



The First Church in Albany
The First Sunday after Christmas
December 26, 2021, 10am

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.

First Sunday after Christmas **December 26, 2021**

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

"What Child Is This"
Iteke Prins, organist

arr. Alfred V. Fedak

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." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

People: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader: Let us praise the Lord, Christ the King of Angels!



***Opening Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

v. 1, 3 & 4

Descant

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;
G Am7 D G C G D

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;
Em A D G D A7 D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove:
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;
G Am G D Em D

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
"Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!"
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, O come, O come,

Refrain G D7 G D7 G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

G D A D C G D G

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, P.D.
 Music (ADESTE FIDELES irregular): attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. © 1947 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin.
 Hope Publishing Company

Prayer of Confession

Though choirs of angels sing in exultation, we confess how hard it is sometimes to praise your name O Lord, let alone to live how you call us to live. Send your Holy Spirit to empower us to be like Mary who responds to you call on her life with trust, boldness, and integrity.

Assurance of Pardon *Based on Colossians 3:12-17*

Friends, the good news is this: Like Mary who swaddled the baby Jesus with clothes to warm and care for him so that one day he might do great and mighty things in the name of the Lord, so too does Christ wrap us in new clothes. In book of Colossians we read:

“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. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.”

***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 Growing in Wisdom & Stature

Prayer for Illumination *Inspired by Martin Luther's Preface in his Commentary on the Old Testament*

Holy Spirit, in the manger that is scripture, reveal to us your truth and our treasure, Christ, who is wrapped in the swaddling clothes of the Father's love. Amen.

Sermon Text

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!



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:

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Hymn of Response

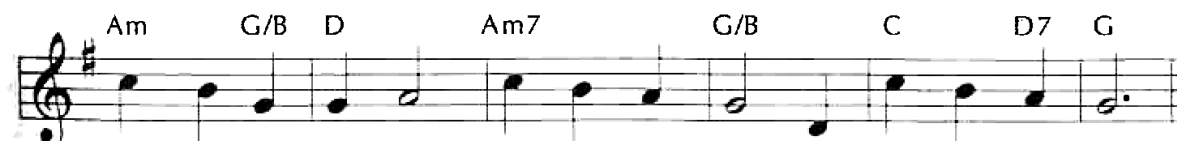
Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple v. 1-3



1 Mar-y and Jo - seph came to the tem - ple brought the boy
2 An - na had prayed there, wid - owed, long wait - ing, wor - ship - ing
3 Sim - e - on sings now: God prof - fers bless - ing, bril - liant - ly



Je - sus, of - fered him there. Peo - ple were wait - ing
God by day and by night. Now she is prais - ing,
gild - ing dawn of his day. Light in the dark - ness,



want - ing to greet him; long had they sought him, so - lace for care.
filled with e - la - tion: here is God's prom - ise, Christ is her light.
nev - er ex - tin - guished, Light of all na - tions, light up our way.

This text retells the story in Luke 2:22-39, usually called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which took place forty days after his birth. Mary, Joseph, and the Christ-child encounter there two devout people, Anna and Simeon, who identify this baby as the promised Messiah.

TEXT: Andrew Pratt, 1994

MUSIC: David Haas, 1985

Text © 1997 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Offering & Offertory

Mary, What Is it You Ponder

Iteke Prins & Rene Pesnichak, duet

I Prins

1. Ma - ry what is it you pon - der, cal - lers gone
2. Re - mem - ber lamp smoke wreath - ing fi - gures mo -
3. Does your soul sing out ex - pres - sing - ni - sic con
4. As a star springs forth, it bla - zes light - ing re
5. Last - ly, think of that first meet - ing, the won - der

6
and mid - night past? Where do thoughts and mem - ries
ving through the light, smell of straw with ev - 'ry
scious thoughts fore - got? heart per - haps your heart counts
this sha - dowed room, re - col - lect with laugh - ter
that was done and the an - gel's trou - bling

12
wan - der in the calm you find at last? Shep herds' tale of
breath - ing as your child came in the night? Call to mind the
bles - sings in a mute mag - ni - fi - cat. Night wind stirs and
prais - es leap - ing in a cous - in's womb. See with in the
19 greet - ing: "Hail, O high - ly fa - vored one!" Pon - der all that

an - ge's whing - ing e - cho pain and joy of birth: fear gives
end - less ri - ding, hard back don - key, grit and gales, poor old
thrums the gras - ses like a dis - tant drum - mer's roll, and a
star - light stream - ing, Jo - seph, to whom you were giv'n, un - sure
26 myst - i - fied you, know things can - not be the same, for the

way, the spi - rit sing - ing tells the joy of Christ on earth
Jo - seph, gruff - ly guid - ing down the un - safe moun - tain trails.
sud - den cold wind pas - ses like an ar - row through your soul.
Jo - seph, who in dteam - ing, learned to trust the ways of heav'n.
child who cries be - side you is the God who called your name.

***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.**

Prayer for the Offering

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

What Child Is This

v. 1-3

Em G D Em Am B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Em G D Em B Esus Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em B Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898), P.D.
 Music (GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7): English ballad, 16th c., P.D.

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

“Hark the Heralds Angels Sing”
Iteke Prins, organist

arr. Alfred V. Fedak

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Iteke Prins

Guest Vocalist: Rene Pesnichak

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689



- Carol LaBatte
- 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

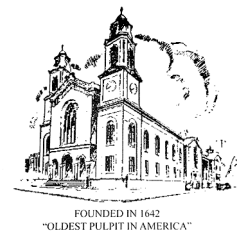
This Week at the First Church in Albany



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|-------------|-------|------|--|
| • Sunday | 12.26 | 10am | Sanctuary Worship
(Children will remain in worship) |
| • Monday | 12.27 | | Office Closed due to holiday |
| | | 9am | No Food Pantry due to holiday |
| • Tuesday | 12.28 | 12pm | Adult Book Study |
| • Wednesday | 12.29 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | | 12pm | AA Meeting |
| | | 12pm | Centering Prayer |
| • Thursday | 12.30 | 11am | Soup Lunch in Clee Park |
| • Friday | 12.31 | | New Year's Eve |
| • Saturday | 1.1 | | Happy New Year! 2022! |

Upcoming Events

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|------------|------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| • Thursday | 1.6 | 7:00pm | Epiphany Service in the James Chapel |
| • Sunday | 1.23 | 11:15am | Annual Congregational Meeting |



First Church in Albany

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518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org