

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

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

Email: info@firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Website: www.firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

Respondiendo al amor incondicional de Dios por todas y todos revelado en Jesucristo, somos llamadas y llamados a ser una comunidad acogedora y afirmadora. La Primera Iglesia en Albany incluye los jóvenes y gente de tercer edad, las familias, las parejas y solteras/os, ricos/os y pobres, gente de varias razas, etnias, sexualidades e identidades de género, varias habilidades físicas y mentales, creyentes y buscadores. Acogemos en la plena vida de la iglesia a todas y todos que nos manda Dios. Centradas y centrados en Cristo, nos comprometimos a romper las paredes que dividen y a construir una comunidad donde todas y todos son amada/os.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2017

Peter's fall, here described, brilliantly mirrors our own infirmity. His repentance is a memorable demonstration for us of God's goodness and mercy. The story told of one man contains teaching of prime benefit for the whole Church; it teaches those who stand to take care and caution; it encourages the fallen to trust in pardon. (John Calvin)

THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude *Voluntary in B Minor*
Andantino

M. Dupré
C. Tournemire

Announcements

Call to Worship

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

Amen.

Psalm 124:8

Come to Christ, a living stone.

He was rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight.

As scripture says: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;

Whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious;

but for those who do not believe,

**“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner.”**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,

**That we may proclaim the mighty acts of the One
who called us out of darkness into God’s marvelous light.**

from I Peter 2

*Hymn 416 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Prayer of Confession (from Psalm 32)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

Many are the torments of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*The Peace

Let us be imitators of God and live in love, as Christ loved us.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*Response

Tune: ST. ANNE

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
Be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours Christ's holy peace.**

Text: *Ubi Caritas*, 8th-century hymn translated by Omer Westendorf© 1960,
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THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson I Peter 2: 21-25
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A Word with Children

(After the Children's Sermon, children ages 4 -12 may go to the worship center for Children and Worship.)

Anthem *St. John Passion: Peter, While His Conscience Slept* J. S. Bach
Peter, while his conscience slept, thrice denied his Savior; when it woke he bitter wept at his base
behavior. Jesus let me not forget, true devotion teach me, when on evil I am set, through my
conscience reach me.

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 26: 57-75
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

* Hymn 93 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Offering

Offertory *When Jesus Wept*

William Billings

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

*Doxology (Hymn 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

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 355 *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr*

J.G. Walther

ΑΩ *Those who are able please stand.

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgists: Elder Peter Pagerey; Preacher: The Rev. John Paarlberg; Organist: Todd Sisley; Choir Director: Mary Bon; the Choir of First Church. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: The entire congregation.

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. If you have questions about our ministry, we encourage you to speak with one of the pastors or an usher. There is an elevator in our building, which makes every floor accessible.

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

Please join us after worship for a pizza and salad lunch and an opportunity to meet the members of the AmericaCorps team who are working on Habitat for Humanity homes in the Sheridan Hollow neighborhood .

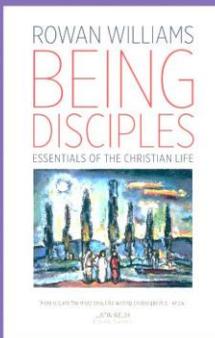
The flowers this morning are given in memory of Mildred and E. Mason Snow.

Being Disciples: A small group will be meeting for prayer and discussion on Tuesday evening, March 28, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. We will be using *Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life* by Rowan Williams, as a resource. This week: chapter 3, "Forgiveness." If you are interested in participating and/or would like a copy of the book (\$6) please see John Paarlberg.

The First Church Readers meet today to discuss March's Book, *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman – the bittersweet story of an angry old widower faced with new life choices when a young family moves in next door.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

- Sunday 3/26 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship
Children & Worship (during service)
11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
11:45 AM First Church Readers
Pizza and salad lunch with Americorps team
- Monday 3/27 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open
- Tuesday 3/28 12:00 NOON Bible Study
7:00 PM Lent Small Group: Being Disciples
- Wednesday 3/29 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open
12:00 NOON AA Meeting
- Thursday 3/30 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday 4/2 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship (Communion)
Children & Worship (during service)
11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
11:45 AM Post Service Discussion: What's next for First Church? Continuing the conversation.



Join us this

Tuesday
March 28
@ 7:00 pm

Lent Small Group:
Being Disciples

Meet us for prayer and discussion during Lent

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

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*indicates second term

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