

The First Church in Albany

*Welcomes you*

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022, 10am

Jesus

father

man

Christ

God

world

people

truth

word

children

flesh

grace

witness

son

beginning

light



# The First Church in Albany

## (Reformed Church in America)

## 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 we are loved.*

## Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

## We Gather in the Presence of God

# Prelude

*“Rondeau Carol”* Carson Cooman opus 1128  
*Martha Deyo, pianist*

## Welcome, Announcements & Blessing

“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Rev 3:20

**Call to Worship:** *Based on Psalm 147:12-20*

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down hail like crumbs-- who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!**

## \*Opening Hymn

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”*

### Verse 1

O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye O come ye to  
Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of angels

### Verse 3

Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven  
above  
Glory to God  
In the highest

### Chorus

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

### Verse 4

Yea Lord we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus to Thee be glory given  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing

### Verse 2

God of God  
Light of light  
Lo He abhors not the virgin's  
womb  
Very God  
Begotten not created

CCLI Song # 4758525

C. Frederick Oakeley | John Francis Wade | William  
Henry Monk

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## Prayer of Confession

**Help us Lord. As we enter into this new year we need your guidance more now than ever. Help us to trust you enough to release the burdens from the previous year. May we live each day with you. May we look forward to the hope and blessings you have promised. Take our hands, precious Lord. Amen.**

## *Silence*

## **Assurance of Pardon** *adapted from John 3:16*

First Church, for God so loved the world He gave his only Son, so that we would not perish but have eternal life. Walk into this new year living in this blessed assurance.

## **\*Passing the Peace**



Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a hand-sign of peace.

*Touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger, and wave to one another. This hand-sign makes Christ's gesture of blessing in a lot of iconography in the Orthodox Tradition.*

## **Children's Message & Blessing** *Children remain in worship*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Speak Lord, we your servants are listening.**

### **Sermon Text**

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

### **Sermon**

*Will You Be a Witness?*

### **A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

## **Sermon Notes**

Trouble in the text:

Trouble in our world:

God in the text:

God in our world:

Ways that God is moving in me:

## Hymn of Response

*“Shine Jesus Shine”*

G. Kendrick

### Chorus

Shine Jesus shine  
Fill this land  
With the Father's glory  
Blaze Spirit blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow river flow  
Flood the nations  
With grace and mercy  
Send forth Your word Lord  
And let there be light

Lord the light of Your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness shining  
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us  
Shine on me shine on me

Lord I come to Your awesome presence  
From the shadows into Your radiance  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness  
Search me try me consume all my darkness  
Shine on me shine on me

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story  
Shine on me shine on me

CCLI Song # 30426

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**Offering & Offertory**    *“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”*  
*Martha Deyo, pianist*

Trad. English Carol

Verse 1

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

Verse 2

In Bethlehem in Jewry  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn

Verse 3

From God our heavenly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name

Verse 4

Fear not then said the angel  
Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Saviour  
Of a pure virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's pow'r and might

Verse 5

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks afeeding  
In tempest storm and wind  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
The blessed Babe to find

Verse 6

And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Saviour lay  
They found Him in a manger  
Where oxen feed on hay  
His mother Mary kneeling down  
Unto the Lord did pray

Verse 7

Now to the Lord sing praises  
All you within this place  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface

CCLI Song # 39441 Unknown

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*You may also mail your offering to the church at First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207.*

**\*Doxology #592**

**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.**

**\*Eucharistic Song**    *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” v. 1 & 3*

**Verse 1**

Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

**Verse 3**

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King

CCLI Song # 27738

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

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**Communion Prayer**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts!

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.



## 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.**

### \*Sending Hymn

*"We Are Marching"*

CCLI Song # 164354

#### Chorus

Oh give thanks to the Lord  
For His love will never end

#### Verse 1

We are marching in the great procession  
Singers and dancers and musicians  
With the great congregation  
We are moving onward  
Ever further and deeper  
Into the heart of God

#### Verse 2

It's a march of victory  
It's a march of triumph  
Lifting Jesus higher  
On a throne of praise  
With the banner of love  
Flying over us  
Ever further and deeper  
Into the heart of God

#### Verse 3

We will go to the nations  
Spreading wide the fragrance  
Of the knowledge of Jesus  
Into every place  
Hear the great cloud of witnesses  
Cheer us onward  
Ever further and deeper  
Into the heart of God

#### Verse 4

And the whole of creation  
Waits in expectation  
Of the full revelation  
Of the sons of God  
As we march through history  
To our blood-bought destiny  
Ever further and deeper  
Into the heart of God

#### Ending

Ever further and deeper  
Into the heart of God

Graham Kendrick

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## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

*“Oh, How Joyfully” & “Joy to the World”*  
*Martha Deyo, pianist*

arr. by C. Berry

## Worship Leadership:

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Liturgist:** Ian Leet

**Guest Pianist:** Martha Deyo

**Technical Team:** Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

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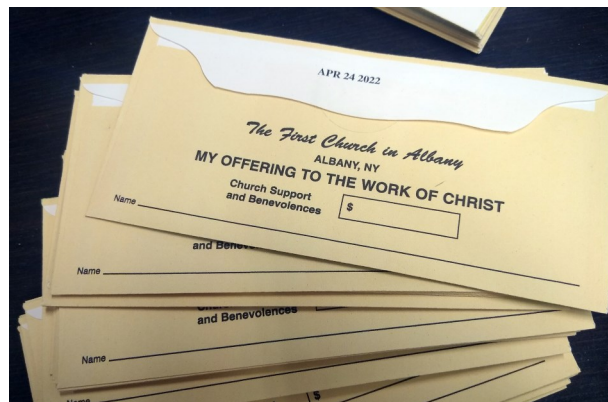
- Carol LaBatte
- Joanne Farrell
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Keith Curry, for the death of his uncle
- Peter, Karen Van Epps' brother
- Charnelle Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Samuel, Barb Andrew's son
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Ian and Edi Leet
- Fran Carr Morton
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Staff and Leaders of The First Church in Albany
- The homeless in our community as we enter this time of colder weather, and for outreach groups who seek to help the homeless.

*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 [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org)*

## Time to pick up your envelopes...

**If you use envelopes for your offering, they are available now!** The boxes are on a table, being safely guarded by Cleo, our Nipper dog (No worries, she does not bite!). The table is just outside the entrance to the Sanctuary. If you would like to make other arrangements to get your envelopes, you can contact the office at [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org) or call 518-463-4449.



## A note from Rev. Mashona...

I am overjoyed to share news from The Albany School of Ministry.

A number of FCIA members expressed interest in studying the Confessions of Faith. Now, Matthew van Maastricht is willing to put a study together for The First Church in Albany. Please help me spread the word. This is a wonderfully nourishing opportunity that I pray many will partake.

I will be reaching out to Matt in the weeks to come for ironing the details. Yes, we would work to have the course both onsite at the church and on ZOOM.



**SOUP IN**  
*Glee Park*  
**THURSDAY**  
**11:30AM-12:30PM**  
**FREE SOUP LUNCH**

**Volunteers needed!** On Sunday, there will be a volunteer sign up sheet in the work room, near the copier. We need help setting up, serving, welcoming our guests and cleaning up. Soup has been planned and will be prepared for Soup Thursday, but we could use dessert items (i.e. cookies, brownies, etc.).

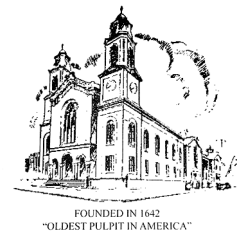
## This Week at the First Church in Albany



- |             |     |      |  |
|-------------|-----|------|--|
| • Sunday    | 1.2 | 10am | Sanctuary Worship<br>(Children will remain in worship) |
| • Monday    | 1.3 |      | Office Closed due to holiday                           |
|             |     | 9am  | No Food Pantry due to holiday                          |
| • Tuesday   | 1.4 | 12pm | Adult Book Study                                       |
| • Wednesday | 1.5 | 9am  | Food Pantry  |
|             |     | 12pm | AA Meeting   |
|             |     | 12pm | Centering Prayer                                       |
| • Thursday  | 1.6 | 11am | Soup Lunch in Clee Park                                |
|             |     | 7pm  | Epiphany Service in the Chapel                         |

### Upcoming Events

- |          |      |         |                               |
|----------|------|---------|-------------------------------|
| • Sunday | 1.23 | 11:15am | Annual Congregational Meeting |
| • Sunday | 2.6  | 10am    | FOCUS Worship Service         |



## First Church in Albany

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Albany NY 12207  
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