

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

Founded in 1642

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 29, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP 10:30 AM

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude: *Sonata IV: Intermezzo*

Joseph Rheinberger

Announcements

Silence as we prepare for worship

Gathering Song: *Come Light, Light of God*

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
Amen.

In Christ dwells the whole fullness of God.
Through Christ God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things.
On the cross he disarmed the rulers and authorities, triumphing over them.
With Christ we too have died to the destructive powers.
Our lives are hidden with Christ.
**When Christ who is our life is revealed,
then we also will be revealed with him in glory.**

(from Colossians, chapters 1-3)

*Hymn 142 *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!*

CORNONATION

Prayer of Confession

Great God, you are the light and strength of our lives. We confess that our vision is limited and by ourselves we cannot find the truth. Our wills are weak and often we do not do the good we want, but do the very thing we know is wrong. Our steps are faltering and without your help we lose our way. Have mercy on our weaknesses and forgive our failures. Give us grace to find our strength in you that we may know you, love and follow you all the days of our life. *(The prayer may continue in silence.)*

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

Since Christ has opened his heart to us,
let us open our hearts to one another.
The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
(The people exchange the peace.)

*Sung response

Tune: FOREST GREEN

**Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
And raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
To drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

Based on the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-22 (pg 153)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Come to Zion*

Shaker Hymn arr. Burton Bumgarner

The Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:21-28 (pg 814)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Good News for Children

The Sermon “Questioning Authority”

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

*Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* NETTLETON (insert)

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

Offering

Offertory: *Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies* (text of Hymn 462)

Healey Willan

*Doxology

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

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

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.

*Hymn 155 *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!*

DARWALL'S 148TH

*Postlude: *Psalms 19*

Benedetto Marcello

AΩ

*Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Preacher: The Rev. John D. Paarlberg Liturgist: E-Quasia McGhee; Enrichment: Joelson McClement; Organist and Choir Director: Mary Bon.

We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far.

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Please remember in your prayers this week: IN HOSPITAL: Marc Hafensteiner (fmr sr elder @ 1st Bethlehem Ref; St. Peter's), Charlie Carroll (friend of Ian Leet; hospice), Keith Zeier (nephew of Larry & Diane Wuerstlin; NYC), Bill McKeever (Evergreen Home; friend of the Westman family), Kaithlyn Scanlon. AT HOME: Sean White (grandson of Caroline & Carl Wirth), Gloria Arenos (friend of Mary Ann Selmer), Pat Huba, Megan Gilgore, Nancy Cameron, Arthur Nelson (father of Erma), Cal Shadwell (father of Becky Hudak), Hank Fox, Marion Cridge (friend of Sue and Dan Clayton), Jane Hofnagel & Matt Hofnagel, Robert Burns (uncle of Virginia Giguere), Alexis Haviland (daughter of Dorene), Kay Brady (friend of Mary Ann Selmer), Laury Stacey (friend of Hennie Kohut), Ralph Mickel (cousin of Virginia Giguere), Dolly Bachman, George Parry & Natalie Parry (Stuarts Draft, VA), Mia Westman & Wim Westman, The Rev. Allen Buurma (friend of LeRoy Suess), Barbara Elliott (friend of Karen Van Epps), Frances Curry (sister of Art Schultz), Olivia Gaydushek (granddaughter of Karen Van Epps), Sam Spano (friend of Cheryl Gowie), Ruth Harrington and Rose Yakush (sisters of John Haviland). OUR MISSIONARIES: Richard & Carolyn Otterness (Hungary), Bruce & Laurie Hawley (RCA volunteer services). IN THE ARMED FORCES / OTHER FOREIGN SERVICE: Grant Staats.

Donations to our Food Pantry will be received next Sunday. Suggested items this month include: cocoa, coffee, soup, dishwashing liquid. Monetary donations are also appreciated; envelopes for that purpose are in the pew racks.

The flowers this morning are given in memory of Alayne H. DiFranco by Joline and Edward Mondore and Andrew and Rebecca Mondore.

During the month of February, the Colonie Library will host an exhibit of the artwork of Susan Bon. You are all invited to attend and opening reception on Sunday, February 5, from 2-4 p.m. at The Library, 629 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville.

Thanks to all who contributed an abundance of food to our last Overflow Shelter Dinner. It was greatly appreciated. Our next Shelter dinner is Friday, February 3rd (chicken dinner) Can you help? Sign up at the hospitality table to:

Contribute a dish: we still need a main dish, side dish, some desserts, bread, drinks.
Help with delivery (meet at First Church at 5:30 pm, help load and deliver, and be done by 6:30 pm)

Be part of a team to help plan future dinners.

You can drop your dish at church: Sunday after church (if it will keep), any weekday between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm. Contact Mary Bon with questions or for more info maryebon@verizon.net or 463-4449 Use disposable containers, dishes can't be returned. AND THANKS!

First Church Readers Group will meet this Sunday, during the post-service time to discuss *New York Amish: Life in the Plain Communities of the Empire State* by Karen Johnson-Weiner. Come join us. Everyone is welcome.

We are having another Festival choir Sunday on February 12th.

If you like to sing but can't find the time to join the choir regularly, the Festival Choir is perfect for you. Just come at 9:15 AM on Sunday, February 12th to rehearse; then sing with the choir during worship. It's easy and it's fun! Talk to any choir member or Mary Bon for more information, or just join us on February 12th. (If you let us know you're coming we can be sure to have enough music.)

Anthem Text:

Come to Zion

Come to Zion, Come to Zion, sin-sick souls in sorrow bound. Lay your cares upon the altar where true healing may be found. Shout halleluiah! Praise resounds o'er land and sea. All who will may come and share the glories of this jubilee. Shout halleluiah.... Shaker text and Tune

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

- Su 29 - 10:30 AM - Worship
- 11:30 AM - Coffee & Conversation
- 11:45 AM - Church School; FC Readers
- Post-service: The Ministry of FOCUS
- 12:30 PM - Board of Trustees

- M 30 - 9:30 AM - Food Pantry open
- Tu 31 - 12:00 PM - Bible Study
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- W 1 - 9:30 AM - Food Pantry open
- 12:00 PM - AA
- 7:00 PM - *The Way*

- Th 2 - 7:00 PM - Senior Choir Rehearsal
- F 3 -
- Sa - 12:15 - Youth Group @ Overflow Shelter Bowl-a-thon
@ Sunset Lanes

- Su 5 - 10:30 AM - Worship
- 11:30 AM - Coffee & Conversation
- 11:45 AM - Church School

Pastor Paarlberg will be attending a meeting of the Reformed Church Commission on theology in Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 3 and 4.