

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449 Ⓢ

Email: firstchurch@verizon.net ~ Website: www.firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are loved.

Transfiguration Sunday February 23, 2020

Prelude

Pastorale in C

Johann Sebastian Bach

Announcements

Call to Worship

The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

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

Psalm 99

*Hymn

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding (see insert)

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, when you call us to hope and to act with great boldness, we tremble at your presence and cover our eyes. We are afraid of what we will see for your greatness unveils our weakness, your justice unveils our brokenness, and your holiness unveils our stained past. O Lord, hear our prayer.

Giver of all grace, forgive us our sins. Give us the strength to renounce that which hides you from us. Give us the wisdom to execute justice and righteousness. Give us the courage to uncover our hearts that we might see the grace of your Son and not lose heart.

prayer from stephenfearingwordpress.com

The prayer may continue in silence.

Assurance of Pardon

For God so loved the world God gave God's only begotten Son. If you believe in God's son you will not perish but have everlasting life.

*The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

*Response (Tune: This Little Light of Mine)

**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**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine**

Anthem *The Sun Is On the Land and Sea* Morning Song from Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music arr. Christopher Gale

The sun is on the land and sea, a new day has begun; With morning hymns we will adore, the blessed three in one; And we shall praise you ever more, until the day is done.

Your love is ever in our view, like shining stars, by night; Your gifts are every morning new, O God of love and light. So, let the love of Jesus come and set our souls ablaze.

*O God, who claims us in your Son. Keep us your children still.
Spirit, who shone about the Christ, his life in us fulfill.
O Christ, sustain our life in you in thought and heart and will.*

A Word with Children

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditation of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.

The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 17:1-9

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Have You Been to the Mountaintop?

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

* Hymn # 306

Fairest Lord Jesus

SILESIAN FOLK MELODY

Offering

Offertory

Trumpet Voluntary

Henry Purcell

*Doxology (Tune: #591)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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, for ever. Amen.

*Hymn *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain* vs 1,2,3 & 5 (see insert) UNSER HERRSCHER

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude *Festal Flourish* Gordon Jacob

AΩ

*Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston; Liturgist: Monica Marsh; Minister of Music: Mary Bon; Musician: Doug Persons, Trumpet

We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far. Please sign our guest book or complete a visitor's card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. Please join us for refreshments and conversation after worship.

Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher.

First Church is an accessible building. We have an elevator so you can reach every floor.



An Automated External Defibrillator “**AED**” is located in the lobby attached to the wall outside of the **workroom**.

After A Word with Children, children age 4 and under are welcome in the Nursery.

Children 4-8 are invited to be a part of Children and Worship every Sunday. Children 9-13 are invited to join Sharing Our Faith the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the Fireside Room.

The flowers this morning are given in celebration of love, leadership and talent of Mary Bon.

Pocket Prayer Shawls are available at today's Worship. Please ask one of our greeters and they can provide a basket of pocket prayer shawls to choose from. Pocket Prayer Shawls are made and filled with prayers and can be given to someone in need of comfort, healing, or a reminder of the closeness of God.

Copies of our newsletter “**The Family**” and information about First Church are available at the Hospitality table in the lobby.

CENTERING PRAYER WITH PASTOR MASHONA WEDNESDAY'S AT NOON JAMES CHAPEL



Centering prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that is contemplative. We experience God presence within us, closer than breathing, thinking, or consciousness itself. This form of prayer is about relationship with God. Centering prayer is not meant to replace other forms of prayer, but be practiced alongside with them.

Thank you to all who supplied dishes for our last Overflow Shelter Dinner. We need a coordinator for next fall's Shelter Dinners. If you would be interested in this ministry, contact Mary Bon at maryebon@verizon.net or 518-339-5460.

CHURCH EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS – DEATHS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

If you wish to receive email notifications of deaths and special events at First Church, please contact Valerie Williams to be added to the list.

SUNDAY LITURGISTS:

Sunday, February 23rd – Monica Marsh

Sunday, March 1st – Norma McClement

Sunday, March 8th – Joanne Farrell

Sunday, March 15th – Deborah Anderson

Sunday, March 22nd – Mary Weijola

Sunday, March 29th – Joeanna Brown

A LITTLE LENTEN MUSIC



Beginning [next Sunday](#), March 1, join us for each Sunday morning in Lent at 10:15 am. Come early to pray, meditate, refresh yourself, or just listen to some beautiful music as we follow the Lenten road from temptation to cross to resurrection. Next week's music will be works of Bach.

FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY'S NEW NIPPER IS IN THE BUILDING



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Cleo will be returning to Clee Park late Spring 2020. We need volunteers to form a committee to design our new Cleo. If you are interested or have ideas please speak to Pastor Mashona. The deadline to submit your ideas is March 5th.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	2/23	Transfiguration Sunday 10:30 am Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation First Church Readers – Powell Room
Monday	2/24	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm Adult Bible Study
Wednesday	2/26	ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm AA Meeting 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Noon Day Service 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Evening Service
Thursday	2/27	7:00 pm CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sunday	3/1	First Sunday in Lent 10:30 am Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Sharing Our Faith (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation

REMINDER:

The Rev. Susan Vincen-Cox will be on vacation February 24th thru March 2nd. She will return to office on March 9th.