

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY
(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 463-4449
www.firstchurchinalbany.org

**Fourth Sunday
after the Epiphany**

**January 31, 2021
10:00 am Sunday Worship**

**Service
via ZOOM**

Welcome

Photo credit: Doug Persons





Please keep in prayer this week...

- The family and friends of Linda Becker Heim
- The family and friends of Jane Ward
- The family and friends of Joline Mondore
- Judith Suess & Leroy
- Amy Carr (Gillespie family)
- Cindy Gillespie, in benevolence
- for the loss of her father
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Brown family
- Pagery family
- Steve Hoffman
- Beth
- Gertrude Dorn
- Ginger
- Bev Anderson
- Charles Welge
- Staff and Leaders

Prayer Concerns? If you would like your church family to join you in prayer, please share your concerns and joys with us.

Call the office at 518-463-4449
or email fciaofficemanager@gmail.com.

Prelude

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

Spiritual arr. Burleigh

There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you can preach like Peter If you can pray like Paul
Go home and tell your neighbor, “He died to save us all.”

There is a balm...

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Leader: Come to worship this day.
Bring with you all your joys
and sorrows.

People: Jesus will offer hope.

Leader: Come to worship this day
believing in the power of
God through Jesus Christ.

People Jesus will bring us healing.

Leader: Come to worship this day
feeling the presence of God.

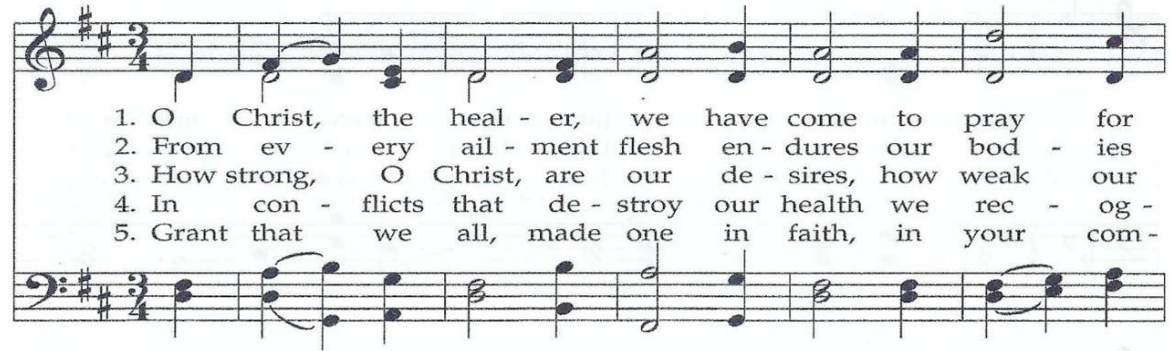
**People: Jesus will teach us new
ways to live.**

AMEN.

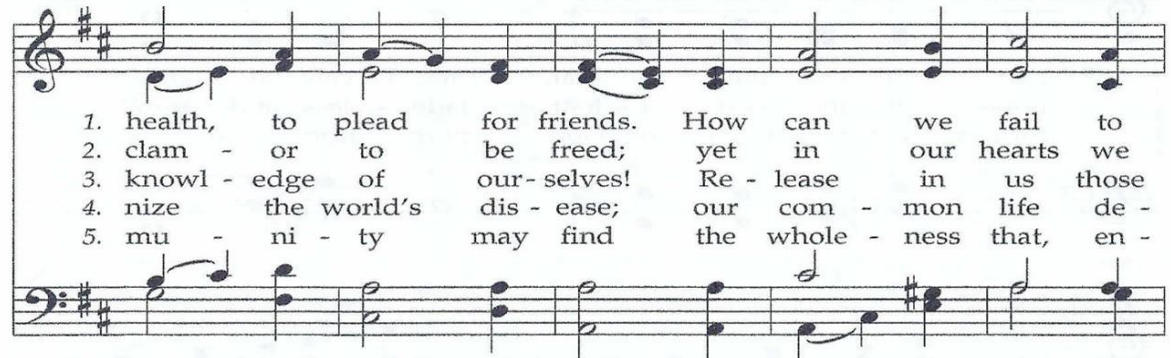
Hymn

"O Christ, the Healer"

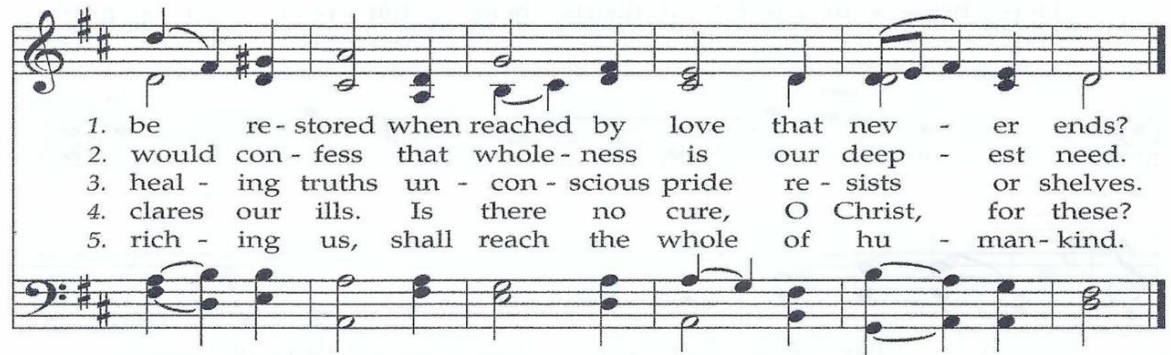
ROCKINGHAM



1. O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2. From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3. How strong, O Christ, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



1. health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 2. clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 3. knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
 4. nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 5. mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



1. be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 2. would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 3. heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 4. clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 5. rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1967
 MUSIC: Anonymous; harm. Edward Miller, 1790

Words © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.

ROCKINGHAM
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Prayer of Confession

Let us confess together that we have not always lived as those forgiven, set free, and united in Christ:

O God, source of life and grace, we are aware that we are, at times, prisoners of fear and habit. Through the healing touch of Christ, set us free to live and to love, that we may be the people you have created us to be. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again. Let us praise God with songs of joy!

Ruth Duck, Bread for the Journey, Pilgrim Press, 1981, p.29.



Prayer of Illumination

(inspired by Mark 1:21-28)

Un-stop our ears, O God,
That we may hear your Word proclaimed this day.
Open our minds and hearts to be changed.
Free us from the unclean spirits of worry, fear, destruction, and pride.
Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully.

Written by Amy Loving, and posted on The Worship Closet: The Place for Creative Worship Ideas.
<http://worshipcloset.com/baptism-of-the-lord-sunday-year-b-words-for-worship/> Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/01/prayer-of-illumination-mark-1-21-28.html>.

The Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:21-28

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

The Sermon

"Lord, Deliver Me!"

The Prayer and Blessing on the Word



The Response to God

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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to
earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful
mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded
love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling
heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every
troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised
rest;
Take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega
be; End of faith, as its beginning, set our
hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life
receive;
Suddenly return and never, never-more thy
temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as
thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy
perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless
let us be,
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in
thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we
take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in
wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

(based on Mark 1:21-28)

Go forth...

...replenished by the grace and mercy of God,

...blessed by the healing love of Jesus,

...energized by the limitless power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

-- written by Moira Laidlaw, and posted on her Liturgies Online website. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/benediction-epiphany-4b.html>.

Postlude

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona
Walston, Senior Minister;
Guest Organist: Justan Foster
Liturgist: Sara Welge Bonham

Tech Team:

Ian Leet, Josh Bliss, and
Stephen Reohr

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

Photo credit: Doug Persons

