

The Second Sunday of Easter  
April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Prelude Reflection:**

God's light, eternal,  
Dispels every dark shadow.  
In God's love, we dwell.

**Prelude:** "I Call To Thee" J.S. Bach

**Welcome, Announcements & Blessing:**

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said.’” **Alleluia!** – *Matthew 28:6-7*

**Call to Worship:**

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord  
who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

Leader: We come seeking Jesus, the Light  
of the world.

**People: Shine in our hearts Lord  
Jesus!**

Leader: We believe in the power of God to  
illuminate even the dark places.

**People: For the light shines in the  
darkness, and the darkness did not  
overcome it.**

Leader: Lord, in this hour of worship,  
kindle in us the light of your love.

**People: Let your light shine through  
us, now and forever.**

**\*Opening Hymn: *Christ is Risen!***

### **Prayer of Confession:**

Risen Lord, we confess our tendency to walk in darkness, deceiving ourselves and denying our sin. But in your light, we find truth and forgiveness. Today we humbly confess our sins, knowing you are faithful and just to cleanse us. Empower us to walk in fellowship with you and one another. Amen.

*Time of silence*

### **Assurance of Pardon:**

Beloved, in God's light—God's presence— there is no condemnation. Know that our confessed sins have been forgiven, and God's love cleanses you. So, embrace fellowship with God and one another, and you'll experience the joy of abundant living.

### **\*Passing the Peace:**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Please pass Christ's peace.

### **Children's Message & Blessing**

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

God, your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Illuminate your word for us today so we might walk in the light of your ways. Amen.

**Sermon Text:** 1 John 1:1-2:2, pg.989

**Sermon:**“So that our joy may be complete.”

**\*Hymn of Response:** *Jesus, Light of Joy*

**Profession:** *Our World Belongs To God* §6

**Offering:** "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

**Doxology:** #592 in hymnal

**Eucharistic Hymn:** *Remembering with Love and Hope* (v.1-3)

## **The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

### **Communion Prayer:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** And also with you.

**L:** Lift up your hearts!

**P:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**L:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P:** 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!**

### **The Mystery of Faith:**

**Christ has died!**

**Christ has risen!**

**Christ will come again!**

**The Lord's Prayer:** hymnal pg.16 ("debts")

**\*Sending Hymn:** *The City Is Alive, O God*

### **\*Charge & Blessing:**

**Postlude:** "Today, God's Only-Gotten Son"

## Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

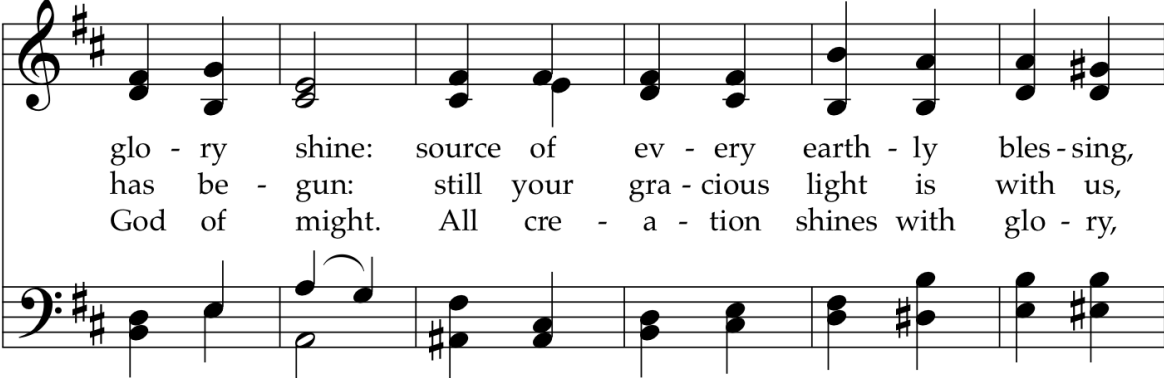
Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

## 673 Jesus, Light of Joy



1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did  
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning  
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,



glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,  
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,  
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,



heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.  
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.  
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

## Remembering with Love and Hope

F(D) B $\flat$ /F (G/D) F(D)

1 Re - mem - ber - ing with love and hope, we  
 2 God's Word made known in flesh and blood, a  
 3 Through all our lives, Lord, you are near, and  
 4 We break the bread and bless the cup; your  
 5 We trust this pledge of your strong love and

Dm(Bm) C(A) F/A(D/F $\sharp$ ) Am(F $\sharp$ m) Dm(Bm) F(D)

cel - e - brate the feast. Christ bids us come and  
 cov - e - nant of grace; in man - ger, cross, and  
 to the end of time. In bread and cup your -  
 Spir - it is out-poured. Made one in you, we  
 pray, your king - dom come, when face to face we'll

B $\flat$ (G) F(D) C7(A7) B $\flat$ /F(G/D) F(D)

dine with him, our Host and great High Priest.  
 emp - ty tomb, we see God's lov - ing face.  
 self you give; our life in yours we find.  
 feast in love un - til you come, O Lord.  
 feast with you in our e - ter - nal home.

# The City Is Alive, O God

Em C D Em C D

1 The cit - y is a - live, O God, with sound of hus - tling feet,  
 2 Is it your will, O lov - ing God, that rac - es live in strife,  
 3 In Gal - i - lee the peo - ple heard your ser - vant Christ de - clare  
 4 O God, in - spire your church to - day to take Christ's ser - vant role,

Em G D Em C Em

with rap - id change and flash - ing lights that pulse through ev - ery street;  
 that lone - li - ness and greed and hate should mark a cit - y's life?  
 through heal - ing touch, through word and cross, the good news of your care.  
 to love the world, to hear its claims to sense its yearn - ing soul,

G D Em C D

but oft there's in - hu - man - i - ty be - hind the bright fa - cade,  
 Do you de - sire one per - son's wealth to keep an - oth - er poor?  
 He said your heart touched ev - ery heart that longed for peace and right,  
 to live with - in the mar - ket - place, to serve both weak and strong,

Em G D Em C Em

and throngs with emp - ty, hun - gering hearts cry out for help, O God.  
 Must crime and slums and lust a - bound? O Lord, is there no cure?  
 that those bowed down by bur - dens borne could find your life, your light.  
 to lose it - self, to share its dream, to give the world its song.

The First Church in Albany

# APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

APRIL

15

Churches for Middle East Peace  
6:30 PM

## A CONVERSATION ABOUT PEACEBUILDING IN THE HOLY LAND

You are invited to join the Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) in a conversation about peacebuilding and advocacy related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

APRIL

20

Board of Trustees  
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## GARDENING DAY

All those with green thumbs—or just a helping spirit—are invited to help prepare our green spaces for Spring-time and Summer-time. Come with gloves and any gardening tools you may have.

APRIL

28

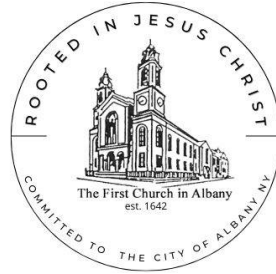
Classis of Albany  
3:00 PM

## INSTALLATION SERVICE OF REV. TREY TIRPAK

The Classis of Albany and The First Church in Albany will gather to formally install Rev. Trey Tirpak to be First Church's Associate Minister. Food and fellowship to follow the service. All are welcome!

**CHECK OUT OUR  
ONLINE CALENDAR**





**Nominate Office Bearers until May 5th:**

*If you do nominate someone, please place this form in Rev. Trey's box.*

<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Trustees</b>
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**Deacons** are confessing members of a church who have been ordained into that office. Together with the Minister(s) of Word and Sacrament, they are charged with the ministries of mercy (collecting & distributing monies), service, and outreach.

**Elders** are confessing members of a church who have been ordained into that office. Together with the Minister(s) of Word and Sacrament, they are charged with the pastoral care of all who are connected with the church, and for the welfare and good of the order of the church.

**Trustees** “shall have the care and supervision of the First Church in Albany’s property and financial interests.”