

# *The First Presbyterian Church* *in the City of New York*

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## TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

*Service for the Lord's Day*

February 14, 2021 | 11:00 a.m.

*The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.*

## GATHERING

*The peace candle represents our prayers for peace in a broken world. The congregation is asked to offer prayers of intercession for one another and for those who lead in these times of remote worship.*

PRELUDE

"Solemn Processional"

Robert A. Harris

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

**We gather together to worship God,  
who comes to us when we least expect it,  
who calls us out of the safety of our ordered lives  
and invites us to join Christ in the journey of faith.  
Let us worship God!**

HYMN 369

"Blessing and Honor"

O QUANTA QUALIA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Generous God, whose giving knows neither measure nor end,  
we confess that all too often we have kept our own  
hearts, hands, and minds firmly closed.**

**Forgive us for those times when our own wants and wishes  
have filled the horizon to the exclusion of all else,  
and made us blind and deaf to the needs and concerns of others.**

**Forgive us merciful God.  
Help us to transcend self-centeredness, greed, and fear,  
and to always feel, think, and act as those  
who know the hope that is rooted in the generous giving of God. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



*Traditional* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures  
*Inclusive* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple

here be - low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;  
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.  
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

## SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND 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,  
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest their meat in due season. Thou openest  
thine hand, and satisfies the desire of every living thing. —Psalm 145:15-16

Jean Berger

Rachel Farrar, Elizabeth Picker, Arri Lawton Simon, and Andrew Martens

## MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Eileen Choi, Shelby Garner, and Alexis Schutz

## HEARING THE WORD

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 9:10-17

On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured.

The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.” But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” For

there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” They did so and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

SERMON

“Three Scary Words”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION OF ELDERS, DEACONS, AND TRUSTEES

*Constitutional questions may be found on the following page.*

HYMN 312

“Take Us As We Are, O God”

ENDLESS FEAST

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Presbyterian Confession of 1967

**The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations. The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

David Hogan

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done. O Jesus Christ, your power made known, for you are Lord of Lords alone; defend your holy Church, that we may sing your praise triumphantly. O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

—Martin Luther; trans. Catherine Winkworth

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SENDING

HYMN 673

“Jesus, Light of Joy”

LAUDA ANIMA

*stanzas 1 and 3*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sun Dance”

Bob Chilcott

*The congregation is invited to continue worshipping through the postlude, which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.*

## **Constitutional Questions for Elders, Deacons, and Trustees**

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's word to you?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
4. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
5. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
6. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
7. Do you promise to further peace, unity, and purity of the church?
8. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

*For deacons:* Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*For elders:* Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*For trustees:* Will you be a faithful trustee, serving as a faithful steward of the gifts of God through this congregation, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

## **Constitutional Questions to the Congregation**

1. Do we, the members of the church, accept

Donald B. Dillport, Irenka Jakubiak, Lauren McGill, Joan L. Ryan, Duane D. Wall, and Kathie S. Young as ruling elders;

Elizabeth "Buffy" Barton, Emily M. Dawson, Logan F. Kennedy, Ashleigh Marshall Roscishewska, Alexis A. Schutz, and Sarah Wendolyn Williams as deacons;

and, David N. Biette, Miyong E. Lee and Diana R. Pardue as trustees,

chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

2. Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

## STAFF CONTACTS

The Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, Pastor/Head of Staff - [gstovell@fpcnyc.org](mailto:gstovell@fpcnyc.org)  
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**MUSIC NOTES** Robert A. Harris (b. 1938) is a Professor Emeritus at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, and serves as Director of Music and Choirmaster at the Winnetka Congregational Church in Winnetka, IL. Dr. Harris was Professor of Conducting and Director of Choral Organizations at Northwestern from 1977 to 2012. As a composer, Dr. Harris has been the recipient of over forty commissions from schools, churches and musical organizations. An interview of Harris is part of the History Makers Collection—the nation's largest African-American video oral history collection—at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. "Solemn Processional" was composed for a wedding service in 1985. • Contemporary English composer Bob Chilcott (b. 1955) has been involved with music all his life, first as a Chorister and then a Choral Scholar at King's College, Cambridge. Later, he sang and composed music for 12 years with the King's Singers. His experiences with that group, his passionate commitment to young and amateur choirs, and his profound belief that music can unite people, have inspired him both to compose full-time and promote choral music worldwide. "Sun Dance" is an adaption of the vibrant final movement of Chilcott's *Organ Dances* for organ, percussion, and strings, composed in 1996.

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