

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 17, 2025 • 6:30 PM



Doug Porter, *Exceeding Sorrowful*, 2023

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.)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we begin our preparation for worship.
Please **silence all electronic devices** and do not take flash photos during the service.*

PRELUDE

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP *Trustee Jane Hong*

(Adapted from Psalm 116)

One: What can we give back to God
 for all the good things God has done?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation
 and call on his name!
 We will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving!
 We will keep the promises we’ve made
 to God in the presence of all her people!**

One: Come, let us worship!

* HYMN 202

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare

* CALL TO CONFESSION *The Rev. Werner Ramirez*

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Silent Reflection and Confession

* SUNG RESPONSE

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

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

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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

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

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston

ANTHEM

A New Commandment • *Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–1585)*

Text: John 13:34-35

A new commandment give I unto you, saith the Lord,
That ye love together as I have loved you,
That even so ye love one another.

By this shall everyone know that ye are my disciples,
If ye have love one to another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 13:1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

The Rev. Chris Palmer

"Say Amen to the Invitation"

* PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**Come, Source and Sovereign,
Come, Friend and Teacher:
teach us and inspire us.
Set us ablaze with your peace.**

* SUNG RESPONSE

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

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

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

SUNG RESPONSE

(Sung repeatedly throughout the Reaffirmation of Baptism)

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

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

CALL TO GIVE

The Rev. Dr. Jonah So

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ubi caritas • Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Traditional Maundy Thursday Antiphon, 8th century

Text: Paulinus of Aquileia, circa. 796

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
 Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
 Exultemus, et in ipso jucundemur.
 Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
 Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
 Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.
 Christ's love has gathered us into one.
 Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
 Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
 And may we love each other with a sincere heart.
 Where charity and love are, God is there.

* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Communion of the People

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks

Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Text: Psalm 42:1-3

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,

So longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God,

Yea, even for the living God.

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

My tears have been my meat day and night,

While they daily say unto me,

Where, where is now thy God?

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* HYMN 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

TENEBRAE: THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

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

Elder Chloe Hawker The Shadow of Betrayal: Matthew 26:20-25



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

Ella Nkhoma The Shadow of Inner Agony: Luke 22:40-44



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

Lindsey Szabo The Shadow of Loneliness: Matthew 26:40-45



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

Elder Carolyn Fernandez The Shadow of Desertion: Matthew 26:47-50, 55-56



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

Grant Rusk The Shadow of Accusation: Matthew 26:59-67



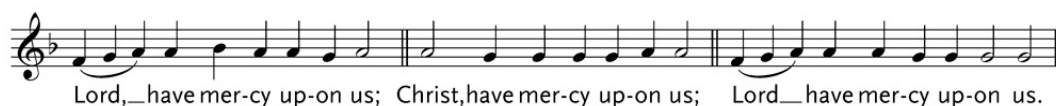
Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

Elder Mary Jo Keeble The Shadow of Mockery: Mark 15:12-20



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

Elder Leo Moelker The Shadow of Death: Luke 23:33-46



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

THE LIGHT DEPARTS

THE STREPITUS

THE LIGHT RETURNS

* BENEDICTION

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

The ministry of music this evening is offered by the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Choir
Dr. Ryan Jackson, *William S. Perper Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries*
Dr. Patrick Kreeger, *Associate Organist*

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

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

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

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

GETTING CONNECTED

Adult Education

Each spring and fall, we offer courses in theology and Scripture, spirituality, social issues and other disciplines. We offer classes in person, online and via podcast. All classes are free and open to all. Information on upcoming classes is available at fapc.org/adult-ed. Contact: Jaime Staehle (212.247.0490 ext 3003, adulsted@fapc.org).

Community Groups

We have over 20 community groups to help you form closer bonds within the Fifth Avenue family. Groups meet both in person and online, and cover a range of topics and interests. To learn more visit fapc.org/groups, or contact Austin Applebach at community@fapc.org.

Congregational Care

If you (or someone you know) are going through a difficult time, we are here for you. We are available for counseling, home and hospital visits, medical escorts and prayer. Please visit fapc.org/care to submit a prayer request and learn more about our Congregational Care program.

Family Ministries

Family Ministries nurtures diverse, strong, faithful families. Our Little Lambs nursery for infants and toddlers is available every Sunday from 9 am to 12:30 pm during the program year (September–May). 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 workshops at Chapel Church at 9:30 am and meets at 11 am. On the first Sunday of the month, Youth Group workshops at both services. Learn more 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. During the program year, we meet every Wednesday night for small groups, supper, Bible study and fellowship. Find out more about our weekly gatherings, monthly fellowship events and weekend retreats at fapc.org/faya or on Instagram [@fapcfaya](https://www.instagram.com/fapcfaya).

Hybrid Church

Fifth Avenue 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 gatherings here at Fifth Avenue. Contact Rev. Natalie Owens-Pike at hybridchurch@fapc.org for more information.

Membership

When we say “All are welcome,” we mean it. Whether you live in the neighborhood, or across the country, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through our Believing and Belonging seminars, you explore what it means to be a part of the Christian church, the Presbyterian tradition and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Whether you’re sure membership is right for you, or you’re just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we’d love to have you in an upcoming in-person or online class. Visit fapc.org/membership or email Austin Applebach at membership@fapc.org to learn more.

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	Hands Along the Nile Development Services
Church of Gethsemane	Holmes Camp and Retreat Center
The Farminary Project	Ministry of Hope Lesotho
Garden of Hope	Mission co-workers in Madagascar, the Philippines & the U.S.–Mexico border
Good Samaritan Project	Parity
First Spanish Presbyterian Church	Urban Outreach Center NY
Green City Force	

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.

Women's Ministry

For generations, the women of Fifth Avenue have gathered for service, fellowship, and deeper faith. Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before, we continue to connect and would love to include you in our community. The women's ministry at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church is trans affirming and welcoming to women of any age and stage. We meet for annual retreats, fellowship events, Bible study, and small groups. To learn more and get involved, email womensministry@fapc.org or visit fapc.org/women.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

Holy Week & Easter Services

We invite you to complete your Lenten journey with us and join in our joyous celebration of Easter. Our services are listed below. **All services (except the early Easter service) are available on livestream.** You will find additional details at fapc.org/worship.

Good Friday: Service of Sacred Music & Reflection

12–3 pm, April 18 • Sanctuary

You are welcome to attend all or part of this three-hour service.

Easter: Resurrection of the Lord

9:30 am & 11:15 am, April 20 • Sanctuary

The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, preaching.

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

Monday, Wednesday – Friday	Tuesday	Saturday	Sunday
9 am – 6 pm	9 am – 9 pm	8 am – 1 pm	8 am – 2:30 pm



FAPCNYC



FAPC_NYC



FAPCinNYC



FAPC.ORG/LIVE

7 West 55th Street • New York, NY 10019