

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you



Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 10am

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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

October 3, 2021

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

"I Give You My Heart"
Glenn Claydon, guitar and vocals

Reuben Morgan

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

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

People: Amen.

Leader: You, O Lord, silence your enemies

People: with songs sung by children.

Leader: You put to ease our anxieties

People: with the laughter of infants.

Leader: And when we lie down to sleep,

People: you watch over us as a loving parent.

Leader: Let us worship this God who calls us his children!

Opening Song

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

arr. Bart Millard

What a fellowship what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Chorus

Leaning, leaning safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms

O how sweet the walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to day
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Chorus

What have I to dread what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Chorus

CCLI Song # 5264276

Barry Graul | Bart Millard | Blair Masters | Brown Bannister | Chris Donohue | Dan Needham |
Elisha Albright Hoffman | Jerry McPherson

*Prayer of Confession

Good God, we confess that being childlike, as Jesus describes, is seriously hard business. Instead, we tend to be childish: foolish, short-fused, and sometimes reckless. Holy Spirit, transform us to become childlike as Jesus describes, so that we can embrace the Kingdom of God with open arms, hope, and playfulness.

***Assurance of Pardon**

The good news is this: Christ has taken away all barriers to be reconciled with God so that we can embrace the Kingdom of God, *and Christ has sent us his Holy Spirit to make us born again as children of God.*



***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of the 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.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our lives to receive the Word you have for us today. Amen.

Scripture

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked Jesus again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to the disciples, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Go Fly a Kite! Healing from Play

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

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:

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Offering & Offertory

“Offering”

Paul Baloche

Verse

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood
And it's only through Your mercy Lord I come

Chorus 1

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You

Interlude

I bring an offering to You

Chorus 2

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You
O Lord I bring an offering to You
O Lord I bring an offering to You

Ending

I bring an offering to You

CCLI Song # 3956562

Paul Baloche

***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**



COMMUNION

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Eucharistic Song

“The Invitation”

Trevor Morgan

Lay down your fears and your burdens
You don't have to face them alone
Anyone tired or hurting inside
Love is leading you home

Cling to the savior who has led you
this far
And live with a soul set free

(Chorus)

CHORUS:

The blessed and the broken
The weak and the strong
Will all find rest at the throne of God
There is no condemnation
His arms are open wide
This is the invitation to your life

There is healing like you've never
known before
Salvation's right here at your door
This is your invitation
What are you waiting for?
What are you waiting for?

Come as you are to his mercy
Find all that you were meant to be

(Chorus)

(Chorus)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Proclaiming the Mystery of the Faith

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith, saying:

Christ has died!

Christ has risen!

Christ will come again!

Profession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #120

Let us now profess our faith using the words of the *Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer 120*:

Leader: In the Lord's Prayer, why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?

People: To awaken in us, at the very beginning of our prayer, what should be basic to our prayer—a childlike reverence and trust that through Christ, God has become our Father, and that just as our parents do not refuse us the things of this life, even less will God our Father refuse to give us what we ask in faith.

And so in childlike reverence, we come now to Christ's table asking God our Father to provide what we need in life.

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**

“Glorious Day”

Kristian Stanfill

I was buried beneath my shame
Who could carry that kind of weight
It was my tomb 'til I met You

I was breathing but not alive
All my failures I tried to hide
It was my tomb 'til I met You

Chorus

('Cause when) You called my name (and)
I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day
You called my name (and) I ran out of that grave
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day

Now Your mercy has saved my soul
Now Your freedom is all that I know
The old made new Jesus when I met You

Bridge

I needed rescue my sin was heavy
But chains break at the weight of Your glory
I needed shelter I was an orphan
Now You call me a citizen of Heaven
When I was broken You were my healing
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing
I have a future my eyes are open

CCLI Song # 7081388

Jason Ingram | Jonathan Smith | Kristian Stanfill | Sean Curran

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

*“I Want to Be Free”
Glenn Claydon, guitar and vocals*

Ellie Holcomb

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Musician: Glenn Claydon

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr



FIRST CHURCH PRAYER LIST

- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Myrica Cook, friend of the Persons family
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Ian and Edi Leet
- RB with a recent diagnosis
- Kenneth Carr (Fran's brother) and Angela Venable, for the loss of their daughter
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Our government officials, first responders and health care workers as we continue to manage the Covid-19 pandemic
- Countries like Haiti, recovering from natural disasters, and Afghanistan, dealing with political upheaval. For these and others, we pray for the humanitarian crises that accompany uncertainty and strife.
- Staff and Leaders of The First Church in Albany

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

This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 10.3 9am Drive-In Worship
10am Sanctuary Worship
11am Fellow Support Team Meeting
- Monday 10.4 9am Food Pantry
1:30pm Staff Meeting
6:30pm Children & Worship Team Conf. Call
- Tuesday 10.5 12pm Adult Bible Study
1pm Endowment Committee Mtg.
- Wednesday 10.6 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
- Thursday 10.7 5pm Mission Sunday Worship Planning
- Friday 10.8 1pm Art in the Park (weather permitting)

Other upcoming dates...

- Sunday 10.10 10am Children and Worship Open House

All Saints Day is November 1st

- On Sunday, Nov, we will remember our loved ones lost in 2020. Please email or call the office with the names of church members and friends who have passed. We will include these in the bulletin and the names will be read in memory.

Office email: office@firstchurchinalbany.org

Office phone: 518-463-4449



FOUNDED IN 1642
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

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