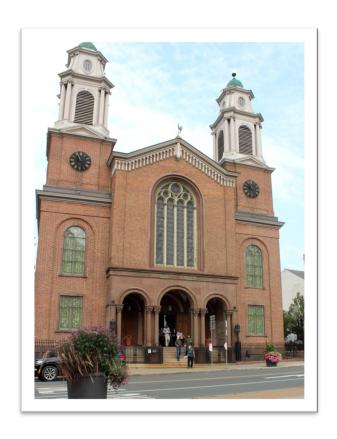


# Easter Sunday

April 17, 2022 at 10am

"Me is not here, but has visen!"

luke 24:6



# 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.

We worship at 10am each Sunday.
In person and on Zoom.
Watch our website for our soon-to-be-announced Summer schedule.

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

### **Easter Sunday**

April 17, 2022

**Prelude** "How Beautiful Are the Feet" G.F. Handel
Sue Fedak, soloist and Iteke Prins, organist

### Welcome & Paschal Greeting (repeat)

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

### \*Processional Hymn

(Sing 3x)

Christ Candle and banner process in.

### Celtic Alleluia



\*Call to Worship Please speak the bold text aloud.

Leader: Christ has died, Christ is risen! **People: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!** 

Leader: With Jesus, we have died to our old selves.

People: And with Jesus, we are raised to new life: Alleluia!

Leader: Nothing can separate us from God's love:

People: Where, O death, is your sting?: Alleluia!

Leader: Thanks be to God for the gift of the risen Christ,

People: who is the first fruit of the new creation!: Alleluia!

Leader: Let us now sing praises to God, for Jesus Christ is risen today!

\*Opening Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

(v. 1-4)



### Prayer of Confession Based on prayer from Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Living God, it has been hard to share in the joy of Christ's resurrection these past couple of years. Despair, demonization, and disconnection seem to consume our world. We confess to being caught up in the ways of our world. At times, we have become anxious grumblers who have forgotten the new life you give us by your resurrection. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and empowerment of new life in Christ. Send your Spirit to call us back to Your ways so we might then seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

First Church, the good news is this: The stone is rolled away, and the tomb was found empty! Mary proclaims to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" Know that in her joyous proclamation which announces Christ's death and resurrection, you are forgiven; accept your forgiveness, and know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. Amen.



### Christ Is Alive!



### \*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We will have five minutes to greet one another, please return to your seats when the music begins to play.

### Children's Message & Blessing

**Prayer for Illumination** By Rev. Andy James First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, Queens, New York.

O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.

### **First Reading**

1 Corinthians 15:12-13, 20-26

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.

But, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!** 

**Musical Interlude** 

**le** "I Come to the Garden Alone" Sue Fedak, soloist, accompanied by Iteke Prins

### **Sermon Text**

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

Sermon

The Approach

### A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

\*Hymn of Response I Know that My Redeemer Lives (v.1-3)



## Offering & Offertory "How Beautiful Are the Feet" Sue Fedak, soloist, accompanied by Iteke Prins

G.F. Handel

A note about today's offering: Every Easter, First Church gifts our offering to two organizations, one local and one international. This year, First Church is gifting half of our Easter offering to Koinonia Primary Care, which provides medical care for low income residents of our Albany community. First Church is also gifting half of our Easter offering to the Reformed Church in America's 2022 European Crisis Response fund, which is funding humanitarian aid to Ukraine and neighboring countries.





# 2022 European Crisis Response

\*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.

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table! **Eucharistic** (v. 1 & 4)Hymn at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the 1 Look who gath - ers 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -3 Their sad sto-ries are re - peat - ed thou - sand in a 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare that they bring. laugh - ing; Some are weep - ing; some are con - fess - ing ers ap - pear, saints how they wres - tled they share one dif - ferent ways, but thing in com - mon: sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound-ed, some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his dein thanks and praise for the host who has in o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es who will bread and bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they vit - ed, Christ was ev - er his sight; Paul re - lates his - ing in to con-verge a vit - ed north and south and east and west truth and man - na from a - bove!—and then pass - es breaks it all wel - come. There is for ery - one. are room the light. ef - forts ob - lit - er ate fruit less to blest. where all round this ta - ble, life is fed and wine that wak - ens your heart the taste love.

### 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.

#### **Sanctus**

Holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

### **Mystery of the Faith**

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

#### **Celebration of Communion**



### \*Sending Hymn The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

(v. 1-3)



- 4 He closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heaven's high portals fell. Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death's dread sting thy servants free, that we may live and sing to thee.
  Alleluia!

### \*Charge & Blessing

### **Postlude**

### Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak
Organist: Iteke Prins

Soloist: Sue Fedak

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

### We are so glad you came...

We have been blessed to have you worship with us today, **especially today!** We hope that your heart felt the love that Jesus Christ has for each one of us when he sees us gather together to celebrate his amazing, selfless gift of grace.

If you are a regular member or attendee at the First Church in Albany, it is so wonderful to see you. Thank you for your faithfulness over these last two years.

If you are new to the church, we are so pleased that you chose to join us for Easter. *Please know that you are always welcome!* We would be so happy for you to become one of those faces we look forward to seeing each week.

Christ gave us the church so that we might gather together as brothers and sisters to worship him. That after all is the reason God created each of us. Let us say it again, please know that you are always welcome at the First Church in Albany.

### Please join us in this prayer throughout this week ahead:

Lord Jesus, you willingly struggled and suffered (pause to think about that for a moment before continuing to pray) on your way to the Cross, so that we might have eternal life with you. It is so hard for us to imagine that kind of sacrifice. We are humbled and grateful for this relationship you invite us to have with you and with one another in your name. We pray for each, the one on our left, the one a few rows back, the one at home on Zoom. Lord we give thanks for this royal fellowship, designed to bring you glory. May our worship today, move in all of our hearts and may we all gather again soon. In your mighty name Lord, Amen.



- In loving memory of Clarence and Blendine McNeill, from Norma J. Ballou.
- In loving memory of Robert J. Dorn and in memory of other loved ones, from Gertrude Dorn and family.
- In loving memory of Michael, Suzanne, & Anthony, from the Hurston-Brown family.
- In loving memory of parents Rodney B. Chipp and Leona P. Chipp, brother Robert D. Chipp, and friend E. Helen Gardner, from Sylvia Chipp Insall.
- In loving memory of Herbert & Mildred Leet, and in memory of Edwin & Sylvia Hardy.
- In loving memory of Wayne Sivaslian, and in memory of Donna Marsh, from Monica Marsh.
- In loving memory of Saluda Lownes, and in memory of John Robinson, from Clarice Miliken.
- In loving memory of her parents, Frederick W. and Ruth A. Ming, from Audrey Ming.
- In loving memory of their parents Edward & Frances Monthie, and Herman & Ruth Reiners.
- In loving memory of Adrienne J. Pagerey, and in memory of Paul & Janet Pagerey, from Pete and Ruth Pagerey
- In loving memory of Frank Rayner (Gill's father) and Dorothy and Ernest Persons (Doug's parents), from Gillian and Doug Persons.
- In honor & memory of Jeff Borg and the Tirpak-O'Neill Family, from Rev. Trey Tirpak.

### First Church in Albany Prayer Requests

- Erica Bliss
- Harold Bushnell
- Cheri Jones
- Kathleen and Glenn Claydon, as they grieve the loss of a friend
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement
- Rev. Susan Vincent Cox for the passing of her mother Barbara
- Norma McClement
- Becky Gardner
- Joan, friend of Karen Van Epps who was injured in a fire
- Norma and Leo, neighbors of Audrey Ming
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Joe Vasta, friend of the Persons family
- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, for her children (Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher)
- 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
- Jeff Curry
- 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



### First Church in Albany

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