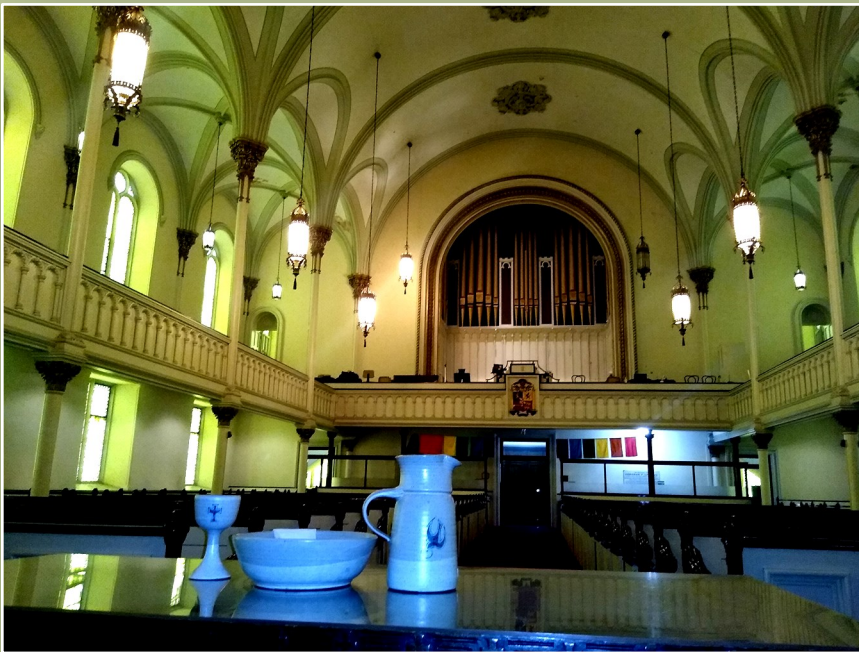


The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 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.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 12, 2021

Flowers

- Mr. Thomas M. Folkert today offers flowers to the Glory of God in celebration of the ordination of Trey Tirpak.
- A bouquet of flowers is dedicated to the Borg family upon the death of Jeff Bork, brother to Michelle Carley and uncle to Cameron Carley.

110 North Pearl Street, Albany NY 12207 ~ 518-463-4449
Email: office@firstchurchinalbany.org ~ **Website:** www.firstchurchinalbany.org
Worship at 10am in the Sanctuary

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude *Choral & Variations on “Wer nur den lieben Gott”* J. C. H. Rinck
 Iteke Prins, organist

Welcome, Announcements & Blessing

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 116:1-9)*

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

People: Amen.

Leader: We love the Lord.

People: Because the Lord hears our cries.

Leader: Because the Lord's ear is inclined to hear us.

People: We will call upon the Lord as long as we live.

Leader: You, O Lord, have delivered our souls from anguish,

People: Our eyes from tears, and our feet from stumbling.

Leader: And so we have come to worship you today in your house!

People: Let us worship the Lord!

***Opening Hymn #461** *“God Is Here”* *C.V. Taylor*

Prayer of Lament

Leader: Eternal God, you are our hope and refuge in times of trouble.

People: Because we trust in you, we dare to believe:

Leader: Goodness is stronger than evil;

People: love is stronger than hate;

Leader: light is stronger than darkness;

People: and hope is stronger than despair.

Leader: And so on this weekend, 20 years after the attacks of September 11th,

People: We cry out to you, O Lord.

Leader: We bring you our confusion and grief;

People: all those who hold trauma from that day;

Leader: all those who mourn the loss of loved ones and friends;

People: all those who served in combat because of that day;

Leader: and all the reasons that make this weekend difficult.

Hymn of Comfort

"Abide With Me" v.1-4

H. Lyte

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

System 1:

Chords: Eb, Bb7, Cm, Eb/G, Ab, Bb7, Eb

1 A - bid with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide; the dark - ness
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; earth's joys grow
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour. What but thy

System 2:

Chords: Ab, Eb, Fm, F7/Eb, Bb, Eb, Bb7, Cm, Eb, Ab

deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid. When oth - er help - ers fail and
 dim, its glo - ries pass a - way. Change and de - cay in all a -
 grace can foil the tempt - er's power? Who like thy - self my guide and

System 3:

Chords: C7, Fm, Bb7, Eb, Cm, Fm, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Eb

com - forts flee, Help of the help - less, O a - bid with me.
 round I see. O thou who chang - est not, a - bid with me.
 stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bid with me.

- 4 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
 ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
 Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
 in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1847, alt., P.D.

Music (EVENTIDE 10.10.10): William H. Monk, 1861, P.D.

***Assurance of Comfort**

Jesus says these things in the book of John: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me...Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with the hand-sign, peace of Christ.



***Passing the 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 the iconography that you find in the Orthodox tradition.

Anthem of Response #359 “More Love to Thee, O Christ”

W.H. Doane

Prayer of Blessing for the Children

Prayer for Illumination

People: Prepare our hearts, O God, to hear your Word, and empower us to deny ourselves and follow you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1

Psalm Psalm 19:1,7-8

New Testament Lesson Mark 8:27-38

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Sermon

The Source of Self-Regard Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response #422** “*God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*”

R.L. Edwards

Offering

Offertory (based on Psalm 19)

“*Silent Voices*”

I. Prins

C

1 Si - lent voic - es, un - heard voic - es, day to
 2 Hu - man voic - es, well-loved voic - es, tell a -
 3 Light from na - ture, light from scrip - ture; yet the

Dm G C

day and night to night. Sun in blue sky, stars in
 gain what they were told. Laws, de - crees, pre - cepts, com -
 heart sings bro - ken songs. Shine your grace in - to our

Am7 G7

black sky: sing-ing, speak - ing, tell - ing light. Ev - ery -
 mand-ments: next to these what good is gold? Ev - ery -
 shad - ows, sav-ing us from hid - den wrongs. Let our

F C F G C

thing that God has made tells his glo - ry, tells his glo-ry.
 thing the Lord has said, sweet as hon - ey, sweet as hon-ey.
 dai - ly lives, O Lord, tell your glo - ry, tell your glo-ry.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Music: Richard Leach, 2006, © 2006 Selah Publishing Company, Inc.

Music (SILENT VOICES 8.7.8.7.4.4): Itke Prins, 2006, © 2006 Selah Publishing Company, Inc.

***Doxology #591**

**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**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, they 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.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

***Eucharistic Hymn #505 “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”**

J. Montgomery

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 thank to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. 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!**

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith, saying:

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

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God's
holy name
with heartfelt thanksgiving! Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

continued

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him,
who did not spare his own Son,
but gave him up for us all,
and will also give us all things with him.

**Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from
this time forth forevermore. Amen**

***Sending Hymn #282** *“If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee”*

G. Neumark

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

*“Plein Jeu A La Couperin”
Iteke Prins, organist*

G. Young

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Iteke Prins

Technical Team: Ian Leet, Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr



FIRST CHURCH PRAYER LIST

- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz.
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Myrica Cook, friend of the Persons family
- Lorraine Houk
- Barb Andrews
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Kenneth Carr (Fran's brother) and Angela Venable for the loss of their daughter
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Larry Underdue
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Students, as they begin the school year
- Staff and Leaders of First Church
- For Afghanistan, Haiti, the Caribbean and the Gulf Coast, for fires along the West Coast, Tennessee and New England, and the nations as they fight the Covid variants

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

- Sunday 9.12 10am Sanctuary Worship
3pm Trey Tirpak's Ordination Service & Reception
- Monday 9.13 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 9.14 6:30pm Consistory Meeting
- Wednesday 9.15 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
12:30pm Weathervanes Luncheon
- Friday 9.17 1pm Art in the Park (weather permitting)

Other upcoming dates...

- Saturday 10.2 1pm Virtual Memorial Service for The Rev. Dr. Allan J. Janssen (information available from the office and will be listed in your Eblast)



FOUNDED IN 1642
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

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