


The First Church in Albany

Welcomes
you



**“All labor that
uplifts humanity
has dignity and
importance and
should be
undertaken with
painstaking
excellence.”**

MLK Jr.

Celebration of Ministries

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.

Celebration of Ministries

May 1, 2022

Prelude

"Be the Moon"
Glenn Claydon

C. Tomlin

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 Reformed Philosopher James KA Smith's work*

Leader: Come! Praise the Lord for all God has done here!

People: We praise you, O Triune God, for what you have done and are doing here!

Leader: We also come longing for Jesus to become our greatest treasure.

People: For where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also.

Leader: But Holy Spirit, don't just transform our hearts, but also renew our minds.

People: So that we won't conform to this world, but we might be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Leader: With hearts and minds transformed, empower us to labor for your kingdom as we await its full realization.

People: Teach us to be co-laborers in peacemaking and reconciling, justice and mercy, friendship and hospitality.

Leader: We see you at work here at First Church, and we praise your glorious name!

*Opening Hymn

*“How Great”
Glenn Claydon*

M. Powell & T. Morgan

How great is the love the Father
Has poured out on us
That we should be called the children
of God
How great is the love the Father
Has poured out on us
That we should be called the children
of God
Chorus
How great how great is God's
amazing grace
That we should be called the children
of God
How great how great that we believe
by faith
And we can be called the children of
God
How great is the love of the Father
That He sent His only Son
That we should be called the children

of God
We will never perish
If we believe in Him
And we can be called the children of
God
That is what we are
Sons and daughters of God
Oh by this we know love
That He laid down His life for us
How great is the love the Father
Has poured out on us
That we should be called the children
of God
And we can be called the children of
God

CCLI Song # 5484575

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Prayer of Confession

God who is always on the move and changing our world, forgive us when we choose to go our own way, and not follow where your Spirit is leading and working. Give us the spiritual eyes to see what you are up to, and the strength to then follow you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The good news is this: God the Father in Christ has already forgiven you and simply longs that you might join in on all the work the Holy Spirit is up to, so that you and the whole world may live in Christ's 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.

First Lesson

Luke 19:13-14; Matthew 18:1-3

First Testimony

Children in Worship

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD Sing 3X

Psalm 46:10
Unknown

Chord progression: D G/D D A⁷ A⁷/C# D

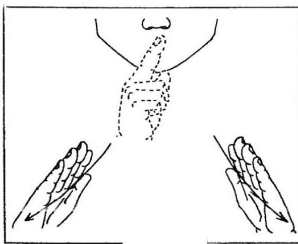
1. Be still and know that I am God. Be

Chord progression: D A⁷/E- D/F# G Dm⁶/F E⁷ C#m/E E⁷ A⁷

still and know that I am God. Be

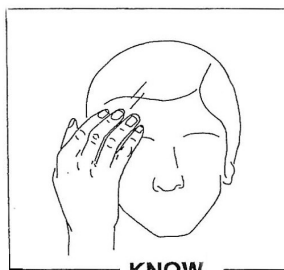
Chord progression: D G/D D G⁶ D/A A⁷ D

still and know that I am God.



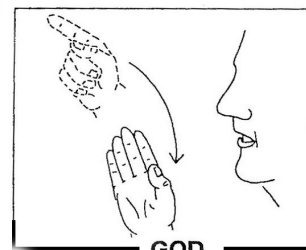
STILL

Place the index finger against the mouth, palm facing down. Draw both open hands down and toward the sides, palms facing down.



KNOW

Pat the forehead with fingertips.



GOD

Place the "G" forward in front of you, draw it up and opening the palm, which is facing left.

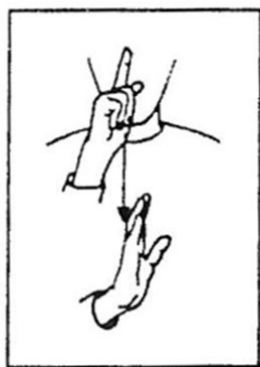
O GOD, WE ADORE YOU

Round 1 F Gm C F 2 Gm

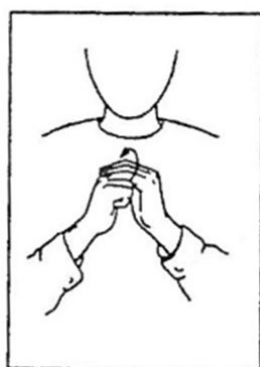
1 O God,
2 Je - sus, we a - dore you, lay our lives be -
3 Spir - it,

C F 3 Gm C F

fore you. How we love you.



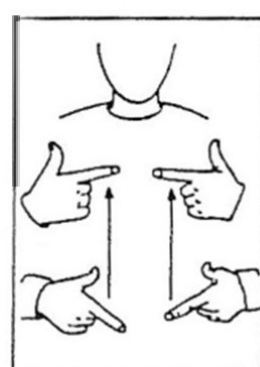
God



Adore



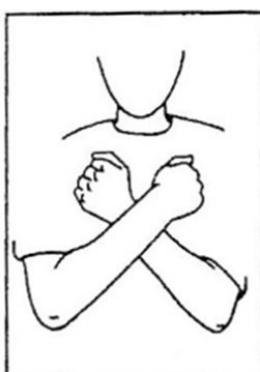
You



Life



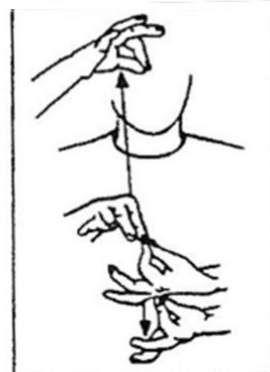
Before



Love



Jesus



Spirit

Sermon Text

Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Falling Up and Not Down

Second Lesson

Luke 14:12-14

Second Testimony

Soup In The Park

*Song

"Come to the Table"
Glenn Claydon

B. McDonald

We all start on the outside
The outside looking in
This is where grace begins
We were hungry we were thirsty
With nothing left to give
Oh the shape that we were in

Just when all hope seemed lost
Love opened the door for us

(He said) come to the table
Come join the sinners who have been re-
deemed

Take your place beside the Savior
Sit down and be set free
(Come to the table)

Come meet this motley crew of misfits
These liars and these thieves
There's no one unwelcome here
So that sin and shame that you've
brought with you
You can leave it at the door
And let mercy draw you near

To the thief and to the doubter
To the hero and the coward
To the pris'ner and the soldier
To the young and to the older

All who hunger all who thirst
All the last and all the first
All the paupers and the princes
All who've failed you've been forgiven
All who dream and all who suffer
All who've loved and lost another
All the chained and all the free
All who follow all who lead
Anyone who's been let down
All the lost you have been found
All who've been labeled right or wrong
To ev'ryone who hears this song

Woah sit down and be set free
Come to the table
Come to the table
Just sit down and rest awhile
Just sit down and rest awhile
Come to the table

CCLI Song # 7036352

Ben Glover | Ben McDonald | Dave Frey

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Third Lesson

Matthew 25:34-40

Third Testimony

First Church Food Pantry

Offering & Offertory

"Do Everything"
Glenn Claydon

S.C. Chapman

Doxology

**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 Ministries of First Church

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.

Sanctus

**Holy, 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

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.**

Blessing & Charge

Sending Song

"All My Hope"
Glenn Claydon

D. Crowder

I've been held by the Savior
I've felt fire from above
I've been down to the river
I ain't the same a prodigal returned

All my hope is in Jesus
Thank God that yesterday's gone
(Yes) All my sins are forgiven
(Oh I've) I've been washed by the blood
(Come on and sing)

I'm no stranger to prison
I've worn shackles and chains
But I've been freed and forgiven
And I'm not going back I'll never be the
same
That's why I sing

There's a kind of thing that just breaks a
man
Break him down to his knees
God I've been broken more than a time
or two
Yes Lord then He picked me up and
showed me
What it means to be a man
Come on and sing

CCLI Song # 7068805

David Crowder | Ed Cash

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Postlude

Please join us for the Ministry Fair to learn more about the Ministries of the First Church in Albany. See where God may be calling you to serve!



Join us today!

The John U. Miller Memorial CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, May 1, starting and ending at First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Ave. in Albany. In person registration begins at 12:30pm, with opening ceremonies at 1:15 (also on Zoom), and step off at 1:30pm.

Choose from a 1 mile or 3 mile loop, or walk virtually in your own neighborhood any time during the month of May.

COME JOIN US
for a

A Night of Worship

Music by Glenn Claydon

Thursday, May 5 at 7pm
in the Stephen James Chapel

The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Face Mask Is Required



Albany County is currently listed as a
high-risk county based on
CDC Covid-19 infection rates

**Please Wear Your Face Mask at All Times
When Inside Our Church Building. This
protocol will be updated when Covid-19
rates decline.**

This Week at the First Church in Albany

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----|------|------------------------------|
| • Sunday | 5.1 | 10am | Worship In-Person & on Zoom |
| | | 1pm | Albany CROP Hunger Walk |
| • Monday | 5.2 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | | 11am | Prayer Shawl Meeting |
| • Tuesday | 5.3 | 12pm | Adult Scripture Study |
| • Wednesday | 5.4 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | | 12pm | AA Meeting |
| | | 12pm | Centering Prayer |
| | | 6pm | Private Event—Zimmerman Hall |
| • Thursday | 5.5 | 7pm | A Night of Worship—Chapel |

Upcoming Events

- | | | | |
|-------------|------|---------|---------------------------|
| • Wednesday | 5.18 | 12:30pm | May Weathervanes Luncheon |
|-------------|------|---------|---------------------------|

Meeting Schedules are subject to change.

Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.

GROUP & MINISTRY LEADERS, SEND US YOUR

CALENDAR UPDATES

ONE-TIME EVENTS
OR RECURRING MEETINGS

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH YOUR
SCHEDULED GATHERINGS SO THAT WE CAN PUT
THEM ON THE CHURCH EVENT AND
OPERATIONAL CALENDARS.



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