



The First Church in Albany  
*Welcomes you*

October 16, 2022  
10am Worship Service

*Take off your shoes!*

A poem by Macrina Wiederkehr, p.3

**Sunday, October 16, 3:00 PM**



**Steven E. Hoffman**  
**March 20, 1941 - September 29, 2022**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
Sunday, October 16, 2022  
3:00 PM  
First Church in Albany

The service will also be available on Zoom.  
Find the link is on [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)

INTERNMENT  
Monday, October 17, 2022  
10:30 AM  
Gerald B. H. Solomon  
Saratoga National Cemetery  
200 Duell Road,  
Schuylerville, NY 12871

## Prelude Reflection

## Take off your shoes!

Macrina Wiederkehr

My bare feet walk the earth  
reverently  
For everything keeps crying out,  
Take off your shoes  
The ground you stand on is holy  
The ground of your being is holy.

When the wind sings through the  
pines  
Like a breath of God  
awakening you to the sacred  
present  
calling your soul to new insights  
Take off your shoes!

When the sun rises above your  
rooftop  
Coloring your world with dawn  
Be receptive to this awesome  
beauty  
Put on your garment of adoration  
Take off your shoes!

When the Red Maple drops its last  
leaf of summer  
wearing its “burning bush” robes  
no longer  
read between its barren branches,  
and  
Take off your shoes!  
When sorrow presses close to  
your heart  
begging you to put your trust in  
God alone  
filling you with a quiet knowing

that God’s hand is not too short to  
heal you  
Take off your shoes!

When a new person comes into  
your life  
like a mystery about to unfold  
and you find yourself marveling  
over  
the frailty and splendor of every  
human being  
Take off your shoes!  
When, during the wee hours of the  
night  
You drive slowly into the new day  
And the morning’s fog, like angel  
wings  
Hovers mysteriously above you  
Take off your shoes!

Take off your shoes of distraction  
Take off your shoes of ignorance  
and blindness  
Take off your shoes of hurry and  
worry  
Take off anything that prevents  
you  
from being a child of wonder.

Take off your shoes;  
The ground you stand on is holy.  
The ground you are is holy.

# 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

October 16, 2022

\* = rise in body or in spirit

## Prelude Reflection *(poem on p. 3)*

**Prelude**                      “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”  
Gloria Norton, organist

P. Manz

**Tolling of Bell** (*will be tolled by children of First Church*)

## 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.” **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

## Call to Worship

Leader: You are closer to me than my own breath.

**People: May each breath I take deepen my awareness of your presence.**

Leader: You are as real as the sounds around me.

**People: May each sound I hear deepen my awareness of your reality.**

Leader: You are as present and life giving as my own heart.

**People: May each heartbeat I experience deepen my awareness of your slowness to anger.**

Leader: You embrace me as certainly as the clothes I wear.

**People: May each sensation I feel deepen my awareness of your loving presence.**

## \*Opening Hymn Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,  
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11–32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

## Prayer of Confession

How often have you spoken words of grace to us, O God, words we brushed aside as insignificant? How often have you spoken words of encouragement, words not taken seriously? You communicate with us in words, yet when those words reach our ears, how often have we simply ignored them and discredited your claim on our deeds, our very lives?

Yet you continue to listen to us, and that constancy is what makes us pray for your forgiveness. Help us to hear you as you intend us to hear, and give us the courage to respond, to grow, and to offer worship acceptable to you, shown so clearly in the ministry of your Son, in whose name we speak this prayer.

*Time of Silence*

## Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

**Assurance:** Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

**Summary of the Law:** Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

## \*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**

**Almighty God, you are the source of all light. You divinely separated light from darkness so that we may have the beauty of the light of day. Dear Lord, illuminate this day and enlighten us as we seek to know you through your word. May we be led by your light so our hearts may be opened to your word. We pray that we receive every word you speak to us today. Amen.**

### **Scripture Readings**

**Old Testament Reading:** Psalm 16:5-11, *pg. 430*

**Epistle Reading:** Philippians 4:4-14, *pg. 955*

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon Text**     Matthew 6:25-34, *pg. 787-788*

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

**Leader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**             Joy and Peace Which Surpasses All Understanding

**A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

**\*Hymn of Response**

(v.1&2)

# Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

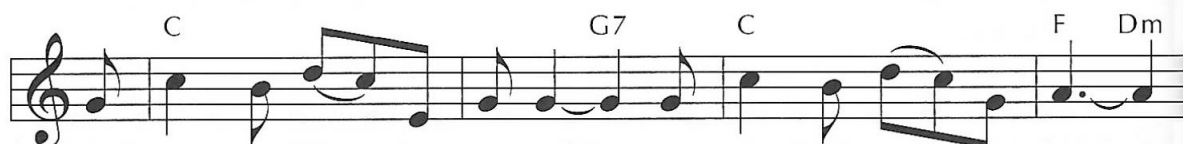
His Eye Is on the Sparrow



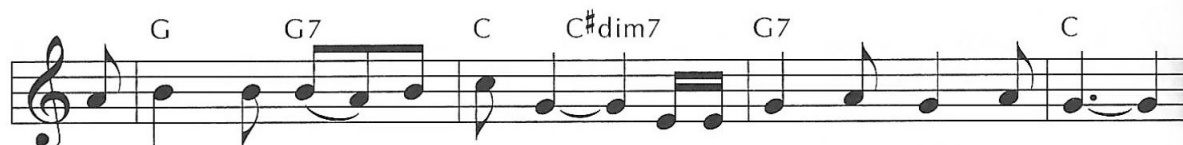
1 Why should I feel dis - cour - aged? Why should the shad - ows come?  
 2 "Let not your heart be trou - bled," his ten - der word I hear,  
 3 When - ev - er I am tempt-ed, when - ev - er clouds a - rise,



Why should my heart be lone - ly and long for heaven and home,  
 and rest - ing on his good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
 when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with - in me dies,



when Je - sus is my por - tion? My con - stant friend is he:  
 though by the path he lead-eth but one step I may see:  
 I draw the clos - er to him; from care he sets me free:



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch - es me;



his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.



I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)



for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

for his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

This hymn based on Jesus' saying about God's care for all creatures (Matthew 10:29-30/Luke 12:6-7) began with the refrain's last line, inspired by a woman who had endured much illness. It was first sung in public at the Royal Albert Hall, London, during evangelistic services in 1905.

## Profession of Faith *Spanish Confession (Responsive)*

We believe in God Almighty,  
**Creator of heaven and earth;**  
**Creator of all nations and churches;**  
**Creator of all languages and races.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,  
**God who became flesh as a man for mankind,**  
**God who became flesh in time for all time,**  
**God who became flesh in one culture for all cultures,**  
**God who became flesh in love and grace for all creation.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
**through whom God announces his presence in Jesus Christ**  
**in our people and in our cultures,**  
**by whom God, the Creator of all things,**  
**gives us the power to become new creatures,**  
**whose infinite gifts make us one body:**  
**the Body of Christ.**

We believe in the Church  
which is universal because it is the sign of God's rule,  
whose faithfulness is shown in all its shades,  
where all the colors together draw only one landscape,  
and all tongues sing the same praises.

We believe in the Rule of God - the day of the great Fiesta  
when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,  
when all people will participate in a joyful feast,  
when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.

And because we believe, we commit ourselves  
to believe for those who do not believe,  
to love those who do not love,  
to dream for those who do not dream,  
until the day when hope becomes a reality. AMEN.

**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**

*"Jesus, Lead Thou On"*

P. Manz

**\*Doxology #592 in pew hymnal**

**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**

**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**      “*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*” #538 in pew hymnal

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude**

“*God of Grace*”

P. Manz

**Note:** Please proceed downstairs to Zimmerman Hall to hear Rev. Van Tonder give a talk entitled, *An Introduction to Mindfulness*. Coffee and refreshments are available.

Preaching: Rev. Immanuel Van Tonder

Organist: Gloria Norton

Audio/Visual Techs: Josh Bliss and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379;  
One License #A-700689

## Prayer Concerns

- Prayers for family and friends of Steve Hoffman
  - Joeanna Brown and Deb Anderson
  - Becky Hudak
  - Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
  - Erica T. recuperating slowly from illness
  - Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
  - John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
  - Judith Utley Suess, for strength
  - Lloyd, father of Nikki Ballou
  - Dennis, veteran and friend of Doug Persons
  - Brian Zapel, friend of Dave Andrews
  - Jen Fish and family
  - Matt Sweeney, friend of Rev. Trey
  - Shirley Joosten
  - Mary Bon and Family
  - Jay Reohr
  - Ronald Stockhoff.
  - For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
  - For Mia and Wim Westman
  - For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
  - Harold Bushnell
  - For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, for her children (Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher)
  - Norma McClement
  - Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
  - Mary Ann Selmer
  - Anthony, of the Brown Family
  - Donna Schultz
  - Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
  - Jeff Curry
  - Alex Bliss
  - Mary Weijola
  - Fran Carr-Morton
  - Cheryl Gowie
  - Ada Harris
  - Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
  - Olivia Gaydushek
  - Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
  - Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath. We pray that cooler heads will prevail in discussions and decisions for how to manage the situation.
  - An end to the war in Ukraine
  - For safety and recovery in Florida as Hurricane Ian impacts the state
- 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    | 10.16 | 10am | Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom  |
|             |       | 3pm  | Celebration of Life of Steven Hoffman |
| • Monday    | 10.17 | 9am  | Food Pantry                           |
| • Tuesday   | 10.18 | 12pm | Adult Scripture Study                 |
| • Wednesday | 10.19 | 9am  | Food Pantry                           |
|             |       | 12pm | AA Meeting                            |
|             |       | 12pm | Centering Prayer                      |

## Upcoming Events

- |          |       |      |   |
|----------|-------|------|---|
| • Sunday | 10.30 | 10am | FCIA 380th Anniversary<br>Worship & Celebration |
|----------|-------|------|---|

*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  
518-463-4449



## First Church in Albany

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

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



# The First Church in Albany

## OCTOBER 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div>  <b>Sunday, October 30 is our 380th anniversary celebration</b> </div>						1
 2  	 3 Prayer Shawl Mtg.	Zoom Study noon 4	 5  AA	6 A Night of Worship	7	8
 9  	 10 Indigenous Peoples' Day	Zoom Study noon 11 Consistory Mtg	 12  AA	13	14	15
 16 	 17	Zoom Study noon 18	 19   AA	20	21	 22 Garden Clean-up Day 9:30am
 23 Trustee Mtg. 11:30 		Zoom Study noon 25	 26  Dutch Settlers Mtg 6pm AA	27	28	29
 30  	 31 	 <div>             10/2 Children &amp; Worship Open House              10/9 First Day for C&amp;W           </div>				

### Key:





**Clee Park & Flower Gardens  
Clean-up**  
Saturday, October 22,  
starting at 9:30am  
(Raindate Saturday, October 29)

Members and friends of First Church are invited to make our flower gardens and urban park ready for winter and beautiful in the spring to come.

We will remove annuals, trim perennials, rake some leaves, plant some bulbs (daffodils, tulips, crocuses), and spread some mulch. All are welcome!

Please contact Jim Folts  
e-mail [foltsjamesd@gmail.com](mailto:foltsjamesd@gmail.com)  
or phone 518-456-9805  
if you would like to help.

# FIRST CHURCH

## Cares



We need your help to cover the cost of insurance so that we can grow our partnership with our friends at **Castle Island Bilingual Montessori School**. Your response the first week was wonderful. Just goes to show that **First Church Cares!**

Help us reach our goal of \$10,000. Make checks payable to **The First Church in Albany** with "School Insurance" in the memo line.


If you have any questions or just want to learn more about this partnership, email Pastor Mashona at [srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org)

Amount	Date
\$3,550	10.12.22
\$1,300	9.29.22

# Sing a new song to the Lord!

## JOIN THE CHOIR

Choir rehearsals for the October 30th, 380th Anniversary Celebration to be held Thursday, October 20 & 27, 7:30pm in Choir Room



Iteke Prins

*Hope to see you soon!*

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

# BLUE Christmas

The First Church in Albany  
Thursday, December 15, 6:30pm

A time of remembrance & hope  
We will reflect on our lives  
and seek the healing  
that only comes from our Lord.  
This year, we will also recognize  
all who have passed from  
gun violence in Albany NY.

More details to come.