

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

Third Sunday in Lent
March 20, 2022, 10am

*Those of steadfast mind
you keep in peace—
in peace because they
trust in you. ~Isaiah 26:3*

Today, we receive a special
love offering for the people and
humanitarian aid in Ukraine.
Offering envelopes are provided.

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.

Third Sunday of Lent March 20, 2022

Prelude

"Be Thou Our Guide While Troubles Last"
Iteke Prins, organist

ST. ANNE

(The composer, Phil Lehenbaur, wrote this as a response to the conflict in Ukraine. Since that conflict is not resolved, he did not resolve the last chord.)

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

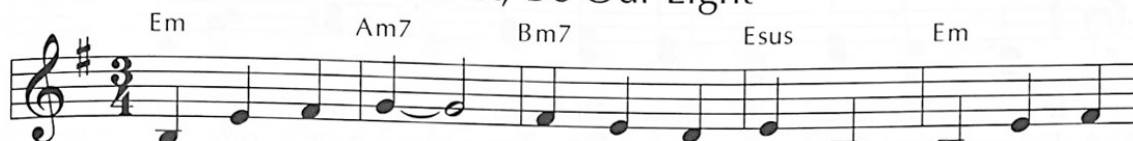
"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Lenten Introit & Draping of the Cross

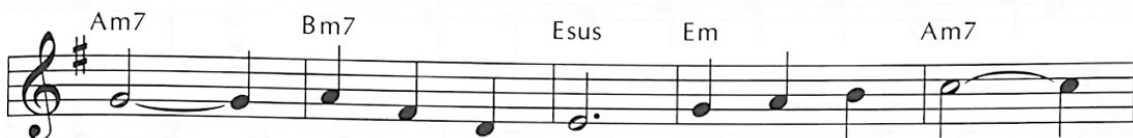
v. 1 & 3

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bernadette Farrell, 1993
 Text and Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell (Published by OCP)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
 9.8.9.6 with refrain

Call to Worship Based on Psalm 63:1-8

Leader: Lord, you are our God.

People: We will praise you with joyful lips!

Leader: Lord, you are our Creator.

People: Our souls thirst for you.

Leader: Lord, you are our Redeemer.

People: We behold your power and majesty.

Leader: Lord, you are our Sustainer.

People: We will bless you all of the days of our lives

Leader: Let us worship the Lord, whose love is new each morning!

*Opening Hymn

Your Love Is New Each Morning Lord

R. Frederick Crider

CRIDER

Iteke Prins

©2013 by wayne Leupold Editions, Inc

CM

©2021 by The Wayne Leupold Foundation

1. Your love is new each morn - ing Lord, great
2. Stir up in us the need to serve; all
3. With grate - ful hearts and o - pen minds we

won - drous God of light, and all day, long you
neigh - bors greet in peace. De - vote each day to
start each day with you. Help us to sense your

work for good, re - joic - ing in the right
Christ our Lord, whose love will ne - ver cease.
Pres - ence till that morn - ing ev - er new.

Prayer of Confession

God, we are hungry and thirsty for an abundant life, but we seek to quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger from sources other than you. Forgive us when we turn away from the living water and the manna you offer. Send your Holy Spirit to transform us to become people who turn to you with our needs because we are people who know you will always give us what we need. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon *John 6*

Jesus said to the hungry and gathered crowd, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away."

Go to Jesus in want and need, and he will never drive you away. Live in that peace.



***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

Prayer for Illumination (sung)

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!

First Reading Revelation 22:1-7

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

"See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Short Musical Interlude

Second Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Come to the Water

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**

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.
 Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

ITALIAN HYMN
 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

Offertory

A Prayer for Our Times

Revised 3/5/2022

Tom Lough

Referencing a prayer by Bishop Reuben Saenz, Jr.

Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE

1. God of all na - tions, thank you for your care.
2. Fam - 'lies with chil - dren flee - ing now in fear,
3. Lead all your church - es in this quest for peace.

Show your sal - va - tion. An - swer this our prayer.
Be their strong ref - uge. Show them you are near.
Have mer - cy, hear our pray'r and grant re - lief.

We pray an end to war and peace to reign.
Send forth your an - gels, tak - ing charge in love.
Bring com - fort, hope, and strength we ask a - gain.

Be with your faith - ful ser - vants in U - kraine.
Send wis - dom to our lead - ers from a - bove.
We pray in Je sus' ho ly name. A - men.

Offering

Today we are receiving a special love offering for the people and humanitarian aid in Ukraine. The collection will be sent to a special fund through the RCA Global Mission dedicated to the humanitarian crisis caused by this war. If you are giving towards this special offering, please use the envelopes provided.

Here's a note from the fund's manager, Scott Engelsman: "In response to the crisis occurring in Europe, our partners on the ground are providing humanitarian aid to displaced people as they are forced to flee their homes in Ukraine. Your gifts will make their efforts possible. Please call me if you have questions about how the RCA is working with our partners to provide these relief efforts."

*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.
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our 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 lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

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

***Sending Hymn**

Amazing Grace

v. 1-3

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

4 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come;
 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we'd first begun.

For an alternate arrangement see 670

Words: st. 1-4 John Newton, 1779, st. 5 *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790, P.D.
 Music (NEW BRITAIN 8.6.8.6): *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900, P.D.

After the Benediction, please remain in your pews to hear the Ukrainian National Anthem.

***Charge & Benediction** (from the **Franciscan Billabong Comm**)

May God bless you with Discomfort...
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with Anger...
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with Tears...to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation, and war
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness...
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

Postlude

“State Anthem of Ukraine”
Iteke Prins, organist

“Shche nevmerla Ukrainy I slava, I volia”
(The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished.)



After Service: Come to the Parlor for a time to reflect together on the Lenten devotional book *Falling Into Goodness* by Chuck DeGroat. Come even if you haven't read it — all are welcome!

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalist: Members of the First Church Choir

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



- Norma and Leo, neighbors of Audrey Ming
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Joe Vasta, friend of the Persons
- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, friends of the Andrews; Especially her children Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher (with permission).
- For Katherine's grandmother
- Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Peter, Karen Van Epps' brother
- Charnelle Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Samuel, Barb Andrew's son
- Brian, the Andrew's son-in-law
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for the people and leaders of Ukraine. For the countries accepting those fleeing the violence. For thoughtful and productive resolution immediately.

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



FOUNDED IN 1642
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

First Church in Albany

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org