



*peace*



**The First Church in Albany**

**The Second Week of Advent**

**December 5, 2021, 10am**

## Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

## Advent Anthem

## Wait for the Lord *(sing three times)*

Em C Am6 B

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Em D G Am7 B Em

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

To use with Psalm 37: sing the above, read vv. 1-5, sing, read vv. 6-9, sing, read vv. 10-11, 39-40, sing.

For another setting of Ps. 37 see 850

Words and Music (WAIT FOR THE LORD 8.8): Jacques Berthier, from *Songs and Prayers* from Taizé © 1991

Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

## Call to Worship: Based on Baruch 5:1-9

Leader: Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

**People: Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;**

Leader: for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

**People: For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."**

Leader: Arise, O Jerusalem, stand up on the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

**People: For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.**

Leader: For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

**People: The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.**

**All: For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

**Prepare the Way** (sing three times)  
ISAIAH 40:3; 52:10

*May be sung in canon*

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and  
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

Words: Isaiah 40:3, 52:10

Music (PREPARE THE WAY): Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

**Prayer of Confession, James Brumm of the Reformed Church Center at New Brunswick Theological Seminary**

We need you to speak to us, O God, because we have, each in our own way, forgotten your Law, forgotten your love for us. We are in need of your deliverance, because we have, too often, given ourselves to powers and practices that would destroy us. We are lost, and in need of rescue. In these next moments of silence, we confess to you how we have strayed from the way of peace.

*Silence*

Leader: Like John the Baptist shouting out on the banks of the Jordan preparing the way of the Lord, we too shout: Come, Lord Jesus!

**People: Forgive us and restore us.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus!

**People: Guide us and deliver us.**

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus!

**People: Teach us and renew us.**

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**



## **Assurance of Pardon, adapted from Titus 3:4-7, The Message translation**

First Church, hear this good news of forgiveness and be at peace: God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us. God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with God and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!

### **\*Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: This Advent season we are having a longer time to pass the peace to one another. You will know when to head back to your seats when the organ starts to play. So, please rise and greet one another by name; introduce yourself and reintroduce yourself; learn the names of our kids; catch up on a few things; share Christ's peace.

### **Children's Message & Blessing**

#### **Prayer of Illumination for Advent**

**God of all peace and joy, send your Spirit to this place to bless this our reading of your word, that it may be a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path. Amen.**

#### **Sermon Text**

Luke 1:68-79

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon                                      *The Way of Peace*                      Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**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**

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry v. 1, 2 & 4**

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW

LY

(alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

**Offering & Offertory “Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles”**  
*Iteke Prins, Organist*

G.F. Kaufmann

## \*Doxology #592

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 Song Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ v. 1 & 3

C F G Dm

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one. At the ta - ble he  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

C G C F G

shout of joy. Bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,  
sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,  
world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share.

Dm G7 C Am C7

*Refrain (descant may be added on repeat)*

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,  
God (Em - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

F Dm G G7 C F C

earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!





## **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.

## *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.**

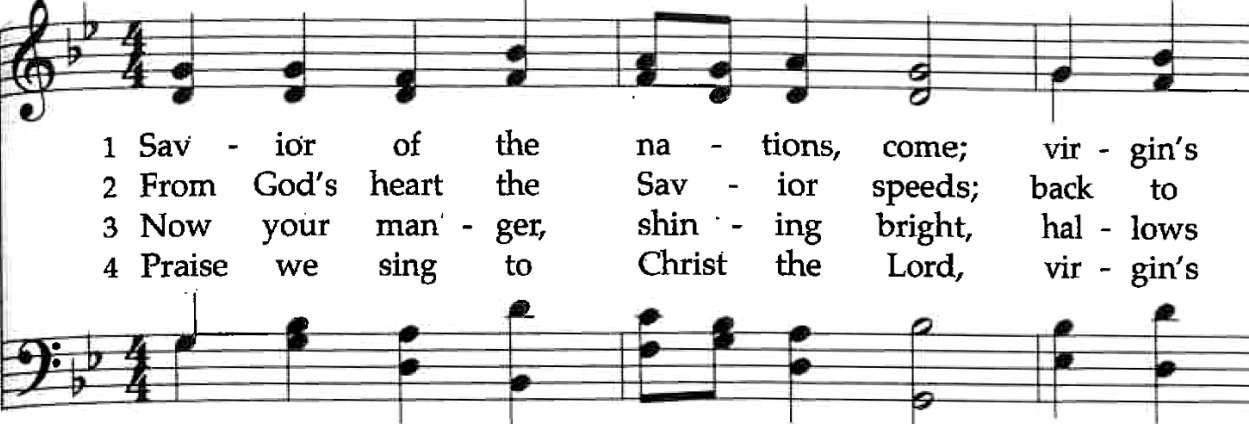
**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

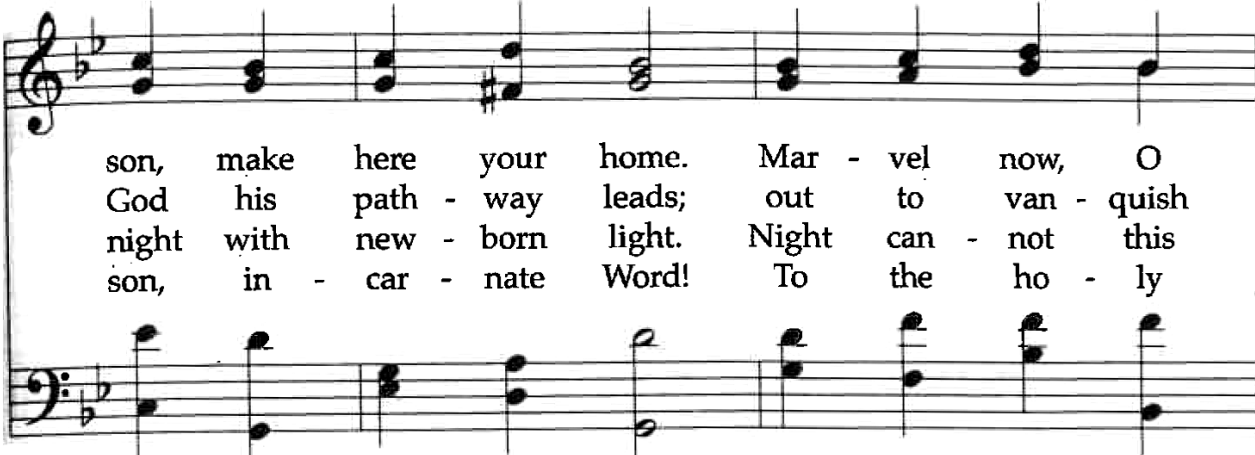
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

\*Sending Hymn

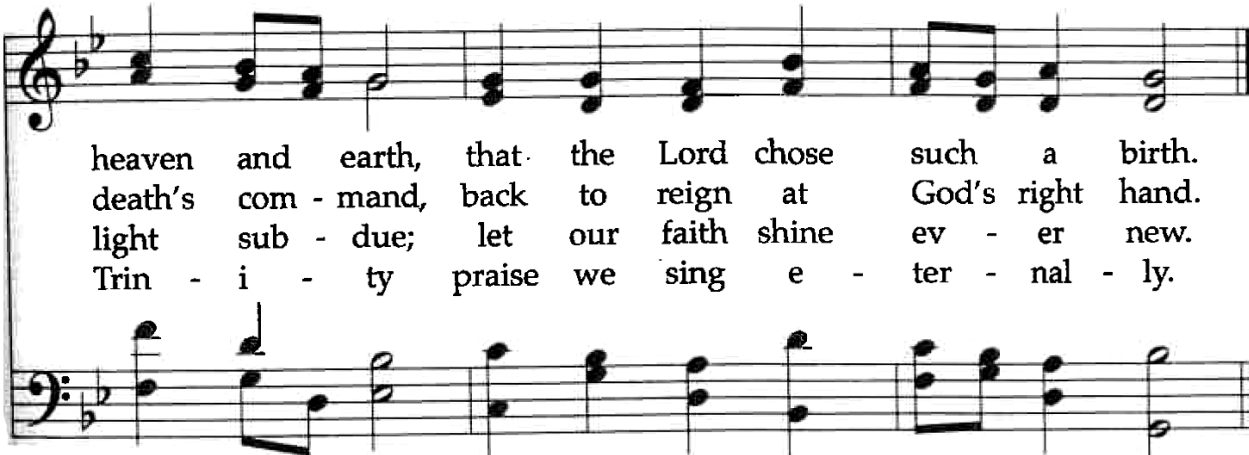
# Savior of the Nations, Come v. 1, 2, & 3



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's  
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to  
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows  
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's



son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish  
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this  
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.  
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.  
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;  
 English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;  
 English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006  
 MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594  
 English Trans. Sts. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND  
 7.7.7.7

## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

*“Watchman Tell Us of the Night”  
Iteke Prins, organist*

Anonymous

### Worship Leadership:

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Liturgist:** Rev. Trey Tirpak

**Guest Organist:** Iteke Prins

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

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- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Carol, Keith Curry's mother
- Marian, Colleen Lais' mother
- Peter, Karen Van Epps' brother
- Charnelle Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Samuel, Barb Andrew's son
- 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
- Staff and Leaders of The First Church in Albany
- The homeless in our community as we enter this time of colder weather, and for outreach groups who seek to help the homeless.

*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    | 12.5 | 10am    | Sanctuary Worship & Children and Worship |
| • Monday    | 12.6 | 9am     | Food Pantry                              |
| • Tuesday   | 12.7 | 12pm    | Adult Book Study                         |
|             |      | 5:30pm  | Meeting of the Joint Boards              |
| • Wednesday | 12.8 | 9am     | Food Pantry                              |
|             |      | 12pm    | AA Meeting                               |
|             |      | 12pm    | Centering Prayer                         |
|             |      | 12:30pm | Weathervanes' Christmas Party            |
| • Thursday  | 12.9 | 11:30am | Soup Lunch in Clee Park                  |

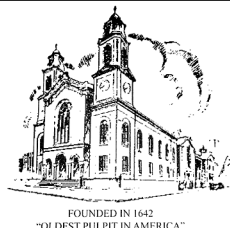
### Upcoming Events

- |            |       |        |   |
|------------|-------|--------|---|
| • Thursday | 12.16 | 6:30pm | Blue Christmas Service FCIA with Focus Churches |
|------------|-------|--------|---|



Information will be available soon about poinsettias for Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Worship at The First Church in Albany, Friday, December 24, at 7pm.



### First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

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