

# THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

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

Email: [info@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:info@firstchurchinalbany.org) ~ Website: [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://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.*

## Seventh Sunday of Easter Sunday after the Ascension May 28, 2017

*This is the festival which confirms the grace of all the festivals together, without which the profitableness of every festival would have perished. For unless the Savior ascended to heaven his nativity would come to nothing... and his passion would have born no fruit for us, and his most holy resurrection would have been useless.*

(St. Augustine of Hippo, 354-430)

## THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude      *Variations on Royal Oak (All Things Bright and Beautiful)*

Arr. Raymond Haan

*Morning Prayer*

Joseph Jongen

Announcements

Call to Worship

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

**Amen.**

Psalm 124:8

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout for joy and sing songs of praise.

**God reigns over all the earth.**

God has gone up with a shout,  
and with the sound of a trumpet.

**We sing praises to God who rules over us.**

**God is the king of all the earth;**

God rules over the nations;  
God sits on heaven's holy throne.

**The whole earth belongs to God;**

**God is highly exalted.**

(from Psalm 47)

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

DARWALL'S 148TH

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.**

*(The prayer may continue in silence.)*

Assurance of Pardon and Call to New Obedience

(from Colossians 1)

Hear this Good news:

Through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ,  
God has rescued us from the power of darkness  
and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

**In him we have redemption,  
the forgiveness of sins. Thanks be to God!**

So then let us lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to God.

**That we may bear fruit in every good work  
and grow in the knowledge of God.**

May you be made strong with all the strength  
that comes from God's glorious power,  
and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience,  
**While we joyfully give thanks to the Father,  
who has enabled us to share in the inheritance  
of the saints in the light.**

The Peace

Since God in Christ has forgiven us,  
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.**  
Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

\*Response 147 *Blessing and Honor* (verse 1)

O QUANTA QUALIA

**Blessing and honor and glory and power,  
Wisdom and riches and strength evermore  
Give we to Christ who our battle has won,  
Whose are the kingdom, the crown and the throne.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Gospel Lesson            John 16: 4-15  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Anthem    *When the Stars Fall*

Stephen Hatfield

A Word with Children

The New Testament Lesson            Acts 1: 1-11  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon “Left Behind for Good”

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

\*Hymn 422 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

Offering

Offertory *The Eternal Gates* Early American Folk hymn arr. Howard Helvey

\*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.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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 144 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!*

HYFRYDOL

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Postlude *Pasticcio*

Jean Langlais

AΩ \*Those who are able please stand.

WORSHIP LEADERS: The Rev. John Paarlberg, preacher; Mary Bon, Minister of Music and Choir Director; the First Church Choir. 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.

**Please join us following the service for refreshments downstairs in Zimmerman Hall.**

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

**The flowers this morning are** in given by Carol & Philip Labatte to thank the First Church for the thoughtfulness extended to the Labatte Family over the years.

**At the May 21 congregational meeting** Bill Kendall and Theresa Brewer were elected to the office of deacon. Peter Pagerey and Becky Hudak were elected to second terms as elders and Norma Jean Ballou and Rebecca Mondore were elected to first terms as elders. Re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Trustee were Shirley Bone, Andy Mondore, David Bradley and Ross Westhuis. A service of Ordination and Installation for elders and deacons will take place on Sunday, June 18.

**Next Sunday is Pentecost.** The Rev. Craig Hoffman will be the guest preacher at both the 9 a.m. drive-in and the 10:30 a.m. services.

**A book table featuring past and present First Church authors** is set up in the Zimmerman Hall. Great reads on the history and heritage of the church are for sale.

**First Church offers financial aid for children who wish to attend summer camp** at Camp Fowler. Please see Pastor Paarlberg for more information.

**First Church Readers will meet on June 4** when we will discuss *Lady Cop Makes Trouble* by Amy Stewart. Come join us.

**Enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music** at Delmar Reformed Church on Sunday afternoon, June 4th starting at 4 pm. Dr. Gena Bedrosian, concert pianist, will be performing. Free will offering to benefit the FOCUS Churches of Albany.

**The Choir picnic will be held June 8 at Staats Island at 6:00 pm.** A big thank-you to Bill Staats for once again inviting the choir to have the choir picnic at his home and to Vicki Staats for helping to organize all the details.

### **Spring Fling Concerts Wednesdays in June at Noon**

Join us for a series of noon-time concerts in our sanctuary each Wednesday in June from 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM. We'll have special music from our soloists as well as guest instrumentalists.

- **June 7 Bassoon Samplings**  
With Bassoonist David Bon-Keen, and Neil Keen, piano
- **June 14 A Tribute to Bach**  
J.S. Bach Cantata 57 *Ich will den Kreuzstab gernetragen' (I will carry my cross gladly)* with Peter Subers, Baritone; Kelly JoLockwood, oboe; Gene Marie Callahan, piano
- **June 21 Spring Reveries**  
Duets for flute and guitar with Paul Quigley, guitar and Jacqueline Wright, flute
- **June 28 Summertime Dreaming**  
Soprano Rose Hunsberger sings working of Mozart and Schubert with Michael Clement, pianist

### **Anthem Text: *When the Stars Fall***

When the sea shakes, then I trust my saviour. When the sea breaks, still I trust my saviour.  
And if the sea crumbles into rust, tumbles into dust, yet will I trust my saviour.  
When the stars call, then I trust my saviour. When the stars fall, still I trust my saviour.  
And if the stars crumble into rust, tumble into dust, yet will I trust my saviour.  
When my heart sighs, then I trust my saviour. When my heart cries, still I trust my saviour.  
And if my heart crumbles into rust, tumbles into dust, yet will I trust my savior.

*Text: Danish Hymn*

### **Offertory Text: *The Eternal Gates***

The eternal gates lift up their heads, the doors are opened wide,  
The King of glory is gone up unto his Father's side.  
And I'll sing hallelujah and you'll sing hallelujah,  
And we'll all sing hallelujah when we arrive at home.

And ever on our earthly path a gleam of glory lies,  
A light still breaks behind the cloud that veils thee from the eyes. And I'll sing hallelujah ....

Lift up our hearts, lift up our minds, and let thy grace be given,  
That, while we live on earth below, our treasure be in heaven;  
And I'll sing hallelujah ....

*Words by Cecil Frances Alexander*

**The Capital Area Council of Churches** is holding their Spring Assembly Dinner on Monday, June 5 at the First Lutheran Church . To attend the \$10 dinner and join in saluting this year's recipients of the Council's Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Awards, make your reservation with Council of Churches no later than Wednesday, May 31. Reply to: [capareacc@gmail.com](mailto:capareacc@gmail.com) or 518 462-5450. (Office closed on June 1 and 2). First Church is part of the CACC. We contribute meals regularly during the winter months to the Emergency Overflow Shelter program.

**The First Church 2017 Directory is under way.** During the month of June we will be taking photos of all the small groups and boards. Our goal is to have the directory ready for distribution at the 375 Anniversary Luncheon on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. A letter explaining the details will be mailed to everyone in the next few weeks. Smile!

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	5/28	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 AM Drive-In Worship 10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
Monday	5/29	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Closed Office Closed
Tuesday	5/30	12:00 NOON Bible Study
Wednesday	5/31	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open 12:00 NOON AA Meeting 6:00 PM NVC Practice Group
Thursday	6/1	7:00 PM Last Choir Rehearsal until Fall
Sunday	6/4	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Drive-In Worship (Communion) 10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship (Communion) 11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation First Church Readers 4:00 PM Piano Concert @ Delmar Reformed Church to benefit FOCUS Churches of Albany