind us that we are not alone.
Amen.**

ANTHEM

Drop, Drop Slow Tears • *Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)*
Text by Phineas Fletcher (1582–1650)

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful 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

Luke 22:42-44

‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.’ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

HOMILY

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

Silent Reflection

II. LAST TEACHING

* HYMN 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

* UNISON PRAYER

**Resilient God,
the heaviness of today weighs on us.
It begs us ask: Why this suffering? Why this path?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Remind us that we are not alone.
Amen.**

ANTHEM

Set Me As a Seal • *René Clausen (b. 1953)*
Text: Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love;
neither can the floods drown it.

SCRIPTURE

John 15:12-13

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

HOMILY

Seminarian Shannon Duke

Silent Reflection

III. THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF JESUS

* HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

* UNISON PRAYER

**Resilient God,
the heaviness of today weighs on us.
It begs us ask: Why this suffering? Why this path?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Remind us that we are not alone.
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 22:47-53

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, 'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?' When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, 'Lord, should we strike with the sword?' Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, 'No more of this!' And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!'

HOMILY

The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

Silent Reflection

IV. FOR HE IS OUR PEACE

* HYMN 212

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

* UNISON PRAYER

**Resilient God,
the heaviness of today weighs on us.
It begs us ask: Why this suffering? Why this path?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Remind us that we are not alone.
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

Ephesians 2:13-14

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

HOMILY

Seminarian JY Lee

Silent Reflection

V. THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

* HYMN 217

On a Barren Hilltop

* UNISON PRAYER

**Resilient God,
the heaviness of today weighs on us.
It begs us ask: Why this suffering? Why this path?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Remind us that we are not alone.
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

Luke 23:32-38

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

HOMILY

The Rev. Werner Ramirez

Silent Reflection

VI. THE DEATH OF JESUS

* HYMN 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

* UNISON PRAYER

**Resilient God,
the heaviness of today weighs on us.
It begs us ask: Why this suffering? Why this path?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Remind us that we are not alone.
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

Luke 23:50-56

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

HOMILY

Seminarian Kari Swanson

VII. COVERED BY THE BLOOD

* HYMN 221

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

* UNISON PRAYER

**Resilient God,
the heaviness of today weighs on us.
It begs us ask: Why this suffering? Why this path?
Meet us in our seeking. Meet us in our grief.
Remind us that we are not alone.
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

Hebrews 9:22

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

Silent Reflection

ANTHEM

Nunc dimittis • Pawel Lukaszewski (b. 1968)

Text: Luke 2:29-32

*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
Secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium
populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
Et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.*

Now dismiss your servant, Lord,
In peace, according to your word:
For my own eyes have seen your salvation,
Which you have prepared in the sight of all
people:
A light to reveal you to the nations,
And the glory of your people Israel.

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 and Rebecca Soelberg, *Sopranos*
Emery Kerekes, *Baritone* • Devony Smith, *Mezzo-Soprano*

GETTING CONNECTED

Adult Education

Each spring and fall, we offer courses in theology and Scripture, spirituality, social issues and other disciplines. The curriculum includes visiting authors, interfaith dialogue and other events. 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

Want stronger relationships? Community groups make that possible. 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 contact Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom, director of engagement (membership@fapc.org).

Congregational Care

If you (or others you know in our congregation) are going through a difficult time, we are here for you. We have a team of dedicated staff and volunteers who are available for counseling, home and hospital visits, medical escorts and prayer. You may also visit fapc.org/care to submit a prayer request and learn more about our Congregational Care program.

Family Ministries

Family Ministries brings together families from diverse backgrounds to nurture healthy children and strong, faithful families. Our Little Lambs nursery for infants and toddlers is available every Sunday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Sunday School and Youth Group take place at 9:30 am during the program year (September through May). Children depart the 11 am worship service to attend Children's Church every Sunday (except for our summer break, from June 25 until Homecoming). We also sponsor special events for families and kids throughout the year. Learn more and register your child at fapc.org/family. 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, led by the Rev. Sarah Speed. 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). Or contact Sarah (youngadults@fapc.org). We'd love to get to know you!

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 to register, or contact Ashley Gonzalez-Grissom, director of engagement (212.247.0490 ext 3005, membership@fapc.org).

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	Mission co-workers in Madagascar,
Church of Gethsemane	the Philippines & the U.S.–Mexico border
The Farminary Project	Parity
Garden of Hope	Search and Care
Hands Along the Nile Development Services	Urban Outreach Center NYC
Holmes Camp and Retreat Center	West Side Federation for Senior
Ministry of Hope Lesotho	and Supportive Housing

To learn more, visit fapc.org/outreach, or contact Christine Boyle, director of outreach and missions (212.247.0490 ext 3006, 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 Rev. Sarah A. Speed at womensministry@fapc.org.

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-cut flowers to add
to 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

Mon • Thu • Fri

9 am – 5 pm

Tuesday • Wednesday

9 am – 8 pm

Saturday

8 am – 1 pm

Sunday

8 am – 2:30 pm



FAPCNYC



FAPC_NYC



FAPCinNYC



FAPC.ORG/LIVE

7 West 55th Street • New York, NY 10019