

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 30, 2022, 10am



REJECTED

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.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany **January 30, 2022**

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

"I've Found the Way"
Martha Deyo, pianist

J. Parks

Welcome, Announcements & Blessing

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:1-6

Leader: In you, O Lord, I take refuge;

People: Let me never be put to shame.

Leader: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

People: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Leader: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

People: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust from my youth.

Leader: Let us worship this God who is our refuge, who shelters us from rejection!

*Opening Hymn

Speak, O Lord

v. 1-3

C/C

The word of God is living and active. - Heb. 4:12



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You To re-ceive the food of Your Ho-ly Word.
2. Teach us, Lord, full o-be-di-ence, Ho-ly rev-er-ence, true hu-mil-i-ty;
3. Speak, O Lord, and re-new our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us



Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fash-ion us in Your like-ness, That the
Test our thoughts and our at-ti-tudes In the ra-di-ance of Your pur-i-ty. Cause our
Truths un-changed from the dawn of time That will ech-o down thro'e-ter-ni-ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to-day In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your ma-jes-tic love and au-thor-i-ty.
grace we'll stand on Your prom-is-es, And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful-fill in us All Your pur-pos-es for Your glo-ry.
Words of power that can nev-er fail, Let their truth pre-vail o-ver un-be-lief.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built And the earth is filled with Your glo-ry.



WORDS & MUSIC: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, 2006

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Prayer of Confession *Inspired by the Vanderbilt Lectionary and Romans 8 & Luke 4:21-30*

Holy Spirit, during Epiphany and through the word preached and lived, you have been revealing the good news that is Jesus, the Christ. We pray that you continue to conform us to his image and likeness, and we ask that you fill all creation with his good news. Make it be that by proclaiming your joyful promises and singing of your glorious hope, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: *Based on John 15*

First Church, if we are to conform and become like Jesus so that all the world may know his good news, Jesus invites us to abide in him: “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.” Abide in Christ, and know his peace.

Silence



***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

Prayer for Illumination *First stanza of opening hymn Speak, O Lord*

“Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us. Shape and fashion us in Your likeness, that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Amen.”

Sermon Text

Luke 4:21-30

Then Jesus began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Freedom from the Spirit of Rejection

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:

*Song of Response Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

v. 1-4

D G A D A

1 Come to me, O wea - ry tra - veler; come to me
 2 Do not fear, my yoke is ea - sy; do not fear,
 3 Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke
 4 Rest in me, O wea - ry tra - veler; rest in me

D A Bm G Em Bm A

with your dis - tress; come to me, you hea - vy bur - dened;
 my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be - fore you;
 and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be - side you;
 and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle;

G D A D G D

come to me and find your rest.
 do not run from me in fright.
 take and learn hu - mil - i - ty.
 rest and cast a - way your care.

Optional reading (Matt. 11:28-30)

Jesus, said,
 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
 and I will give you rest.
 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
 for I am gentle and humble in heart,
 and you will find rest for your souls.
 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Words: Sylvia Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Offering & Offertory

*“By the Gentle Waters”
Martha Deyo, pianist*

C. Berry

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.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

THE WORDS HE TAUGHT US

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.**

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God in our world:

Ways that God is moving in me:

PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



- Mary Ann Selmer
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, friends of the Andrews
- For Katherine's grandmother
- For the friends and family of Nat Phipps (of the Nat Phipps Jazz Trio) at his passing
- Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Peter, Karen Van Epps' brother
- Charnelle Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Samuel, Barb Andrew's son
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- 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



FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

COMBINED WINTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY, FEB 6th

Both In-person and Online

The First Church in Albany

110 N. Pearl St - 10 AM

Details and Zoom Link at:

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

or

www.focuschurches.net



The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets once a month in the Powell Room. We knit or crochet our shawls while we check in with each other. Then we discuss who might need a shawl.

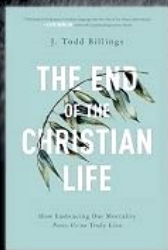
Our next meeting is February 7, 2022 at 11:30 AM.
New members are always welcome.



If you know of someone who needs a shawl, please tell Gertrude Dorn, Kathy Monthie, Mary Weijola or Jean Lamere.

Lent is a time of contemplation

Rev. Trey has chosen two book options to help guide us as we walk from Ash Wednesday, to the meal in the upper room, to the Cross, and gloriously, to the empty tomb. A time will be provided to gather for coffee and conversation to discuss what was learned from the book study and from our Lenten journey.



**The End of the
Christian Life**



**Falling into Goodness:
Daily Readings
for Lent**

Let Rev. Trey know what book you would like and we will make it available to you. You can email him at treytirpak@gmail.com.



*Brrrrr.....
It's So Cold!*

People have been donating hats and gloves for our pantry guests and the folks we see at Free Soup Thursday in Clee Park.

As soon as we get them, they are gone!

Please consider donating new hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. They can be left at the church office M-F, 9-4 or on Sunday.

The First Church in Albany 110 North Pearl Street, Albany NY 12207



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 | 1.30 | 10am | Sanctuary Worship |
| • Monday | 1.31 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| • Tuesday | 2.1 | 12pm | Adult Book Study |
| | | 7pm | WMA Meeting on ZOOM |
| • Wednesday | 2.2 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | | 12pm | AA Meeting |
| | | 12pm | Centering Prayer |
| • Thursday | 2.3 | 11am | Soup Lunch in Clee Park |
| | | 8pm | Prayer on Conference Call |

Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----|------|-----------------------|
| • Sunday | 2.6 | 10am | FOCUS Worship Service |
| • Monday | 2.7 | 11am | Prayer Shawl Meeting |
| • Wednesday | 3.2 | 12pm | Ash Wednesday Service |

Meeting Schedules are subject to change.

Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.

GROUP & MINISTRY LEADERS, SEND US YOUR

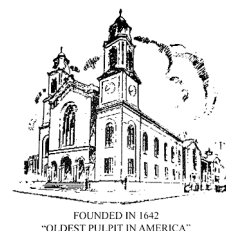
CALENDAR UPDATES

ONE-TIME EVENTS
OR RECURRING MEETINGS

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH YOUR
SCHEDULED GATHERINGS SO THAT WE CAN PUT
THEM ON THE CHURCH EVENT AND
OPERATIONAL CALENDARS.



EMAIL
OFFICE@FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG
OR CALL
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