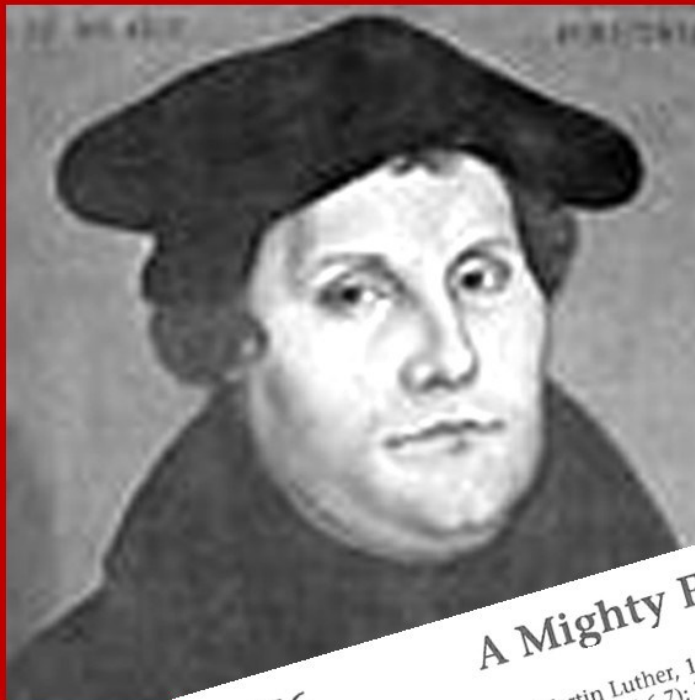


Sunday, October 31, 2021, 10am

The First Church in Albany

# Welcomes you



## 776 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852, P.D.  
Music (EIN FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7): Martin Luther, 1529, alt.; harm. Johann S. Bach (1685-1750), D.

Sheet music for the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". The music is written on a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are written below the notes, and the musical notation includes various chords (C, G, Am, D7, Dm, G7, C, Dsus) and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

1 A might - y in our world, with all is strength dev - ily God, a bul - wark  
2 Did we in this world, with all is strength dev - ily God, a striv - ing  
3 And though this world, with all is strength dev - ily God, a threat - en  
4 That Word a - bove all is strength dev - ily God, a thanks to

nev - er fail ing; our help - er he, a mid the fl  
would be los ing; we not the right Man on our  
to un - do us, we will not fear, for the God has  
them a - bid eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are



# **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.*

## **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Reformation Sunday

October 31, 2021

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

#### **Prelude**

*"Alleluia"*

W.A. Mozart

*Margaret Randall, organist*

### **Welcome, Announcements & Blessing**

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Romans 8:38-39

**Call to Worship** *Based on the Westminster Catechism, Heidelberg Catechism, and Our World Belongs to God, a Contemporary Testimony.*

Leader: Congregation, in whom is our help?

**People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth!**

Leader: Why are we here?

**People: We come to worship and enjoy the Triune God.**

Leader: What do we long for while here?

**People: We long to truly know God and know ourselves.**

Leader: What do we already know about God and ourselves?

**People: We know that all who abide in love, including our world, belong to God.**

Leader: So, with hearts lifted in humility and gratitude, let us worship the Lord!

# \*Opening Hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

C G Am D7 G Am

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en  
 4 That Word a - bove all earth - ly powers— no thanks to

C Dm G7 C G Am D7 G

nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he, a - mid the flood  
 would be los - ing, were not the right Man on our side,  
 to un - do us, we will not fear, for God has willed  
 them— a - bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours

Am Em C Dm G7 C Am Dsus D G

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe  
 the Man of God's own choos - ing. You ask who that may be?  
 his truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,  
 through him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,

C Dm Am Dsus D G

does seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:



and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same; and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852, P.D.  
 Music (EIN FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7): Martin Luther, 1529, alt.; harm. Johann S. Bach (1685-1750), P.D.

## Call to Confession

Truly Christ's kingdom is forever and our God is a mighty fortress, but we must also admit that we live as if our kingdoms are forever we are our own mighty fortresses. We need reform. And so, let us do the hard work of naming aloud our "sin and misery" that shackle our lives and well-being.

## Prayer of Confession

**Jesus, we confess that we resist you when you call us to reform. We resist giving ourselves to you and to others, and so we end up resisting your grace. Resistance to you has made us tired and sometimes miserable because resisting you is resisting goodness. Hear us as we own and confess our resistance to you in our life together. Send your Holy Spirit to empower us to receive your reform of ourselves, and transform us to become agents of justice and joy.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Friends, at the cross, Christ took upon himself the ultimate resistance of humankind towards God. And so, the good news is this: Though Christ did die from the worst of our resistance, Christ rose again and conquered our resistance. This same Christ who is ascended in heaven now freely gifts us salvation -love, forgiveness, and hope- by his Spirit. This free gift of faith sets us free from our bondage of sin and misery. Be set free; don't resist the Love of God in Jesus Christ.



### **\*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 of Blessing & Message for the Children**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Scripture**

Hebrews 9:11-14

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

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

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

### **Sermon**

*God Is Good News*

Rev. Trey Tirpak

### **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:

## \*Hymn of Response

# I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

PSALM 15

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is in the soprano part. The lyrics are: 'I'm gon-na \*live so \*live so God can use me an - y - where, Lord,'. The second system continues the melody with the lyrics: 'an - y - time! an - y - time! I'm gon-na live so live so God can'. The third system concludes with the lyrics: 'use me an - y - where, Lord, my Lord, an - y - time! an - y - time!'. Chord symbols are provided above the staves: G, G7, C, G, D/F#, Em, C, G/B, G, Em, A7, D7, G.

\*Additional stanzas: work, pray, etc.

### Refrain

LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?  
Who may live on your holy mountain?  
**The one whose walk is blameless,  
who does what is righteous,  
who speaks the truth from their heart;  
whose tongue utters no slander,  
who does no wrong to a neighbor,  
and casts no slur on others;**

### Refrain

who despises a vile person  
but honors those who fear the LORD;  
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,  
and does not change their mind;  
**who lends money to the poor without  
interest;  
who does not accept a bribe against the  
innocent.  
Whoever does these things  
will never be shaken.**

### Refrain

For another setting of Ps. 15 see 612

Words: African American spiritual, P.D.

Music (I'M GONNA LIVE): traditional; arr. Wendell Whalum (1932-1987) © the Estate of Wendell Whalum

**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**

As the *Heidelberg Catechism* teaches us, “We find all comforts in his wounds...”

# 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

# Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD CMD

H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985

*English Country Songs*, 1893  
Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system contains four numbered verses. The subsequent systems contain the main body of the hymn's lyrics, which are repeated in each system.

1. To - day we all are called to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord,  
2. God made the world and at its birth Or - dained our hu - man race  
3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down As in a might-y stream,  
4. May we in ser - vice to our God Act out the liv - ing Word,

To help to set the cap - tive free, Make plow-share out of sword,  
To live as stew-ards of the earth, Re - spond-ing to God's grace.  
With righ-teous - ness in field and town To cleanse us and re - deem.  
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.

To feed the hun-gry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,  
But we are vain and sad - ly proud, We sow not peace but strife,  
For God is long-ing to re - store An earth where con - flicts cease,  
As stew-ards of the earth may we Give thanks in one ac - cord

To serve the poor and home-less first, Our ease and com-fort last.  
Our dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud That threat-ens all of life.  
A world that was cre - at - ed for A har - mo - ny of peace.  
To God who calls us all to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

Text: © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael.

Music: Arrangement and harmonization from the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our

### Worship Leadership:

**Preacher:** Rev. Trey Tirpak

**Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Guest Organist:** Margaret Randall

**Vocalist:** Rose Hunsberger, soprano

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

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## PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Itke Prins and Colleen Lais, for the passing of friend Raebeth
- Charlene Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- 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
- 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](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org)*

TOM THE TURKEY HERE!  
FIRST CHURCH, WE NEED  
YOUR HELP TO FILL  
OUR THANKSGIVING  
BASKETS!  
TAKE A TAG OR TWO  
AND BRING THE ITEMS  
TO CHURCH BEFORE  
NOVEMBER 12  
  
THANKS A BUNCH!



The tags that Tom speaks of are available on the display above the stairs to Zimmerman Hall, as you come in for worship in the Sanctuary.

# Consecration SUNDAY

is November 21, 2021

**Watch the mail.  
A letter is enroute.**

If you do not receive a  
letter, please contact  
the office at

## This Week at the First Church in Albany



- |             |       |      |  |
|-------------|-------|------|--|
| • Sunday    | 10.31 | 9am  | Drive-In Worship                         |
|             |       | 10am | Sanctuary Worship & Children and Worship |
| • Monday    | 11.1  | 9am  | Food Pantry                              |
|             |       | 11am | Prayer Shawl Meeting                     |
| • Tuesday   | 11.2  |      | <b>Election Day</b>                      |
|             |       | 12pm | Adult Bible Study                        |
| • Wednesday | 11.3  | 9am  | Food Pantry                              |
|             |       | 12pm | AA Meeting                               |
|             |       | 12pm | Centering Prayer                         |

### All Saints Day is November 1st

On Sunday, Nov. 7, we will remember our loved ones lost in '20 & '21. 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](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org)

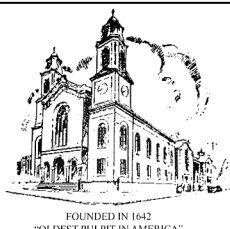
**Office phone:** 518-463-4449



Sunday, November 7 at 2am

**turn clocks back  
one hour.**

Daylight Savings Ends



### First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449 [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)