



**The First Church in Albany
(Reformed Church in America)**
Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today.
Sunday, October 1, 2023 10am
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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.

Prelude Reflection *Philippians 2:8-11*

...He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prelude

*“In Remembrance of Me”
Joshua Bliss, Baritone Saxophone*

Buryl Red

*In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God’s own will is done.
In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in, let him in.*

*Take, eat, and be comforted, drink and remember too,
that this is my body and precious blood, shed for you, shed for you.*

*In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love. In
remembrance of me, don’t look above, but in your heart, in your heart.
Look in your heart — for God.*

*Do this in remembrance of me.
Do this in remembrance of me.
Do this in remembrance of me.
In remembrance of me.*

Tolling of the Bell *bell tolled by children of First Church*

Call to Worship based on Micah 6:8, #resistharm.com

Leader: God has told you, O Mortal, what is good.

**All: What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love
kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

Leader: It is good to be together, God,

All: together listening for your voice, united by your Spirit.

Leader: In this time of worship

All: tell us about your kin(g)dom of kindness so that we can seek it.

Leader: Show us your justice.

All: We want to walk with you, humbly, closely, daily.

***Opening Hymn**

“Uyai mose/ Come All You People”

(see insert)

Prayer of Confession

**Dear Lord, You have entered our world so that we may have light and
live as light. Forgive us for hiding from your light and hiding the light
you have for us to shine. We are often not brave enough to live the
uncommon life. Forgive us for not asking, what YOU want. Lord, reveal
to us what you require.**

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and
to walk humbly with thy God?”

***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, please sit at the Communion Table in the aisle.*

Prayer for Illumination *Please sing*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Sermon Text

Acts 11: 1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.

These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said,

'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Called to Bravery

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response**

(see insert)

“Psalm 133 “

First Church’s Mission Statement

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 all loved.

Tithes & Offerings: *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*

Offertory

“For the Healing of the Nations”

(see insert)

Congregation sings verse 1, Choir only on Verses 3 & 4

***Doxology**

**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.**

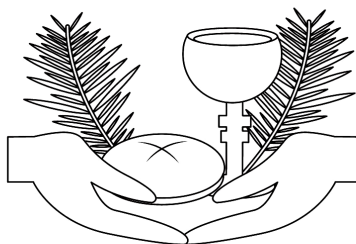
Eucharistic Anthem

(see Insert)

“Celebration: Let’s All Go to the Banquet”

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.



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 power and might. 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!

Mystery of the Faith

Christ has died!

Christ has risen!

Christ will come again!

Celebration of Communion:

Intercession:

We, indeed, praise and thank you, O Lord, that you have fed us at your Table. Grateful for this gift and mindful of the communion of your saints, here and in all places, we offer to you our prayers for all people:

Prayers offered

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**

(see insert)

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

“Celebrate Life”

Buryl Red

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Ian Leet

Organist: Iteke Prins

Musician(s)/Specialist(s): The First Church Choir, Joshua Bliss, baritone saxophone

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

- For Rev. Trey Tirpak and Cameron Carley, marrying on Sunday
- Avery Bradley, granddaughter of Marilyn and David, an athlete recovering from a leg injury that required surgery
- Norma McClement
- From our pantry family, Maureen Jackson and her brother Maurice, both dealing with health issues
- Family of Gillian Persons
- Jean Lamere
- Baby Dana in the NICU. Dana is the daughter of an acquaintance of the Andrews
- For Shirley Mockel, good friend of Marilyn Bradley, with health concerns.
- Kathleen Claydon
- Doug Plummer, friend of the Bradley family, as he begins treatment for health concerns
- For Barbara, friend of Barb Andrews and Donna Jones
- Becky Gardner
- Virginia Giguere and family as they mourn the passing of her brother Jason Miller in June.
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering from surgery
- Carol LaBatte
- Sharnelle Jones
- Joeanna Brown
- Family of Norma Jean Ballou
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley- Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.

Blessing

OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS AT FIRST CHURCH

On Sunday, Sept. 24, the children helped us to bless the prayer shawls created to comfort those among us in need of prayer.

If you are interested in joining our prayer shawl ministry, they will meet at 11:30am on Monday, Oct. 2 in the Powell Rm. at First Church.



2023 Readers Theater

An Evening's Journey Through Stories

Monday, October 2, 2023

Doors open at 6pm for mingling. Readings begin at 7pm

Capital Repertory
251 North Pearl St., Albany


Featured reader Charlayne Woodard, gifted actress and playwright who grew up in Albany.

Learn more at <https://wizardwardrobe.org/2023-readers-theater/>



Join Us for
This Week's Events

SUN	OCT 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am: World Communion Sunday (also on Zoom and YouTube), See our website for links to worship info.
MON	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am: Food Pantry in original location 11:30am: Prayer Shawl Group in the Powell Rm.
TUE	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noon: Adult Book Study
WED	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am: Food Pantry in original location Noon: Centering Prayer (Powell), AA Mtg (Parlor)
THU	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm: Potluck in the Parlor 7pm: A Night of Worship



Scan for full event calendar

Worship now streaming live on YouTube.



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.

Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org



Uyai mose/Come, All You People

PSALM 66

E A/E E

Shona 1 U - ya - i mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i
English 1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er; come, all you
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior; come, all you
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it; come, all you

E/B B7 E

mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i mo - se,
 peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er; come, all you peo - ple,
 peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior; come, all you peo - ple,
 peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it; come, all you peo - ple,

A/E E B7 3 E

ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri; u - ya - i mo - se Zvi - no.
 come and praise your Mak - er; come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come and praise the Sav - ior; come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come and praise the Spir - it; come now and wor - ship the Lord.

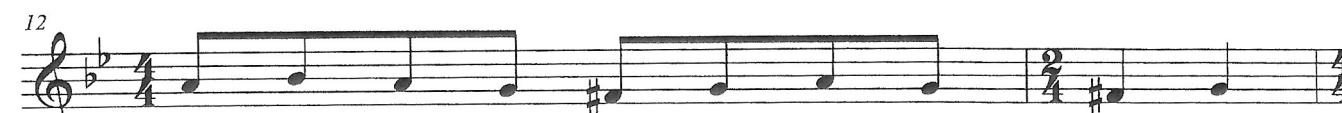
Words: st. 1 Alexander Gondo (20th c., Zimbabwe), tr. I-to Loh (b. 1936) © 1986 World Council of Churches;
 st. 2-3 from *With One Voice*, 1995, © Augsburg Fortress

Music (UYAI MOSE 5.6.5.6.5.6.7): Alexander Gondo © 1986 World Council of Churches; arr. John L. Bell
 (b. 1949) © 1993 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive
 North American agent

Psalm 133

Daniel Gryllus, Hungary

Zoltan Sumonyi,
adapted from Ps 133



For the Healing of the Nations

3

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with

3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the

4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

Celebration

Let's All Go To the Banquet

4

Aine Pedersen

Slovene folk song: Furmani pripelji jo vino

1. Now one and all, just come a - long, we're
2. The blind the lame, the hope - less case, we're
3. The stran - ger, for' - ner out - si - der, when
4. Just one thing he asks of us, when

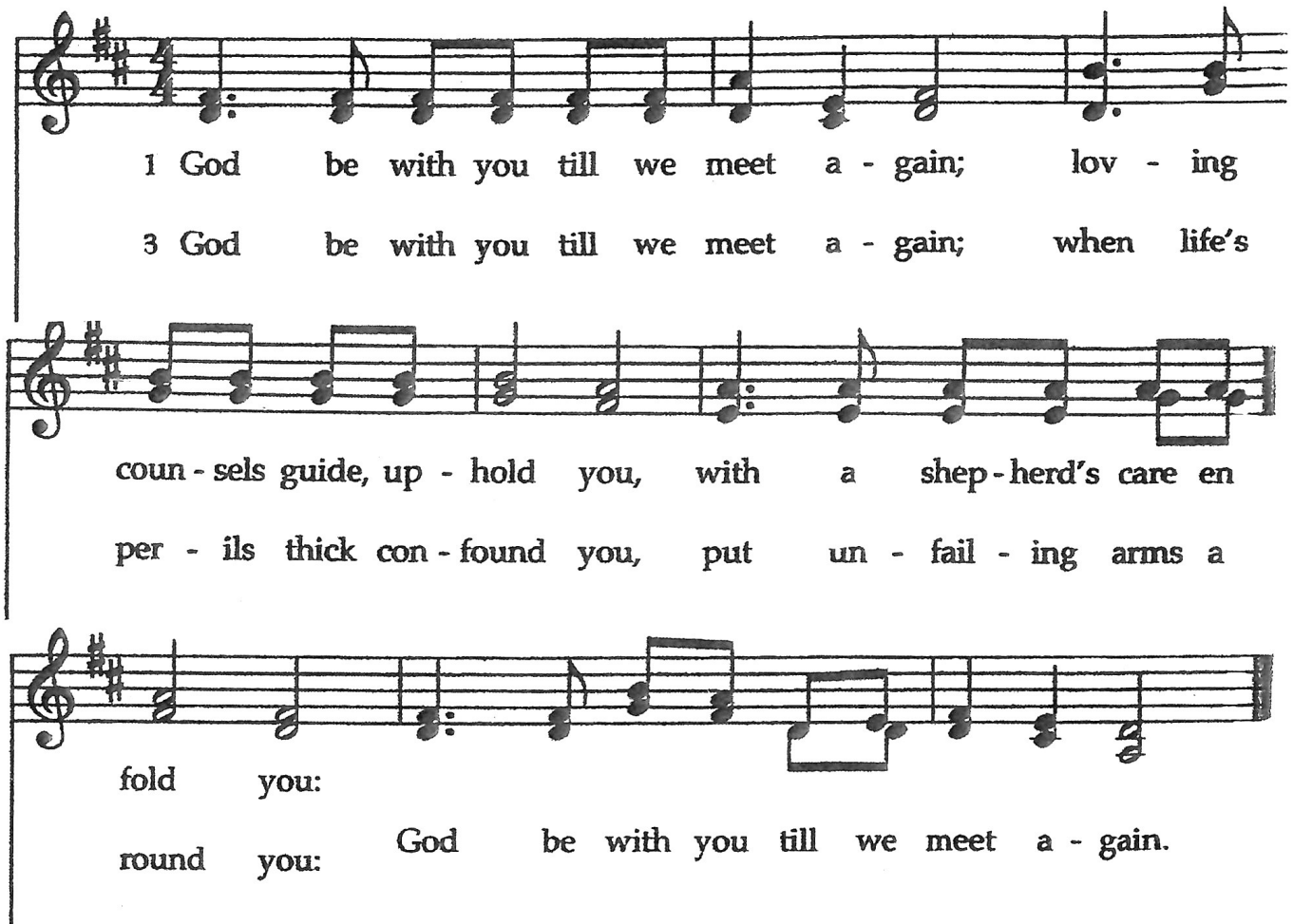
3
called mto meet our Sa - viour. There is no rea - son
called to meet our Sa - viour. No one should fail to
called to meet our Sa - viour. Just come and feel the
called to meet our Sa - viour: just drop all else and

6
to be shy, He wants us all to come! So cel - e-brate and
join the feast. He wants us al to come! So cel - e-brate and
wel - come here, ac - cept his in - vi - ta - tion! So cel - e-brate and
come a - long, mac - cept his in vi - ta - tion! So cel - e-brate and

10
dance and sing, the Lord has called us all! Us all! So
dance and sing, the Lord has called us all! Us all! So
dance and sing, the Lord has called us all! Us all! So
dance and sing. The Lord has called us all! Us all! So

13
come a long The feast is star-ting now.
come a - long The feast is star-ting now.
come a - long. The feast is star-ting now.
come a - long, The feast is star-ting now.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing

3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en

per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a

fold you:

round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.

TEXT: Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880, alt.
MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

GOD BE WITH YOU
9.8.♯
(alternate tune: RANDOLPH, 5.♯)