



Blessed

is he that
cometh

in the
name

of the
Lord

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449

Email: info@firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Website: www.firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

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 all are loved.

Palms toward Passion

April 14, 2019

Prelude *Suites for unaccompanied Cello* (excerpts) Johann Sebastian Bach

Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Call to Worship

Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

O give thanks to the LORD, who is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

(Psalm 116, adapted)

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

Amen.

Psalm 124:8

The Palm Parade (Luke 19.28-40)

As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Anthem

The Palms

Jean-Baptiste Faure

O'er all the way green palms and blossoms gay Are strewn this day in festive preparation, Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away; E'en now the throng to welcome Him prepare. Join, sing His name divine, Let ev'ry voice resound with united acclamation, Hosanna! Praised be the Lord, Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation.

Sing and rejoice. O blest Jerusalem, Of all thy songs sing the emancipation; Through boundless love, the Christ of Bethlehem Brings forth the hope to thee forevermore. Join, sing His name divine, Let ev'ry voice resound with united acclamation, Hosanna! Praised be the Lord, Bless Him who cometh to bring us salvation.

Time with Children

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

Confession

**Holy and gentle God,
we confess that we want you to meet our expectations
rather than changing our lives to meet yours.
We confess that we are often changeable and self-centered
like the Jerusalem crowd, shouting "Hosanna" one day
and "Crucify" the next.
We confess that we prefer the festivity of Palm Sunday
to the quiet sadness of Holy Week.
Forgive us. Help us take up our own crosses to follow you.**

Assurance of Pardon

Offering

Offertory Aria and Chorale *O Thou, my Savior, give me answer*
(from *St. John Passion*) Johann Sebastian Bach

Solo: O Thou, my Savior, give me answer, dearest Savior, give me answer: Since Thou upon Thy cross art crucified, and Thyself hast said: it is fulfilled, Am I from death set ever free? Can I through Thy pain and death the heavenly kingdom inherit? Is all the world redeemed today? Thou canst for pain indeed not answer, Yet bowest Thou Thy head to say, in silence, yes.

Chorale: Jesu, Thou who once wast dead, livest now forever. When the path of death I tread, let my seeking never Elsewhere than to Thee be turned, O beloved Savior! Give me but what Thou hast earned, more I do not pray for.

*Doxology (Hymn 591)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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, for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY TOWARD THE PASSION

*Hymn 91 *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty, vss 1 & 2* ST. DROSTANE
The Parable Luke 20:9-19

Musical Meditation	<i>Sicilienne</i>	Maria Theresia Paradis
The Plot	Luke 22:1-6	
Musical Meditation	<i>Near Thee I would be staying</i>	J. S. Bach
The Last Supper	Luke 22:14-23	
Silent Meditation		
The Garden	Luke 22:39-46	
Musical Meditation	<i>Gabriel's Oboe</i>	Ennio Morricone
The Arrest	Luke 22:47-53	
Silent Meditation		
Charge	Philippians 2:5-11	
* Hymn 91	<i>Ride On, Ride On in Majesty, vss 3&4</i>	ST. DROSTANE
*Blessing		
Postlude	Organ Sonata No. 1, "Finale: Allegro assai vivace	Felix Mendelssohn

ΑΩ

*Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Liturgist: Rebecca Mondore; Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden; Minister of Music: Mary Bon. Erica Pickhardt, cello; Doug Persons, trumpet; David Bon-Keen, timpani; Peter Subers, baritone.

We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far. Please sign our guest book or complete a visitor's card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. There is an elevator in our building, which makes every floor accessible. Please join us for refreshments and conversation after worship

During Lent, we are meditating on the question: When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different? Each week we will also have a framing question for the coming week. This week's question is: *What am I going to tell myself when self-denial gets hard?*

Today's service is modeled on one created by the Rev. Elsa A. Cook.

Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher.

First Church is an accessible building. We have an elevator so you can reach every floor.



An Automated External Defibrillator “**AED**” is located in the lobby attached to the wall outside of the **workroom**.

After A Word with Children, children age 4 and under are welcome in the Nursery. Children 4-12 are invited to be a part of Children and Worship.

Pocket Prayer Shawls are available at today’s Worship. Please ask one of our greeters and they can provide a basket of pocket prayer shawls to choose from. Pocket Prayer Shawls are made and filled with prayers and can be given to someone in need of comfort, healing, or a reminder of the closeness of God.

For the month of April, we will be collecting “Toilet Paper” for the First Church Food Pantry.

We are seeking nominations for the offices of Deacon, Elder and Trustee. Nomination forms can be placed in the Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden’s mailbox.

FOCUS Task Force Initiative on anti-racism, immigration and housing. - If you are interested in participating or learning more about the Task Force Initiative please review the forms located on the display table.

New members: Gathering April 28th- Noon - 1:15pm - If you would like to explore membership at First Church, join us for second conversation with Lynn Carman Bodden and some of the Elders. A light lunch will be served.



The CROP Walk is being held again this year on Sunday, May 5th, beginning at First Lutheran Church, 646 State Street, Albany. Registration opens at 12:30pm and the walk begins at 1:30pm. First Church has a proud tradition of participation in this fundraiser which supports the work of Church World Service in hunger relief and development projects, as well as local food pantries and soup kitchens. Will you be a walker? A sponsor? Please pick up a packet in the lobby after worship.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	4/14	Palm Sunday 10:30 am Worship Service – Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation 12:00 pm Confirmation – Parlor 3:30 pm Installation of the Rev. Paige Convis at Blooming Grove Reformed Church
Monday	4/15	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 11:30 am Prayer Shawl 12:00 pm Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm Staff Meeting – Parlor
Wednesday	4/17	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm AA Meeting 12:00 pm Prayer at Noon 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	4/18	Maundy Thursday 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Communion and Tenebrae
Friday	4/19	Good Friday Capital Area Council of Church Service: 12:00 pm St. Francis of Assisi Church 12:00 pm Union Missionary Baptist Church 3 Morton Ave, Albany, NY. 1:15 pm St. Peter’s Episcopal Good Friday Music St Peter's Episcopal 107 State Street, Albany, NY.
Sunday	4/21	Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise Service at West Capitol Park steps Sponsored by FOCUS Churches Easter Breakfast at Emmanuel Baptist Church 10:30 am Festival Easter Communion Service