

The First Church in Albany  
*Welcomes you*



**October 23, 2022  
10am Worship Service**

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of fixing broken pottery with lacquer and powdered gold. It is meant to embrace flaws and imperfections, and to treat breakage and repair as part of the beautiful history of an object rather than something to be disguised.

# **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.*

## **Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost** **October 23, 2022**

*\* = rise in body or in spirit*

### **Prelude Reflection** *Leonard Cohen*

Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.

### **Prelude**

*"Morning Has Broken"*  
*Gloria Norton, organist*

A. Royce Eckhardt

### **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** *Based Psalm 84:1-7*

**People:** My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

**Leader:** Happy are those who live in your house, ever-singing your praise. Selah. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**People:** As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.



# \*Opening Hymn #181

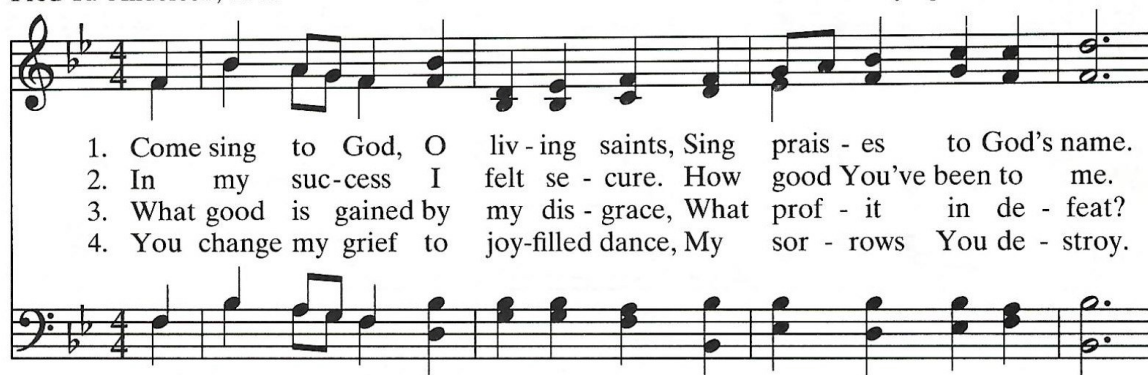
# Come Sing to God

also in pew hymnal

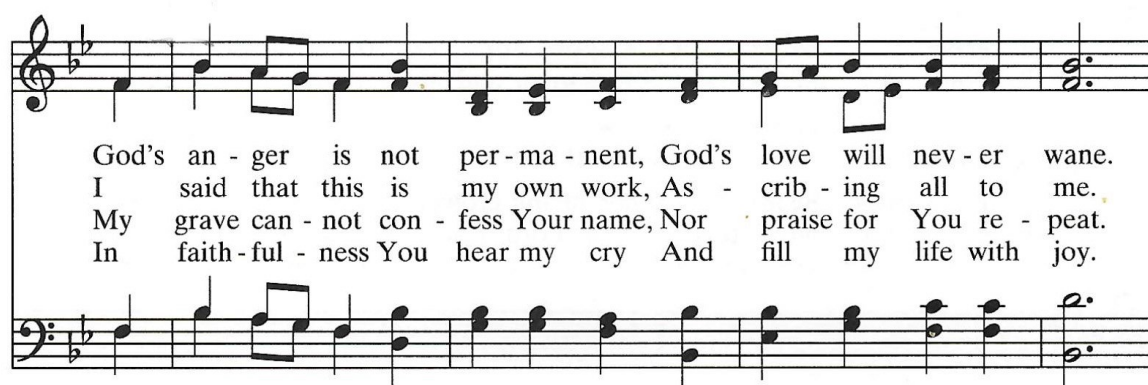
ELLACOMBE CMD

*Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Württembergischen  
Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784; alt. 1868*

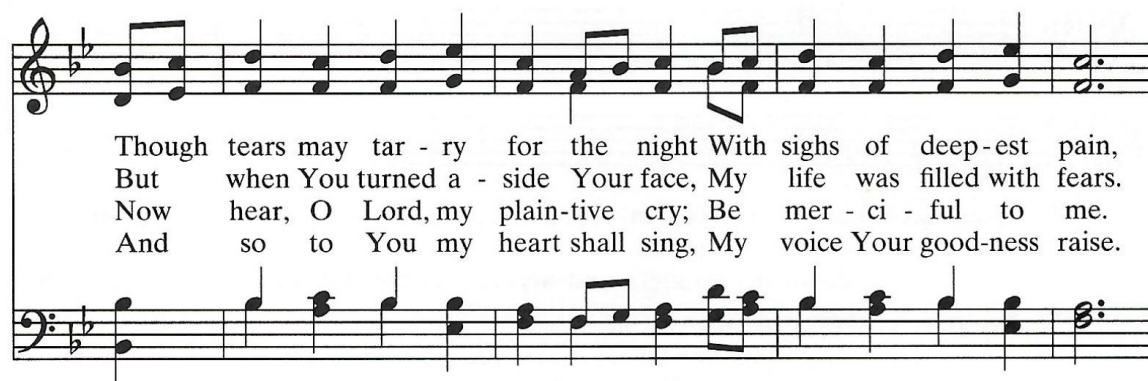
Fred R. Anderson, 1986



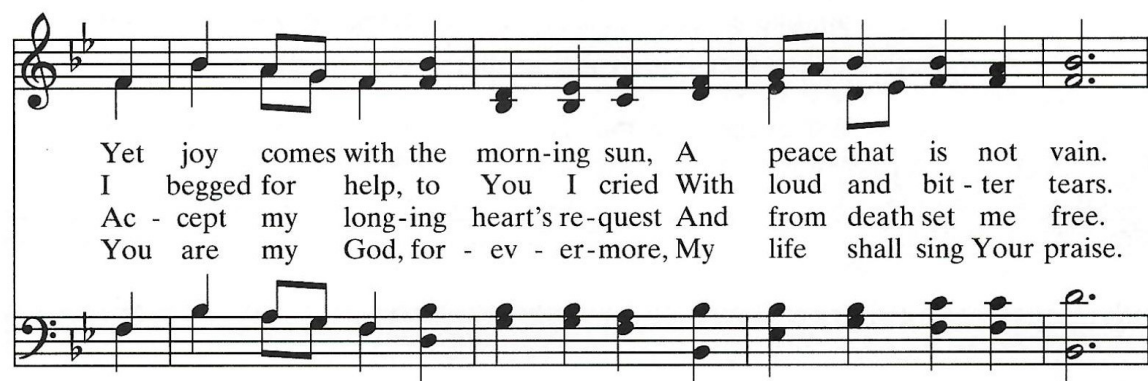
1. Come sing to God, O liv - ing saints, Sing prais - es to God's name.  
2. In my suc - cess I felt se - cure. How good You've been to me.  
3. What good is gained by my dis - grace, What prof - it in de - feat?  
4. You change my grief to joy-filled dance, My sor - rows You de - stroy.



God's an - ger is not per - ma - nent, God's love will nev - er wane.  
I said that this is my own work, As - crib - ing all to me.  
My grave can - not con - fess Your name, Nor praise for You re - peat.  
In faith - ful - ness You hear my cry And fill my life with joy.



Though tears may tar - ry for the night With sighs of deep - est pain,  
But when You turned a - side Your face, My life was filled with fears.  
Now hear, O Lord, my plain - tive cry; Be mer - ci - ful to me.  
And so to You my heart shall sing, My voice Your good - ness raise.



Yet joy comes with the morn - ing sun, A peace that is not vain.  
I begged for help, to You I cried With loud and bit - ter tears.  
Ac - cept my long - ing heart's re - quest And from death set me free.  
You are my God, for - ev - er - more, My life shall sing Your praise.

Text: © 1986 Fred R. Anderson; from *Singing Psalms of Joy and Praise*. Used by permission.

## Prayer of Confession

**Oh Lord! Too often we look upon those around us and only judge their faults. We have often judged others by the traditions of Pharoah's who only want the oppressed to work harder. Forgive us, for not noticing the cracks in our own hearts and minds. Today we confess our need for your Light to come in and shine through our cracks. Instead of pretending that everything is always perfect, today we present ourselves as souls in need of forgiveness, guidance, and salvation.**

*Time of Silence*

## Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. Mathew 4:16

## \*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** *Ages 4-8 are invited up to Children & Worship after the message, and ages 9+, if they are not already up with Kathleen, please proceed upstairs.*

## 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!**

## Scripture Readings

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon Text

Timothy 4:6-8

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Forget Perfect

## A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

# \*Hymn of Response What Does the Lord Require of You

MICAH 6:8

*May be sung as a canon*

① B $\flat$  F Gm Dm E $\flat$

What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the

B $\flat$  Cm F B $\flat$  ② B $\flat$  F/A

Lord re - quire of you? Jus - tice,

Gm Dm E $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D Cm7 F

kind - ness, walk hum-bly with your

B $\flat$  ③ F/A Gm Dm

God. To seek jus - tice and love kind-ness

E $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D Cm7 F B $\flat$  D.C. B $\flat$  Fine

and walk hum-bly with your God. God.

**Profession of Faith** *an excerpt from the Christian Reformed Church in North America's "Our World Belongs to God" section 41.*

**Joining the mission of God, the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom to call everyone to know and follow Christ and to proclaim to all the assurance that in the name of Jesus there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and believe.**

**The Spirit calls all members to embrace God's mission in their neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner.**

**We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being.**

**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**

*"Ode to Joy"*

Robert A. Hobby

**\*Doxology #592**

*Also 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**

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 Hymn #307**

# Fight the Good Fight

*Also in pew hymnal*

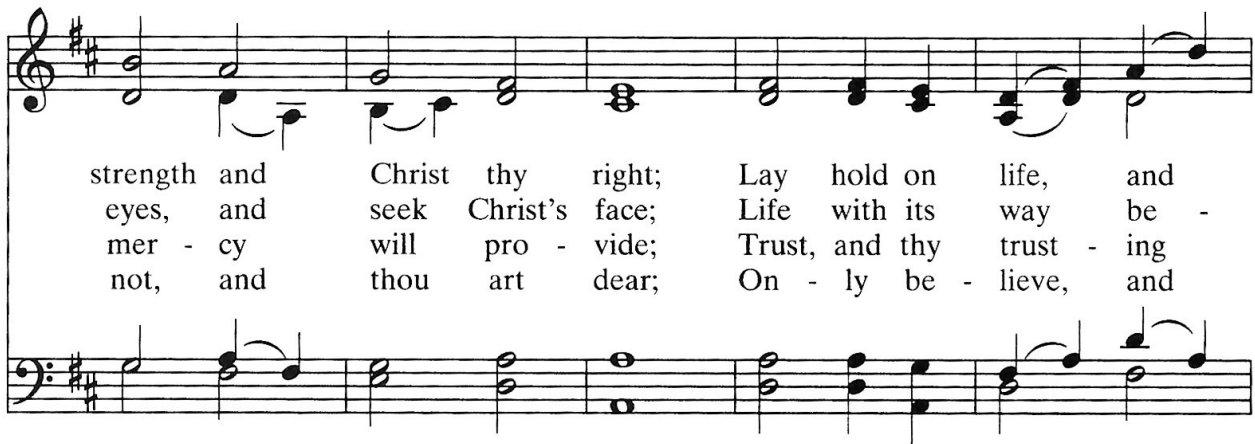
DUKE STREET LM

John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1863; alt.

John Hatton (d. 1793)



1. Fight the good fight with all thy might; Christ is thy  
2. Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up thine  
3. Cast care a - side, lean on thy guide; God's bound-less  
4. Faint not nor fear, God's arms are near; God chang-eth



strength and Christ thy right; Lay hold on life, and  
eyes, and seek Christ's face; Life with its way be -  
mer - cy will pro - vide; Trust, and thy trust - ing  
not, and thou art dear; On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be Thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
fore us lies, Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.  
thou shalt see That Christ is all in all to thee.

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude**

*"Ode to Joy"*  
*Gloria Norton, organist*

M. Burkhardt



Preaching: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston  
Liturgist: Trey Tirpak  
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)*

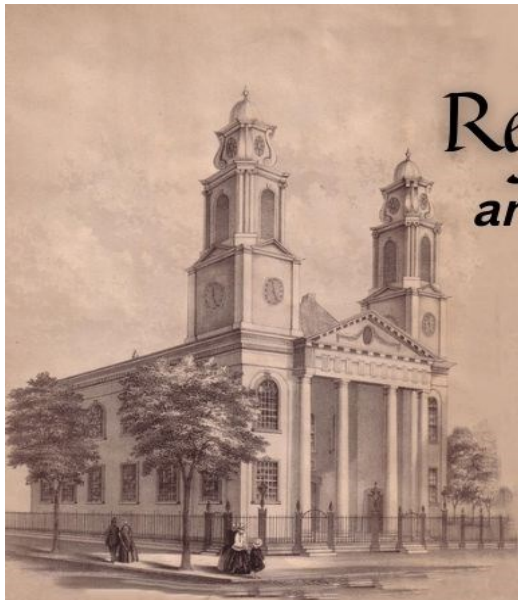
# Fall 2022

## SECOND HOUR GATHERINGS

Events held downstairs in Zimmerman Hall after Coffee Time (30 minutes)

Date	Event	Details
10.23	The Apostle's Creed Series Part II	Who & What is God?
10.30	Reformation Sunday 380th Anniversary Celebration	Come and celebrate the 380th Anniversary of the First Church
11.6 All Saints' Sunday	The Apostle's Creed Series Parts III & IV	Jesus Christ Birth, Suffering, Death
11.13 Consecration Sunday	Thanksgiving Activity	Pack Thanksgiving Bags for First Church Food Pantry
11.20 Christ the King Sunday	Advent Preparation	Help Decorate for the Season of Advent
11.27 Advent 1	Thanksgiving Weekend	No programming due to the holiday weekend
12.4 Advent 2	The Apostle's Creed Series Part V	Descent to Hell through Judging the Living and the Dead
12.11 Advent 3	The Apostle's Creed Series Part VI	Holy Spirit through Communion of Saints
12.18 Advent 4	The Apostle's Creed Series Part VII	Forgiveness of Sins through Everlasting Life. Amen.
12.25 Christmas	Christmas Day	TBD





Sunday, October 30th is

# Reformation Sunday

*and the First Church in Albany  
is celebrating its  
380th Anniversary!*

Worship at 10am

- Guest preacher John Paarlberg
- Music by Itke Prins
- Historical discussion with Tom Allison and Doug Persons



**The First Church in Albany**  
est. 1642

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

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

## All Saints' Day

When we remember those who have gone before us

We will read the names on Sunday, November 6th.

Email names to be included to  
[office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org),  
or share with our pastors.



# 2022 Fall Schedule

9up is our ministry to First Church Kids who are 9 years and older.



**Oct.**

**9, 10am**

**Art & Worship**, with Miss Kathleen,  
2nd floor classroom

**16, 10am**

**Mindfulness in Worship**, with  
guest minister

**23, 10am**

**Art & Worship**, with Miss Kathleen,  
2nd floor classroom

**30, 10am**

**380th Anniversary Worship Aides**

**Nov.**

**5,  
Saturday**

**Van Gogh: The Immersive  
Experience** (more details to come)

**6, 10am**

**Bell Tollers and Candle Aides** for  
All Saints Sunday

**13, 10am**

**Art & Worship**, with Miss Kathleen,  
2nd floor classroom

**13, 11am**

Move down to Zimmerman Hall to  
**help pack Thanksgiving bags** for  
the FCIA Food Pantry

**20, 10am**

**Art & Worship**, with Miss Kathleen,  
2nd floor classroom, and be  
prepared to help set up the  
Sanctuary for Advent (after  
worship).

**27**

**Off for Thanksgiving weekend**

**Dec.**

**4, 10am**

**Advent creation presentation** in  
worship

**11, 10am**

**Art & Worship**, with Miss Kathleen,  
2nd floor classroom

**18, 11am**

**Missional Activity** with Pastor Trey,  
2nd floor classroom

**25, 10am**

**Pajamas & Worship**





**October 26 7-9pm**

*How to*  
**Thrive Again**  
*Post-Pandemic*

Presented by CCRC in conjunction with  
the Samaritan Counseling Center

**Christ Community  
Reformed Church**

1010 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY  
[www.ccrcc-pny.org](http://www.ccrcc-pny.org)

**RSP**

[office@ccrc-cpny.org](mailto:office@ccrc-cpny.org)  
518 371 7654



**October**

**IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**



**Rev. Mashona & Rev. Trey,  
thank you for your faithful service to First Church  
and all the ways you bless us!**





# This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 10.23 10am Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
- Monday 10.24 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 10.25 12pm Adult Scripture Study
- Wednesday 10.26 9am Food Pantry  
12pm AA Meeting  
12pm Centering Prayer  
6pm Dutch Settlers' Society Mtg.

## Upcoming Events

- Sunday 10.30 10am FCIA 380th Anniversary  
Worship & Celebration
- Tuesday 11.1 All Saint's Day (honored on Sunday, 11.6  
in worship)
- Thursday 11.3 7pm A Night of Worship

*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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