

The First Church in Albany

*Welcomes you*

The First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 9, 2022, 10am



*Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire*

# **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.*

## **First Sunday after Epiphany** **January 9, 2022**

### **We Gather in the Presence of God**

#### **Prelude**

*"For the Fruit of All Creation"*  
*Martha Deyo, pianist*

*Zach Lula*

### **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:** *Based on Psalm Psalm 29*

**Leader:** The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**People:** The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

**Leader:** May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

# \*Opening Song

## Welcome Into This Place

Wel - come in - to this place. Wel - come in - to this

bro - ken ves - sel. You de - sire to a - bide in the

prais - es of your peo - ple, so we lift our hands and we

lift our hearts as we of - fer up this praise un - to your name.

Optional readings (from 2 Cor. 4:7; Ps. 22:3)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay  
to show that this all-surpassing power  
is from God and not from us.

You are enthroned as the Holy One;  
you are the one Israel praises.

Words and Music (WELCOME INTO THIS PLACE): Orlando Jaurez; arr. Jimmie Abbington © 1991 CMI-HP  
Publishing, admin. Word Music, LLC/Life Spring Music

## **Prayer of Confession by Austin D. Hill**

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your lovingkindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace as we silently confess our individual sins to you now...**

### *Silence*

## **Assurance of Pardon *Isaiah 54:8; 43:25; 44:22***

With everlasting love I will have compassion on you,  
says the Lord, your Redeemer.  
I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.  
Return to me, for I have redeemed you.



### **\*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**

**Holy Spirit, light our path with fresh wind and fire. In Christ's name, amen.**

## Sermon Text

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

*Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire*

## 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

D A7 D

*Spanish* 1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go; en mi

*English* 1 You have come down to the lake - shore, seek - ing  
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther

G A7

ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
bar - ca no hay o - ro ni es - pa - das, tan só - lo  
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my

D A7 D

quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
re - des y mi tra - ba - jo.  
ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
fish - nets and will for work - ing.

Refrain G D

Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos,  
O Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes;

Words and Music (PESCADOR DE HOMBRES 8.10.10 refrain 9.9.11.9): Cesáreo Gabarain, 1976; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1988, © 1977 Cesáreo Gabarain, admin. OCP Publications



A7 D

son - ri - en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre,  
 kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name. \_\_\_\_\_

G D

en la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca,  
 On the sand I have a - ban-doned my small boat;

Em A7 D

jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
 now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

*Spanish*

3 Tú necesitas mis manos,  
 mi cansancio que a otros descansa,  
 amor que quiera seguir amando.

*Refrain*

4 Tú, pescador de otros lagos,  
 ansia eterna de almas que esperan,  
 amigo bueno, que así me llamas.

*Refrain*

*English*

3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,  
 working love for the rest of the weary,  
 a love that's willing to go on loving.

*Refrain*

4 You who have fished other waters,  
 you, the longing of souls  
 that are yearning:  
 O loving Friend,  
 you have come to call me. *Refrain*

## Offering & Offertory

*“There’s a Song in the Air”*  
*Martha Deyo, pianist*

arr. C. Berry

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

## \*Doxology #591

**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 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.**



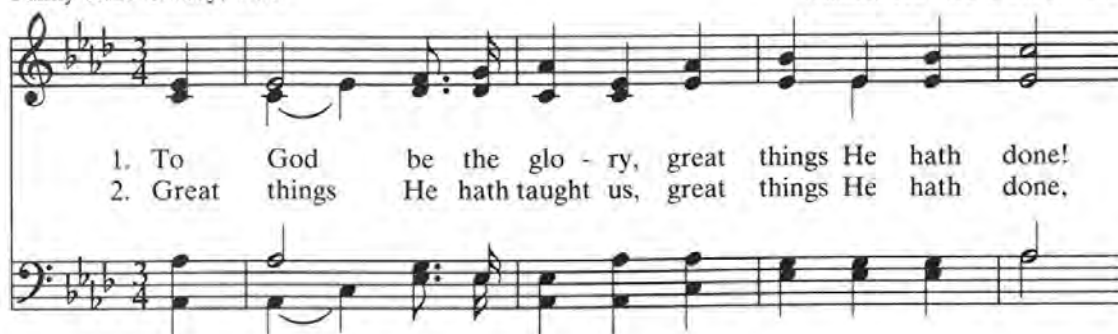
## \*Sending Song

# To God Be the Glory

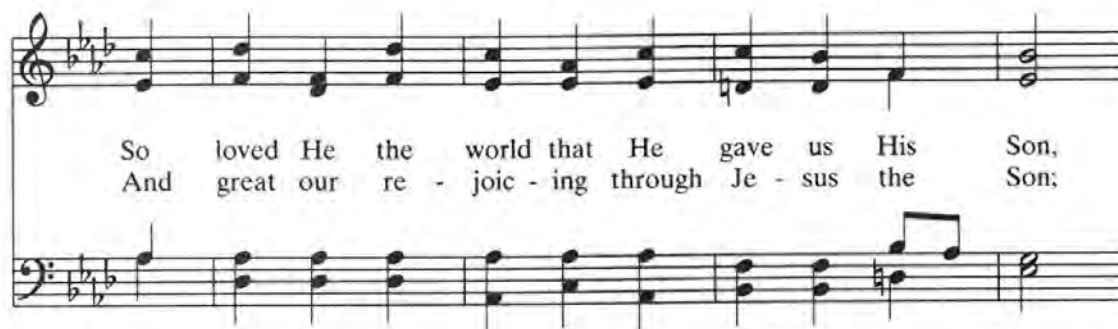
TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11 with refrain

Fanny Jane Crosby, 1875

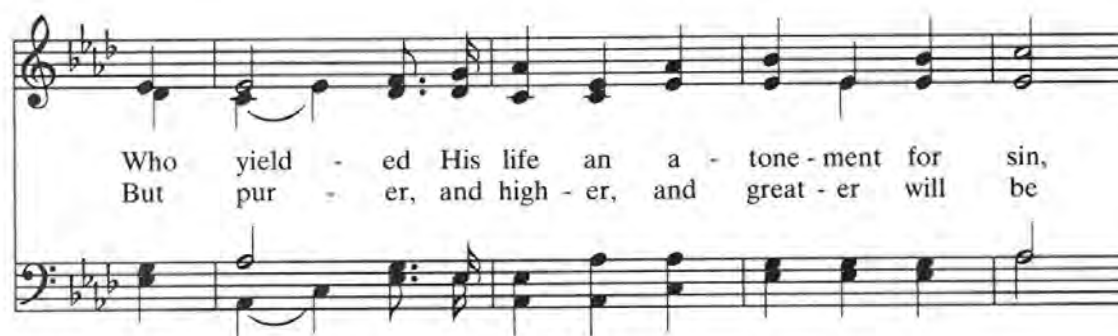
William Howard Doane, 1875



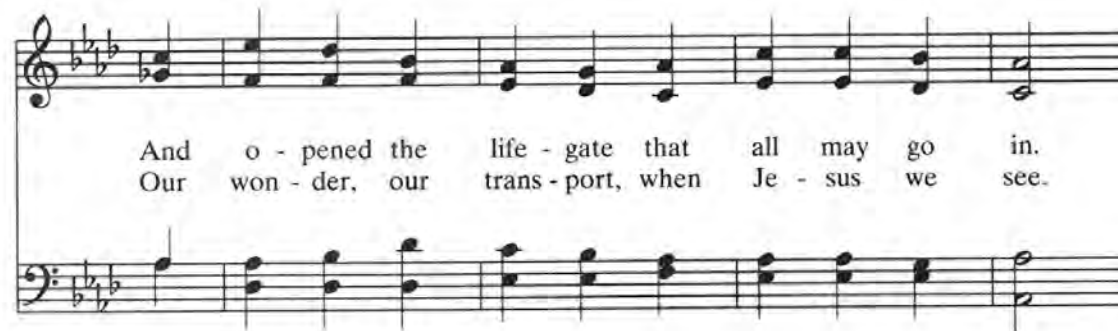
1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done!  
2. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,



So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



Who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for sin,  
But pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be



And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

MORNING AND OPENING HYMNS


*Refrain*





Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!





Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people re - joice!

O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,

And give Him the glo - ry: great things He hath done!



## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

*“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”  
Martha Deyo, pianist*

M. Hayes

### Worship Leadership:

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

**Liturgist:** Ian Leet

**Guest Pianist:** Martha Deyo

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

*CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689*



- 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)*

## This Week at the First Church in Albany

• Sunday	1.9	10am	Sanctuary Worship
• Monday	1.10	9am	Food Pantry
• Tuesday	1.11	12pm	Adult Book Study
		6:30pm	Consistory Meeting
• Wednesday	1.12	9am	Food Pantry
		12pm	AA Meeting
		12pm	Centering Prayer
• Thursday	1.13	11am	Soup Lunch in Clee Park
		6:30pm	Leadership Meeting
		8pm	Prayer on Conference Call

### Upcoming Events

• Sunday	1.16	11:15am	Trustees Meeting
• Sunday	1.23	11:15am	Annual Congregational Meeting
• Sunday	2.6	10am	FOCUS Worship Service

*Meeting Schedules are subject to change.  
Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.*



**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.).



## First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.,  
Albany NY 12207  
518-463-4449

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)