



The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

September 25, 2022 10am Worship Service

A Letter from Pastor Mashona...

Recently, I have been speaking with staff, volunteers, and members of First Church to hear what it is First Church does well. As usual the response was how well we engage in outdoor worship. There are so many folks from the neighborhood during our outdoor worship. It is one of the times where we see our purpose in action. *The First Church in Albany is rooted in Jesus Christ and committed to serving the people and city of Albany.*

During our last outdoor worship service, a woman who lives in a local shelter walked over to the table where the offering was just collected and placed her offering in the plate. I resisted the urge to stop her. Lilly is a frequent visitor and I know her personal story. Lilly's giving demonstrated the value of this ministry for the people and the city of Albany.

The second response about what First Church does well is care. The members care about one another. Our prayer list is a mile long. Our food pantry is booming. **First Church cares.** Caring is what we do well.

Now we at First Church are called to care again! We recently began a relationship with a bilingual Montessori School. They have already begun utilizing our facility. What a joy it is to have little children using our stage for plays or smelling the flowers that Shirley Bone makes sure we plant. The laughter and joy children bring is a sound to behold.

Using our space inside and in Clee Park blesses the children. Our sharing provides support to many families from all over the world who are new to our area. What a living witness. However, our Trustees have informed us that this partnership &

outreach will cost \$12,000 more per year in insurance. This nonprofit school is made up of mostly immigrant families who already work two or more jobs to make ends meet. They need our help! We are called on to care for this community once again.

We can do more that listen to news reports and shake our heads about crime, violence, and behavioral health challenges in Downtown Albany. We can live our mission. Help! Help us raise the insurance money to share our facility with these worthy children.

Finally, the school held Grandparents Day in Clee Park. I took photos and shared with our office manager who will make them available. A father was present taking photos in his United States military uniform. He was proud of his child and happy that his family could gather in such a beautiful and safe space. **First Church really cares!**

Please send whatever you can to First Church and write "**School Insurance**" on the check.



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 25, 2022

** = rise in body or in spirit*

Prelude Reflection *Written by Rev. Trey Tirpak*

Misery, Hades
You know all of life's sorrow
That is why you care

Prelude

“Adante”

R. Furer

Tolling of Bell *history of First Church's bell*

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.” **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship *Based on Psalm 146*

People: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

Leader: I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

People: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

People: The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

Leader: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

People: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

*Opening Hymn Within the Shelter of the Lord

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 3/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: F, Gm7, Am7, and Gm7. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with some words spanning across lines. The score consists of six staves of music.

F Gm7 Am7 Gm7

1 With - in the shel - ter of the Lord, at
2 Though bru - tal con - flicts scar the day, though
3 God an - swers ev - ery cry for help; his

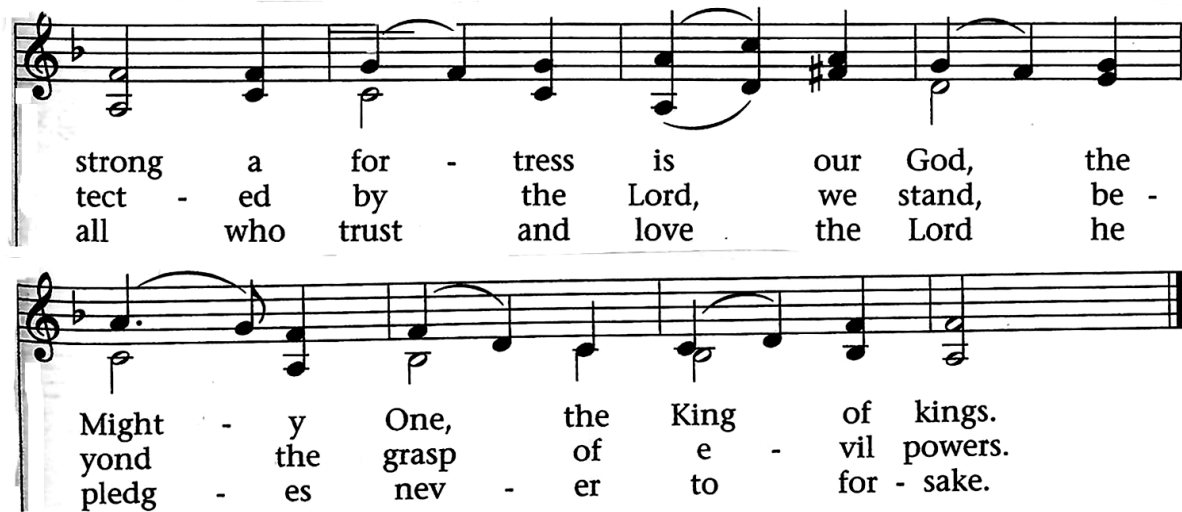
home in his un - fail - ing care, we
name - less per - ils fill the night, God's
love is ours till jour - ney's end— how -

trust in his e - ter - nal strength to
pres - ence calms our trou - bled minds and
ev - er long our lives may be, on

res - cue us from ev - ery snare:
puts our pri - mal fears to flight.
God's firm prom - ise we de - pend.

how safe it is, this hid - ing - place be -
When sin per - sists and judg - ment falls the
Who knows what dan - gers we are spared since

neath his ev - er - last - ing wings; how
true se - cur - i - ty is ours: pro -
an - gels guard the way we take? And



Words: Martin Leckebusch © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Music (YE BANKS AND BRAES 8.8.8.8 D): Scottish traditional; arr. The Iona Community © 1989 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

Prayer of Confession

Most Gracious Lord, you instruct us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Yet we miss the mark. Instead of loving our neighbor question, are we our brother's keeper? Help us Lord to have eyes that see and ears that hear.

Time of Silence & Reflection

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Those who seek God will find God. Those who knock for God, the door will be opened.

*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.

Gifting of Bibles & Blessing of Children

Prayer for 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!

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 18:1-6, pg. 431 in pew bibles*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon: Who Cares?

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *“Arise, Your Light Has Come” (1-4) #411 in pew hymnal*

Profession of Faith *Apostle’s Creed*

**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 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.**

Tithes & Offerings

Offertory *“I Come with Joy”* arr. J. Carter

***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.**

Prayers of the People *Prayer graciously written by Norma McClement*

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.**

***Sending Hymn** *Guide Me, O, Thou Great Jehovah #281 in pew hymnal*

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude: *"Praise to the Lord"* F. Saffe

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalist: Sue Fedak

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Cover Art: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Rich_Man_in_Hell_and_the_Poor_Lazarus_in_Abraham%27s_Lap,_from_Das_Plenarium_MET_DP849940.jpg

Prayer Concerns

- Dennis, Veteran friend of Doug Persons
- Brian Zapel, friend of Dave Andrews
- Betty Pierce
- Jay Reohr
- Mary Bon and family
- Shirley Joosten
- Ronald Stockhoff
- Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Mia and Wim Westman
- Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Steve Hoffman
- Harold Bushnell
- Norma McClement
- Mary Ann Selmer
- The family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, for her children (Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher)
- Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Alex Bliss
- Fran Carr-Morton
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath. We pray that cooler heads will prevail in discussions and decisions, for management of the situation.
- An end to the war in Ukraine

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

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER AT FIRST CHURCH

- Choir—Our beautiful Sanctuary warrants beautiful music! First Church is looking for singers to join our choir. Details are currently being worked out. Sign up! Contact organist Iteke Prins: ihp65@nycap.rr.com
- New Members Class—for those looking to join First Church, Rev. Trey Tirpak is coordinating a new member's orientation for you! Please contact Rev. Trey: treytirpak@gmail.com
- Home Communion—Part of regational life is caring for one another! A pastoral care visit is a great way to show that. If you or someone you know would like a visit, please contact an elder or the office: office@firstchurchinalbany.org

Volunteers Needed

Like every family, the church's strength comes from the faithful service and support of its members.



We need help with:

- **Sunday Door Greeters**
- **Food Pantry Volunteers**
- **Sunday Morning Youth & Arts Volunteers**

Benefit package includes , making new friends, fulfilling God's call for your life and the peace in knowing that you are sharing First Church with potential believers

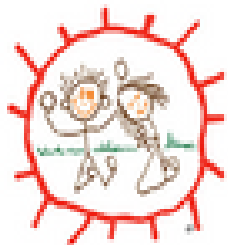
**Contact
Pastor
Mashona
ASAP**

**srpastor@firstchurchinalbany.org
518-463-4449**

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Children & Worship

at The First Church in Albany



Children & Worship provides an age-appropriate way of being in worship for children ages 4-8. Based on Montessori principles, C&W continues to be one of the most effective ways to nurture children's faith and prepare them to worship with their entire congregation.

- 9/25 - Bible & Blessing: Students will receive a bible and blessing during the usual worship service.
- 10/2 - Family Orientation
- 10/9 - First Day of Children & Worship

For details, please contact Sara Bonam Welge at sbonam@nycap.rr.com

Wizard's Wardrobe

READERS' THEATRE EVENT

OCTOBER 3, 2022 7PM

Hope for Changing Times

ALICE GREEN

AUTHOR OF WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM
WILL BE OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CASEY SEILER

TMES UNION EDITOR WILL BE OUR EMCEE

OTHER PRESENTERS: PAUL GRONDAHL, NELL STOKES, JEAN-REMY MONNAY, HOLLY MCKENNA, "CHILDREN AT THE WELL"



DOORS OPEN AT 6:15. PROGRAM STARTS AT 7PM.



at the REP

251 NORTH PEARL STREET
ALBANY, NY 12207



www.wizardswardrobe.org

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

We meet at 11:30am.,
every first Monday,
October through May!

The Mary & Neil Fund

We entered a time of prayerful consideration and care upon hearing of Neil Keen's passing. We were led to the following...

This week, we continue to accept gifts marked for the Mary & Neil Fund. The intention of this fund is to provide Mary with bereavement support in light of Neil's passing.

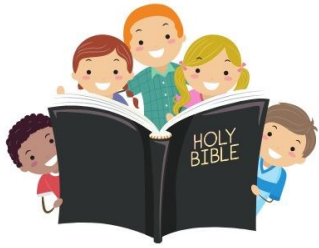
It also is meant to honor Mary Bon, who retired last year, after nearly 40 years at First Church as Minister of Music. Unfortunately, pandemic protocols kept us from celebrating Mary's retirement in the traditional way, with a gathering, as we had hoped.

If you wish to donate to this fund, please mark your check or envelope with "The Mary & Neil Fund FCIA" and place in the collection plate or mail to the church.



Please join us as we keep Mary and all of Neil's friends and family in our prayers.

The First Church in Albany, 110 N. Pearl St., Albany NY 12207



This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 9.25 10am Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
Blessing of the Children
- Monday 9.26 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 9.27 12pm Adult Scripture Study
- Wednesday 9.28 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 10.6 7pm A Night of Worship, preceded by a
potluck gathering at 6pm
- Tuesday 10.11 6pm Leadership Meeting
- Tuesday 10.18 6pm Consistory Meeting

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

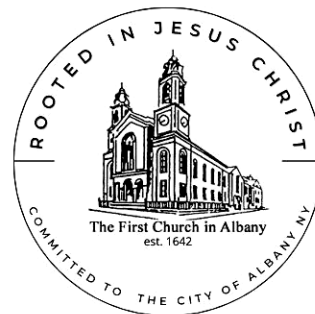
CALENDAR UPDATES

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.



EMAIL
OFFICE@FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG
OR CALL
518-463-4449



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