



NEW YEAR'S EVE MORNING *worship*

12.31.23, 10AM

Prelude

"This Is the Day of New Beginnings"

D. A. White

Welcome

Call to Worship Psalm 9

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your
fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have
established;
what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of
your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Gathering in the Name of the Lord

Hymn "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

One Minute Silent Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only
Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not
perish but may have eternal life.

Prayer of Illumination:

**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!**

Hearing God's Word & Message

Scripture Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of
salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to
spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and
praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the
LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Homily When One Door Closes

Responding to God's Message

Offering

Hymn "Standing on the Promises"

1 Minute of Silent Affirmation of Faith

Sharing Moments of Gratitude

Here we are free to confess and share the experiences for which we are grateful. This is a Christian tradition that goes back hundreds of years and continues on special occasions today. In a short statement that could be a poem, scripture, song, or a few words one would confess the goodness of God in their own life. The old folks used to sing a song where they looked back and wondered how they had overcome life's challenges, or, in this case, the year 2023. The purpose of confessions of gratitude is to thank God, and, with hope, that maybe our confession can encourage another person.

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.

Hymn "Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year"

Benediction

Postlude

"Sixth Night"

A. Fedak



Today's Worship Team

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: TBD

Organist: Iteke Prins



2023

2024

Happy New Year

from

The First Church in Albany

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

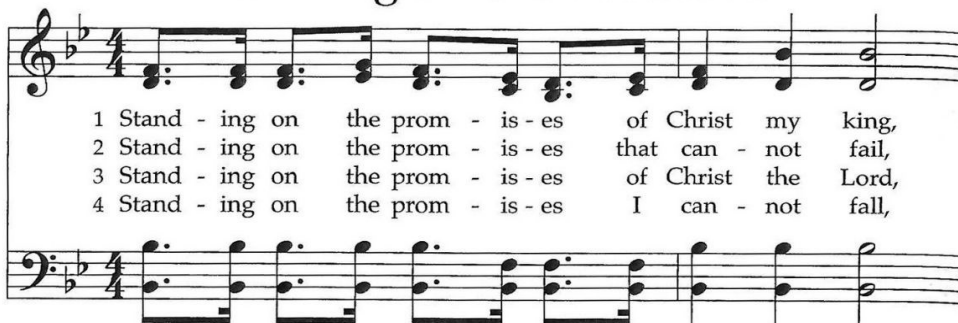
1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, love's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

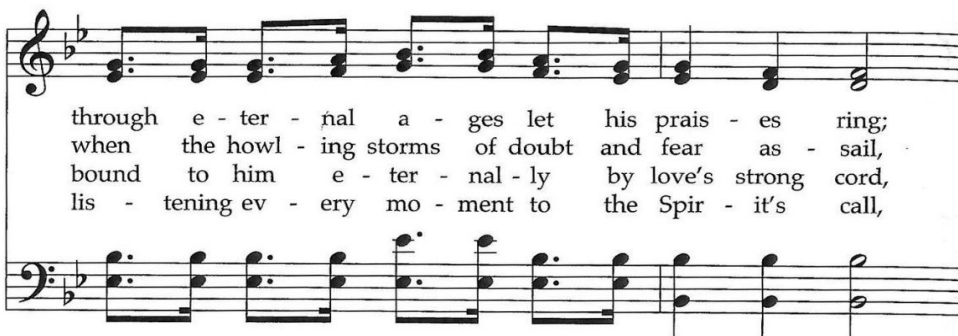
bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings; our God is mak - ing all things new.

Alternate stanza 4 In faith we'll gather round the table

Standing on the Promises



1 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my king,
2 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
3 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
4 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,



through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,



glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,



stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Refrain

Stand - ing, stand - ing, stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;

stand - ing, stand - ing, stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Perhaps because this hymn is so well known, its language sounds vaguely scriptural; but while there are various biblical uses of "stand" and "promise(s)," the two words are never combined. The confidence here is similar to that of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (see no. 353).

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year with
 2 This Je - sus came to wage sin's war; the
 3 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the
 4 With such a Lord to lead our way in
 5 "All glo - ry be to God on high and

joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere; re - joice, re - joice, with
 Name of names for us he bore; re - joice, re - joice, with
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs; re - joice, re - joice, with
 want and in pros - per - i - ty, what need we fear in
 peace on earth," the an - gels cry; re - joice, re - joice, with

thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
 earth or space in this new year of grace?
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.

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52 Years Celebrating Dr. King

January 15, 7 pm First Church in Albany (Reformed)

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston of First Church in Albany to Speak

For over fifty years the Capital Area Council of Churches has celebrated Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. In recognition of this day, the Council sponsors an Interfaith Celebration that aims to remind us of Rev. King's legacy as well as raise scholarship funds for deserving high school seniors.

The 2024 Celebration will be held on January 15, 7 pm at the First Church in Albany. Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston of First Church will be the speaker.





ROOTED IN JESUS CHRIST
THE FIRST CHURCH
IN ALBANY
COMMITTED TO THE CITY OF ALBANY, NY

**STEPHEN JAMES
CHAPEL**

a Night of
WORSHIP

THURSDAY 7PM
JANUARY 4, 2024
POTLUCK AT 6PM

Join Us for This Week's Events

SUN DEC. 31

- 10am: Worship Service in CHAPEL (this week's service will not be live-streamed)

MON JAN. 2024 1

- Pantry & Office Closed to observe the holiday

TUE 2

- Noon: Adult Book Study on Zoom



Scan for full event calendar

WED 3

- 9am: Food Pantry at Orange St. Door
- Noon: Centering Prayer (Powell), AA Mtg (Parlor)

THU 4

- 9:30am: Viewing, followed by Funeral service for Norma McClement
- 11:30am: Soup & Sandwiches in the Park
- 7pm: First Thursday Night of Worship, preceded by potluck at 6pm

Worship streaming live on YouTube resumes next Sunday.



Prayers, Concerns & Joys

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

- Friends & family of Norma McClement as they mourn and prepare for her service this week.
- Mia Westman
- Kathleen Claydon, for continued healing from surgery
- Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, for healthy transition back to work
- Requests for the Tirpak Family
 - Trey's uncle, with cancer
 - a family friend, with cancer
 - a family friend who is caring for a terminally ill child
- Marian Lais, our office manager's mother in hospice care
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- From our pantry family, Maureen Jackson and her brother Maurice, both dealing with health issues
- Family of Gillian Persons and for her sister Sylvia
- Becky Gardner
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering
- Charnelle Jones
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Family of Norma Jean Ballou
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- For all who have endured these holidays with a heavy heart
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany as they plan Advent
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.



First Church in Albany

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