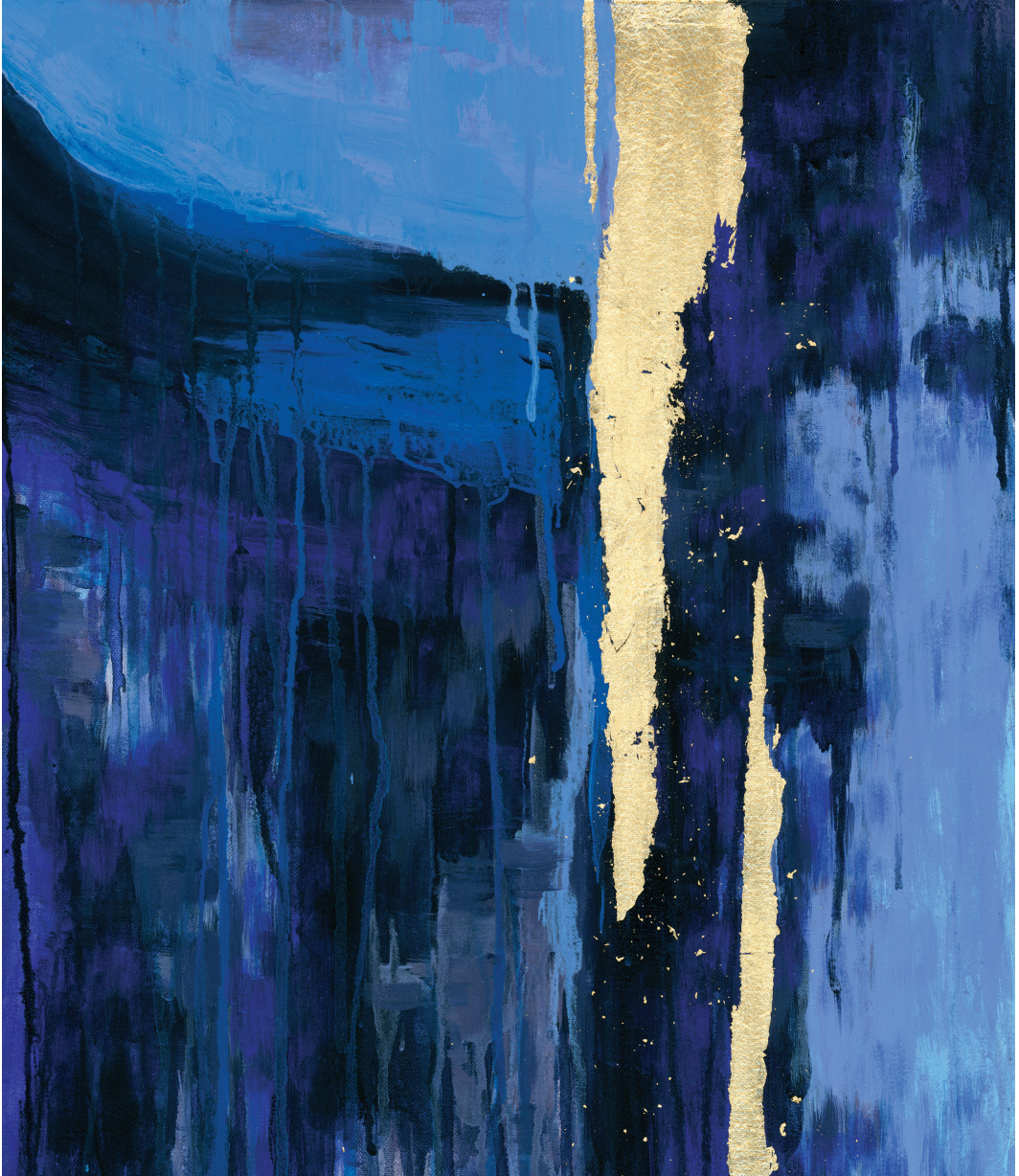




# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 1, 2024 • 11:00 AM

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Lisle Gwynn Garrity, *Light Pierces Through*

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**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

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## ➔ 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](http://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](http://fapc.org/playback). This morning’s Prayers of the People can be found at [fapc.org/pray](http://fapc.org/pray). Details about the upcoming service each week can be found at [fapc.org/this-sunday](http://fapc.org/this-sunday). For information about future worship services, visit [fapc.org/worship](http://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 O Come, Emmanuel: Variations on an Advent Hymn (1995)  
*Daniel Pinkham (1923–2006)*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *Based on Luke 21:25-28*  
*Elder Greg Dow*

One: Christ is coming!  
**All: We see the signs!**

One: Christ is coming!  
**All: We will be ready!**

One: Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!  
**All: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.**

\* HYMN 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

\* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE  
*Word Is Out Community Group: Porter Binks, Persis Luke, and John Kern*

\* SUNG RESPONSE



A can - dle is burn - ing, a flame warm and bright,  
a can - dle of hope in De - cem - ber's dark night.  
While an - gels sing bless - ings from heaven's star - ry sky,  
our hearts we pre - pare now for Je - sus is nigh.

Music: James R. Murray, 1887 - AWAY IN A MANGER. Text: Sandra Dean © 1986 Sandra Dean.  
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\* CALL TO CONFESSION  
*Seminarian Anne Nelson*

\* 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

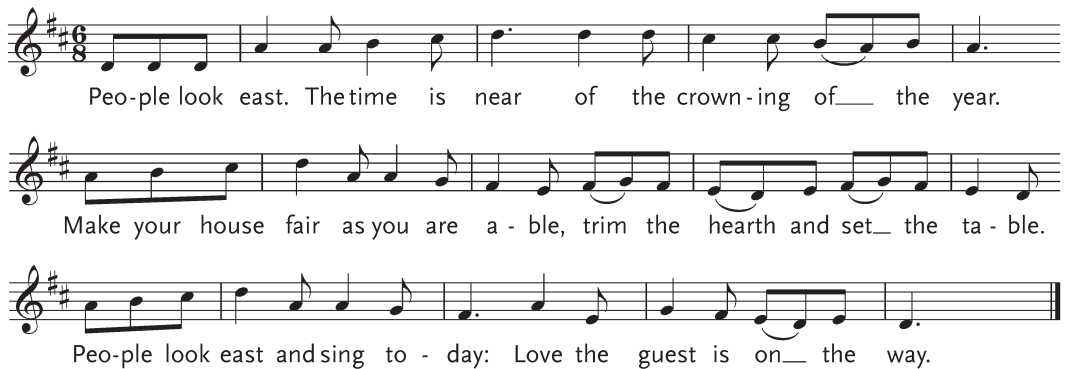
(Cantor sings once; then the congregation joins, singing once.)



Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son,  
Chri - ste e - le - - - i - son.

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE



Peo-ple look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of\_ the year.  
Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set\_ the ta - ble.  
Peo-ple look east and sing to - day: Love the guest is on\_ the way.

Music: French folk melody - BESANÇON. Text: Eleanor Farjeon © 1928 David Higham Associates.  
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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 second 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*

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ANTHEM

This Little Light of Mine

*Traditional, arr. Moses Hogan (1957–2003)*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine,  
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine,  
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

My God gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,  
My God gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,  
My God gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Matthew 5:13-16*

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*The Rev. Werner Ramirez*

**“Flickers of Hope”**

\* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**God of hope,**

**We give you thanks that in Jesus Christ, your redeeming love  
breaks into our world,**

**bringing hope to all people.**

**As we face the trials of this day,  
remind us of your coming reign—**

**a day of peace, justice, and renewal for all creation.**

**Help us, as your church, to proclaim this hope boldly,  
standing against injustice and working for abundant life for all.**

**In life and in death, we belong to you, O God.**

**Let this truth sustain us and guide us,  
as we strive to live as your faithful people,  
filled with hope, purpose, and love. Amen.**

\* SUNG RESPONSE



Ang-els, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life\_\_ to earth.



Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is com-ing.



Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on\_\_ the way.

Music: French folk melody - BESANÇON. Text: Eleanor Farjeon © 1928 David Higham Associates.  
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CALL TO GIVE

*The Rev. Chris Palmer*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Veiled in Darkness • *Glenn Rudolph (b. 1951)*

Veiled in darkness Judah lay, waiting for the promised day,  
While across the shadowy night streamed a flood of glorious light,  
Heavenly voices chanted then, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Still the earth in darkness lies, up from death's dark vale arise  
Voices of a world in grief, prayers of all who seek relief;  
Now our darkness pierce again,  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Light of light, we humbly pray, shine upon thy world today;  
Break the gloom of our dark night,  
fill our souls with love and light,  
Send thy blessed words again, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

\* 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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

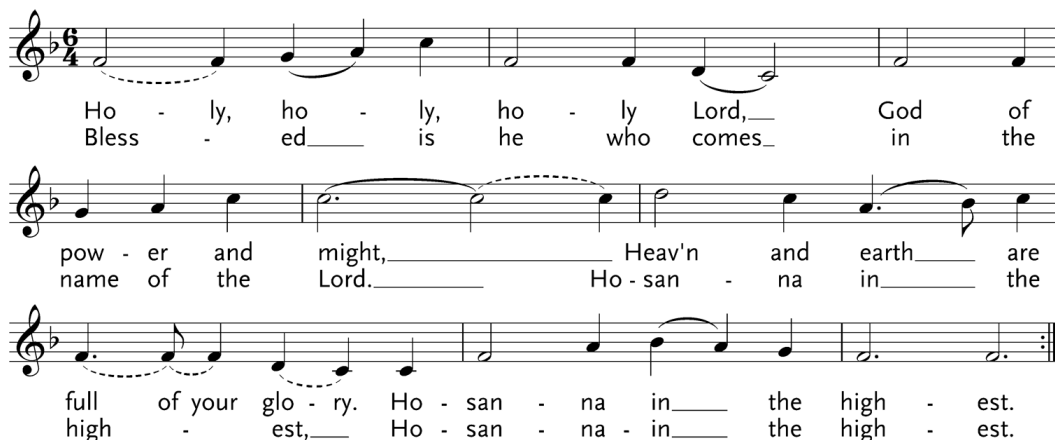
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we praise you.

Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel,  
and for Jesus Christ, in whom your fullness dwells.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
pow - er and might, Heav'n and earth are  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.

Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us.

Dying on the cross, he saves us. Rising from the dead, he gives new life.

Living with you, he prays for us. Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.  
Christ has died; Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup  
and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that this meal may be a communion  
in the body and blood of our Lord.

Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,  
that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh,  
in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

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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

Creator of the Stars of Night • *Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)*  
*Text: Office Hymn, English text by J. M. Neale (1818–1866)*

Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people's everlasting light,  
Jesu, Redeemer, save us all,  
And hear thy servants when they call.

Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to eveningtide,  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The Son of Man, yet all divine.

At thy great name, exalted now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
And things in heaven and earth shall own  
That thou art Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Laud, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\* HYMN 348

**Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending**

\* BENEDICTION

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

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes • *Mark G. Sirett (b. 1952)*  
*Text: Anonymous*

Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by any din of drums,  
Nor his manners, nor his airs,  
Nor by anything he wears.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by his crown or by his gown,  
But his coming known shall be,  
By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.



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POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*  
("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")  
*Andrew Carter (b. 1939)*

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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* • Shafiq Hicks, *Baritone*

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CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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**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](http://fapc.org/prayer-requests).

**Please pray for:**

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Patricia Blair, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad, Benjamin Bradley, Britta Cabanos, Pastor Toribio Cajiuat, 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, Sohn Fong, Irene P. Gilman, Anthea and Neville Graham, Florence Hall, Torian Hall, Wanda Roush Hannan, Peter S. Hawkins, Christopher Henderson, Donna Marie Henderson, Maggie Hendrix, Emi Iwaida, Juliet Kaldanie, Frederick Loomis, Louis Sterling King, Ceciwa Khonje, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson, Mary Lowry, Violet Lorenzen, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Gerry Nagy, Frank Owarish, Dexter Ramcharan, Don Rogers, Ramon Rosa, Pauline Sample, Robert Scheuer, Nancy Seelig, Tshombe Selby, Taylor Shultz, Bonnie Smith, Monica Smith, Spencer Robert Smith, Willie Gerald Smith, Frieda Sompotan, Neva Strom, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither, Susan Tobiasson, Henny Waisapy, Bill Wanek, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich, Deborah Wurgler, Doris Wurgler, Priscilla Young-Rodgers, Wayne Zhou

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](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org), 212.247.0490).

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WORSHIP NOTES

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This morning's Offertory Anthem is a lovely setting of the ancient Advent hymn, *Conditor alme siderum* ("Creator of the Stars of Night"). Its text dates back to the 7th century. While of uncertain authorship, the text is one of the great treasures of hymnody: in just five classical quatrains (three of which are in today's setting), the writer gives a complete overview of salvation history, powerful for its simplicity and economy: Christ himself is the creator of the stars of night, the light of all believers, who came to save the world. He was born of the Virgin Mary and now all creation acknowledges him as Lord and awaits his return. The hymn is traditionally sung to Sarum Plainsong, Mode IV, which is the melody heard this morning. This chant dates back to the 9th century when the Sarum tradition originated at the Cathedral of Salisbury in the UK.

## CALENDAR

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### Today

- 9:30 am** **Chapel Church.** Jones Auditorium.  
**Little Lambs Nursery.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.  
**Family Ministries Advent Festival.** Christian Education Center.
- 10:15 am** **Children's Choir.** LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
- 11 am** **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
- 11:15 am** **Children's Church.** Kirkland Chapel & 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.  
**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** **Sermon Springboard.** Zoom. Join Rev. Dr. Jonah So and members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.
- 7 pm** **How to Pray.** Webinar. Register at [fapc.org/adult-ed](http://fapc.org/adult-ed).
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### This Week

- Tue Dec 3** **Weekly Word Bible Study.** 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email [bible-study@fapc.org](mailto:bible-study@fapc.org). To register, visit [fapc.org/bible-study](http://fapc.org/bible-study).
- Wed Dec 4** **Community Choir.** 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!  
**Asian American Bible Study.** 6:30 pm • 6th Floor Conference Room & Zoom.
- Thu Dec 5** **Career Directions.** 10 am • Zoom. Visit [fapc.org/community-groups](http://fapc.org/community-groups) to learn more and to sign up.
- Fri Dec 6  
& Sat Dec 7** **Handel's Messiah.** 7 pm • Sanctuary & Livestream. Join the Fifth Avenue Chamber Choir for a stunning performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Get tickets at [fapc.org/tickets](http://fapc.org/tickets).
- Sat Dec 7** **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](mailto:moh@fapc.org)).

### Coming Up

- Sun Dec 8** **The Joe Vedella Holiday Dinner.** 2 pm • Bonnell Hall. Our annual holiday feast with our homeless neighbors.  
**Christmas at the Cloisters.** 2:30 pm • The Cloisters.
- Wed Dec 11** **Blue Christmas.** 6:30 pm • Sanctuary & Livestream. The Rev. Werner Ramirez, presiding.

### Next Sunday • Second Sunday of Advent

"Votives of Peace" • Luke 1:68-79

*The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.*

## NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Today: How to Pray**

Do you wonder about the role of prayer in your life? Have you ever been asked to pray or lead grace and felt unsure where to start? Join Dr. Frederick J. Streets and Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike for a workshop focused on learning and prayer. This workshop will provide practical strategies for enhancing your personal prayer life and offer guidance on leading effective and meaningful prayers in small groups or public settings. Rev. Dr. Frederick J. Streets is the Coordinator of the Divinity and Social Work Joint Degree Program at Yale Divinity School. Join us on Zoom at 7 pm. Register at [fapc.org/adult-ed](https://fapc.org/adult-ed).

### **Mondays, December 2 & 16: SAGES Community Group**

On the first and third Monday of the month at 12 pm EST, longtime members and elders in the Fifth Avenue community gather on Zoom for a time of devotion and discussion, fellowship and prayer. Come spend your noon hour with familiar faces and meet new ones as we connect over Zoom. Co-led by Rebecca Wild-Wesley and Elinor K. Hite, email [community@fapc.org](mailto:community@fapc.org) to join us!

### **Friday, December 6 & Saturday, December 7: Handel's Messiah**

Join us for our inaugural performances of Handel's *Messiah*! Revel in the glorious sounds of this timeless masterpiece, featuring renowned solos such as "Comfort Ye" and "Rejoice Greatly," alongside the iconic "Hallelujah" chorus. Experience the beauty of Handel's composition, in-person or on livestream, brought to life by our exceptional musicians in Fifth Avenue's majestic Sanctuary. Don't miss this unforgettable start to the holiday season! To purchase tickets, visit [fapc.org/tickets](https://fapc.org/tickets).

### **Monday, December 9: Shelter Family Holiday Party**

Join us as we welcome children and families living in the city shelter system to a family holiday party. Volunteers are needed to welcome our guests, attend to more than forty children and help create an evening of merriment. The event takes place from 5:30 until 8 pm. Volunteers are needed as early as 4:30 pm. Visit [fapc.org/shelter](https://fapc.org/shelter) to learn more and volunteer.

### **Wednesday, December 11: Blue Christmas Worship Service**

As the rest of the world rushes toward the Christmas holiday, our Blue Christmas service reminds us that Advent is a time of quiet contemplation and preparation. This service can also be healing for those who find the holidays difficult. Many describe Blue Christmas as one of the most beautiful and restorative services of the year. It begins at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary & on Livestream.

### **Women's Ministry Festive Noel Lunch**

All women are invited to join us on Sunday, December 22nd at 12:30pm in the Rita Arlen Room for a festive meal, Christmas caroling, and a book swap. Bring your holiday spirit and a wrapped new or lightly used book and enjoy a warm afternoon of fellowship and cheer! The cost for lunch is \$35. Please register at [fapc.org/women](https://fapc.org/women) by Sunday, December 15.

### **Did you know...**

...that you can nominate officers all year round? If you see a gift in someone in the community or wish to use your own abilities to serve as a church officer, go to [fapc.org/nominations](https://fapc.org/nominations) and fill out a nomination form! Please send us your recommendations. More information on the officer election process, and the officer recommendation form, are available at [fapc.org/nominations](https://fapc.org/nominations).

## GETTING CONNECTED

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### 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](https://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](https://fapc.org/community-groups), or email ([membership@fapc.org](mailto: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](https://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). Sunday School (PreK – 5th Grade) is at 9:30 am and Children’s Church (PreK – 2nd Grade) is following the Litany of Parting during the 11 am worship service during the program year. 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. Learn more at [fapc.org/family](https://fapc.org/family). Contact: Jaime Staehle (212.247.0490 ext 3003, [familyministries@fapc.org](mailto: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](https://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](mailto: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](https://fapc.org/membership) or email [membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org) to register.

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## 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](http://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](http://fapc.org/outreach), or contact Christine Boyle, director of outreach and missions (212.247.0490 ext 3006, [outreach@fapc.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:womensministry@fapc.org) or visit [fapc.org/women](http://fapc.org/women).

## OFFICERS BY CLASS

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### The Session

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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* • Meg Sheehan, *Clerk of Session*  
Dennis Bushe, *Assistant Clerk of Session*

#### Class of 2025

Eric Daniels  
Carol Kenney  
Ann Marie Koehler  
Chris Rogers  
Janeen A. Sarlin  
Meg Sheehan  
Sienna Toung  
Sylvia Winrich

#### Class of 2026

Rachel Brenner  
Dennis Bushe  
Roseanne Lind  
Nate Mahrer  
Brian McLendon  
Louisa Raitt  
Martha Van Hise

#### Class of 2027

Chloe Hawker  
Josie Lawrence  
Persis Luke  
Patrick Obeng-Frimpong  
Thomas Pak  
David Roberson  
Beth Rumore Stanley  
Jama Toung

### The Board of Deacons

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Kirsten Aiello, *Moderator* • Chad Schepp, *Vice Moderator* • Sarah McKoy, *Secretary*  
Susan Roberson, *Treasurer*

#### Class of 2025

Kirsten Aiello  
Kelly Baer  
Jessica Carmona  
Hope Griggs  
Jane Henn  
Sarah McKoy  
Jeannine Rodgers  
Chad Schepp  
Dicky Tuwaidan  
Arthur Wong

#### Class of 2026

Chrissy Badger  
Brendan Birth  
Joshua Code  
Rumel Francois  
Jeanne Lehman French  
Bruce Ramsden  
Susan Roberson  
Betsy Ross  
Amelia Vogler Topping  
Julia Ward

#### Class of 2027

Jesse Allen  
Andy Craven  
Myra Ford  
Mary Sue Highmore  
Kyle Hughes  
Susie Hunter  
Trevor Illingworth  
Jamie Ku  
Elizabeth (Beth) McCullough  
Kathy Peterson  
Nicole Rusk

### The Board of Trustees

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Ken Henderson, *President* • Jane Hong, *Vice President* • Susan Neunaber, *Secretary*  
Christopher Duffy, *Treasurer* • Meredith Fleck, *Assistant Treasurer*

#### Class of 2025

Susan Cersovsky  
Jose Guardado  
Ken Henderson  
Joanna McNurlen  
Jeff Rowbottom  
Mark Snyder

#### Class of 2026

Christopher Duffy  
Chris Edwards  
Meredith Fleck  
Jane Hong  
Susan Neunaber  
Thomas Wesley

#### Class of 2027

Joyce Hansen  
Mark Moreland  
Marran Ogilvie  
Constance Pond Hubbard  
Phil Ryan  
William Stone

## 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*

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The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen, *Parish Associate*

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Lim, *Parish Visitor*

The Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

The Rev. Randy Weber, *Associate Pastor Emeritus*

Christine Boyle, *Director of Outreach & Missions*

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*

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](mailto:familyministries@fapc.org)



**Join the online campus**

Natalie Owens-Pike

[hybridchurch@fapc.org](mailto:hybridchurch@fapc.org)



**Join the church**

Jonah So

[membership@fapc.org](mailto:membership@fapc.org)



**Make a donation**

[fapc.org/give](http://fapc.org/give)



**Make a bequest**

Richard Schexnider

[finance@fapc.org](mailto:finance@fapc.org)



**Plan your wedding**

Donna Ketchledge

[weddings@fapc.org](mailto:weddings@fapc.org)



**Prepare for baptism**

Jaime Staehle

[familyministries@fapc.org](mailto:familyministries@fapc.org)

**Add a name to the prayer list** • Natalie Wardius, [congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org)

**Fund the altar flowers** • Natalie Wardius, [congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org)

**Hire our caterer** • Rodrigo Rosas, [rodrigo@roxoevents.com](mailto:rodrigo@roxoevents.com)

**Notify us of a death or illness** • Natalie Wardius, [congregationalcare@fapc.org](mailto:congregationalcare@fapc.org)

**Request a bulletin announcement** • Sean McAvoy, [fapc@fapc.org](mailto:fapc@fapc.org)

**Update contact information in our database** • [update@fapc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

TO WHOM  
MUCH  
HAS BEEN  
GIVEN

THE 2025 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Together this congregation has pledged \$2,636,041, putting us 72% towards our goal. Thank you!

Your pledge supports our worship services, music ministries, groundbreaking hybrid church initiative, outreach to our homeless neighbors, educational offerings, and so much more.

Pledge your support and help us meet our \$3.65 million goal!

Visit [fapc.org/pledge](https://fapc.org/pledge). Thank you!

## 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](https://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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