

# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT March 16, 2025 • 11:00 AM



Paolo Veronese, The Wedding at Cana, 1562

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 if 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 opporunities.

### 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.)

# 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	Prelude in A minor, BWV 543 • J.S. Bach (1685–1750)	
* Call to Worship		
Elder Josie Lawrence	One:	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
	All:	Praise God, all creatures high and low.
	One:	Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
	All:	Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
	One:	Let us worship God,
	All:	the Author of the Good,
	One:	the Giver of Grace.
* Нуми 624	I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art	
* CALL TO CONFESSION The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike		
* Prayer of Confession	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	

Silent Reflection and Confession



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

# \* Assurance of Pardon

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.



\* Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. 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.

All:

Litany of Parting	All: Children:	May God be with you there. May God be with you here.
Announcements	The Rev. Dr.	lonah So
Testimony	Elder Janeen	Sarlin
Anthem	Come and Taste • Traditional, arr. Alice Parker (1925–2023) Text by John Leland (1754–1841)	
	Consolation From the Fat	ste along with me flowing free, her's wealthy throne, a the honeycomb.
	And we'll all We'll praise t	d and you praise God, praise God together; he Lord for the work that He has done, ss His name forever.
	Make the ba Now I go to	e with free good will nquet sweeter still; Mercy's door, little more. <i>Refrain</i>

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* 

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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## SCRIPTURE LESSON John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

	One: <b>All:</b>	This is the Word of God; for the People of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>
SERMON The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston	"Say Amen to Celebration"	
Prayer for the Day	Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Sit at our tables, rub salve on our wounds and pour grace in our cups, that we might taste and see the good; that we might be set free to celebrate. Amen.	
Нуми 504	We Come as	Guests Invited
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE The Rev. Chris Palmer		
The Lord's Prayer	Thy kingdom Give us this o and forgive And lead us r	who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. day our daily bread, us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. he kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

CALL TO GIVE	
Offertory Anthem	<ul> <li>Pilgrim Song • Traditional, arr. Ryan Murphy (b. 1971)</li> <li>My brethren, I have found a land that doth abound with fruit as sweet as honey;</li> <li>The more I eat, I find, the more I am inclined to shout and sing hosanna.</li> <li>My soul doth long to go where I may fully know the glory of my Savior;</li> <li>And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song,</li> <li>I'm going to live forever.</li> </ul>
	Perhaps you think me wild, or simple as a child; I am a child of glory; I am born from above, my soul is filled with love; I love to tell the story. My soul doth long to go where I may fully know the glory of my Savior; And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song, I'm going to live forever.
	My soul now sits and sings and practices its wings, and contemplates the hour When messenger shall say, "Come quit this house of clay, and with bright angels tower." My soul doth long to go where I may fully know the glory of my Savior; And as I pass along I'll sing the Christian song, I'm going to live forever.
* 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	
* Нүмn 165	The Glory of These Forty Days
Congregational Meeting	
* Benediction	

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

* Choral Response	A Celtic Prayer • Barry Peters, Text: Traditional
	May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
	walk with you on the road.
	May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.
	May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your hearts to love.
	May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
	And may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.
Postlude	Fugue in A minor, BWV 543 • J.S. Bach
,	his morning is offered by the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir n, William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries

Dr. Patrick Kreeger, Associate Organist

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

# If You Are in Need of Prayer

Deacons (wearing white stoles) are available to pray with you after the service. Your prayers are confidential unless you request that they be shared with our Congregational Care staff. You may also complete a prayer request card (available in the pews and at the entrances) and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. You may submit prayer requests online at *fapc.org/prayer-requests*.

## Please pray for:

Ann Alexander, Pat Backus, Neta Beberino, Helen Betzaia, Becky Bjornstad, Patricia Blair Sarah Boyce, 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, Irene P. Gilman, Anthea and Neville Graham Florence Hall, Torian Hall, Peter S. Hawkins, Carol Healy, Christopher Henderson Donna Marie Henderson, Emi Iwaida, Tara Kay Johnson, Juliet Kaldanie, Ceciwa Khonje Louis Sterling King, Janet Lamberth, Richard J. Lawson, Frederick Loomis, Violet Lorenzen Mary Lowry, Lauren Ma, The McCall Family, Epifania Mercado, Ryan Moloughney, Gerry Nagy Frank Owarish, Emmett Raitt, Dexter Ramcharan, Arthur Richmond, Ramon Rosa, Pauline Sample Robert Scheuer, Taylor Shultz, Bonnie Smith, Monica Smith, Spencer Robert Smith Willie Gerald Smith, Frieda Sompotan, Neva Strom, Lorraine Sukhu, Rocco Tannehill, Harold Tither Susan Tobiason, Henny Waisapy, Bill Wanek, Warren White, Suzanne Wilks, Sylvia Winrich Deborah Wurgler, Doris Wurgler

# Faithful Departed:

March 12, 2025: Maggie Hendrix, beloved mother of Holly Hendrix and Susan Brooke Plesset, and beloved mother in law of Tom Schneider.

If you would like to add a name to the church prayer list or the list of faithful departed, please contact Natalie Wardius (*congregationalcare@fapc.org*, 212.247.0490).

Тодау	
9:30 am	Chapel Church. Jones Auditorium.
	Sunday School & Little Lambs Nursery. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
10:15 am	Children's Choir. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
	Parents Community Group. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
11 am	<b>Worship.</b> Sanctuary & Livestream. Immediately following worship a congregational meeting will be held to elect the officer class of 2028.
	Youth Group. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
11:15 am	Children's Church. LaDane Williamson Christian Education Center.
12:15 pm	<b>Coffee Hour.</b> Bonnell Hall. Join us after worship for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and friends.
	<b>Tour of the Church.</b> After worship, look for a docent in the back of the Sanctuary with a "tour starts here" sign.
12:30 pm	Bagels & Bible. 7th Floor Conference Room.
	International Women's Day Lunch & Learn. Rita Arlen Room. Head to <i>fapc.org/</i> <i>lunch</i> to learn more and register.
	Sermon Springboard. Zoom. Join Rev. Natalie and members of the online campus for sermon discussion and fellowship.
7 pm	Forgiveness in Focus: A Study of Matthew 18. Zoom Webinar. Register at <i>fapc</i> . org/adulted.
This Week	
Tue March 18	<b>Weekly Word Bible Study.</b> 12 pm • Zoom. For more information, please email <i>bible-study@fapc.org</i> . To register, visit <i>fapc.org/bible</i> .
Wed March 19	Community Choir. 6 pm • Jones Auditorium. All voices are welcome!
	<b>FAYA Midweek.</b> 6:30 pm. The Living Room. To learn more, contact <i>youngadults@ fapc.org</i>
Thu March 20	<b>Career Directions.</b> 10 am • Zoom. Visit <i>fapc.org/groups</i> to learn more and to sign up.
Sat March 22	<b>Meals on Heels.</b> 8:30 am • Bonnell Hall. Volunteers prepare and deliver weekend meals to homebound seniors. New volunteers are welcome and needed!
Sun March 23	Blessed are the Peacebuilders: How to Heal Conflicts Between LGBT and Faith Communities. 12:30 pm • Jones Auditorium.

# Next Sunday · Third Sunday in Lent

"Say Amen to Transformation" • Philippians 3:14-4:1 The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

# Today: Congregational Meeting

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church invites all members to a Congregational Meeting immediately following the 11 am worship service. During this meeting, we will elect the officer class of 2028. Your participation is important—please plan to attend. Members who wish to participate in the congregational vote online can register to receive the Zoom link at *fapc.org/elect*.. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who submitted leadership recommendations. Your thoughtful input plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our church.

# Sunday, March 16: Forgiveness in Focus: A Study of Matthew 18

Join us for an engaging Zoom class on forgiveness, led by Dr. Susan Hylen, Professor of New Testament at Candler School of Theology, as she explores the teachings of Jesus found in Matthew 18. Dr. Hylen will guide us through Jesus's instructions on forgiveness, exploring its complexities and challenges within the context of Christian life. This session will offer fresh insights into one of the Bible's most powerful passages, inviting us to reflect deeply on the transformative power of forgiveness. Learn more and register at *fapc.org/forgive*.

# Sunday, March 23: Blessed are the Peacebuilders: How to Heal Conflicts Between LGBT and Faith Communities

This fun workshop, co-sponsored by The Word Is Out, will empower you to transform LGBTQ+ polarization and build loving communities at home, work, and in the larger world. The Rev. Dr. Marian Edmonds-Allen, Executive Director of PARITY (a Fifth Avenue Mission Partner), will lead. We will meet at 12:30 pm in Jones Auditorium. For more information, contact Austin Applebach at *community@fapc.org*.

## Thursday, March 27: Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand

In his new book, *Good Soil*, Rev. Jeff Chu shares his transformative journey to Princeton Theological Seminary's Farminary, where the rhythms of farming inspire reflections on growth, decay, and faith. A mission partner of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Farminary integrates theological education with care for creation, aligning with our values of stewardship and community. Join us at 7 pm in the Sanctuary for this inspiring event to explore the sacred connection between nature and faith, with books available for purchase. Learn more and register at *fapc.org/goodsoil*.

# Friday, March 28: Youth Last Friday Hangout & Parents Night Out

Youth are invited to join us for pizza, games, and a meaningful devotional time to deepen our faith and connect with each other. These evenings are all about fun, friendship, and growing closer to God in a supportive community. Bring your friends! Learn more and register at *fapc. org/friday*. Parents of Fifth Avenue, we will gather for dinner at Tang Pavilion during this time. Register at *fapc.org/tang*.

## Sunday, March 30: Lent Unfolded: A Journey Through Its History and Meaning

How did fasting, prayer, and repentance become central to the season of Lent? Join us as Dr. Amelia Kennedy, Assistant Professor of the History of Medieval Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary, explores Lent's evolution from its early Christian roots to its significance in the church today. Join us at 12:30 pm in Jones Auditorium. No registration required. Food will be served. Come be part of this fascinating discussion!

## The Session

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, *Moderator* • The Rev. Dr. Jonah So, *Executive Pastor* The Rev. Werner Ramirez, *Associate Pastor* • The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike, *Associate Pastor* The Rev. Chris Palmer, *Associate Pastor* • Meg Sheehan, *Clerk of Session* Dennis Bushe, *Assistant Clerk of Session* 

> <u>Class of 2025</u> Eric Daniels Carol Kenney Ann Marie Koehler Chris Rogers Janeen A. Sarlin Meg Sheehan Sienna Toung Sylvia Winrich

<u>Class of 2026</u> Rachel Brenner Dennis Bushe Roseanne Lind Nate Mahrer Brian McLendon Louisa Raitt Martha Van Hise <u>Class of 2027</u> Chloe Hawker Josie Lawrence Persis Luke Patrick Obeng-Frimpong Thomas Pak David Roberson Beth Rumore Stanley Jama Toung

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# CLERGY & STAFE

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 \*\*\*

The Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, Associate Pastor Emeritus The Rev. Randy Weber, Associate Pastor Emeritus Austin Applebach, Director of Engagement 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



Announce a birth or adoption Jaime Staehle familyministries@fapc.org



fapc.org/give



Make a bequest Richard Schexnider finance@fapc.org

Join the online campus Natalie Owens-Pike hybridchurch@fapc.org

fapc.org

CONTACT US



Plan your wedding Donna Ketchledge weddings@fapc.org Join the church

Austin Applebach membership@fapc.org



**Prepare for baptism** Jaime Staehle familyministries@fapc.org

Add a name to the prayer list • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org Fund the altar flowers • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org Hire our caterer • Rodrigo Rosas, rodrigo@roxoevents.com Notify us of a death or illness • Natalie Wardius, congregationalcare@fapc.org Request a bulletin announcement • Sean McAvoy, fapc@fapc.org **Update contact information in our database** • update@fapc.org

We livestream our worship services and provide online playback on demand. We also shoot videos and photos from time to time in the church house (interior and exterior). By your presence, you grant Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit or telecast your image or likeness in communications related to the church. Please contact Sean McAvoy (fapc@fapc.org) if you have questions or concerns. If you prefer to sit outside of camera range during the service, please speak with an usher.

# Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church



Each spring, our clergy guide us through the foundational beliefs of Christianity. This year, we turn to the matrilineal ancestry of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, exploring the lives of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba—the remarkable women named in Jesus's genealogy. These women displayed extraordinary strength, resilience, and courage. Their stories offer profound insights into faith, redemption, and God's grace.

Each CREDO lecturer will also appear on the Crossroads Podcast to share further reflections on the Mothers of the Messiah. Visit *fapc.org/credo* to learn more.

# 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



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