



Alleluia!

Our Savior Lives!

# THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

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

Email: [info@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:info@firstchurchinalbany.org) ~ Website: [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://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.*

## Festival of the Resurrection

**Easter Sunday**

**April 16, 2017**

### THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude      *Concerto for Bassoon in C: Largo*  
*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Antonio Vivaldi  
Robert A. Hobby

From Good Friday Evening to Easter Dawn: (Matthew 27:57- 28:6a)

### Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed!**

This is the Good News: You need not be afraid.

Jesus, who died, is alive forever and goes before you.

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

This is the Good News: the light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness can never put it out.

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

\*Hymn 123 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you broke the power of sin and death. As we celebrate this great triumph may it also shape our living. Help us to let go of all that should rightly die:**

**lingering resentments, selfish habits,  
our indifference to the needs of the poor,  
our abuse of your good creation,  
the fears that keep us from working for justice and peace.**

**Help us to trust in the power of your Spirit to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.** *(The prayer may continue in silence.)*

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

Since God has reconciled us to himself through Christ,  
let us be reconciled with one another.

**Let us be imitators of God and live in love, as Christ loved us.**

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

**And also with you.**

\*Response 147 *Blessing and Honor* (verse 1)

O QUANTA QUALIA

**Blessing and honor and glory and power,  
Wisdom and riches and strength evermore  
Give we to Christ who our battle has won,  
Whose are the kingdom, the crown and the throne.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 28: 1-10

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Anthem *Angels Rolled de Stone Away*

African American Spiritual  
Arr. Jester Hairston

A Word with Children

The Sermon “With Fear and Great Joy”

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

\*Hymn 122 *Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

Offering

Offertory *Christ, Our Passover Is Sacrificed for Us*

Will MacFarlane

\*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 SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Meaning of the Sacrament and the Invitation

\*Hymn 521 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

FINEST WHEAT

*(The choir will sing the first verse; the congregation is invited to join in verses 2-5.)*

The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy and right it is, ...

we worship and adore your glorious name.

Sanctus

(sung to the tune: EASTER HYMN)

**Holy, Holy, Holy God, Alleluia!  
By the earth and heaven adored, Alleluia!  
Our hosannas high we raise: Alleluia!  
Christ, our savior's name we praise! Alleluia!**

Most righteous God, ...

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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 Words of Institution and Communion

Communion Anthem *When Mary Came with Rich Perfume*

Borghild Jacobsen arranged Kenneth Kosche

Prayer after Communion

\*The Hymn 514 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

LINSTEAD

\*Blessing

\*Response: *Messiah: Hallelujah Chorus*

Georg Frideric Handel

\*Postlude *Improvisation- Toccata: "The Strife Is O'er"*

Iteke Prins

ΑΩ \*Those who are able please stand.

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgists: The Rev. Susan Cox; Preacher: The Rev. John D. Paarlberg; Mary Bon Minister of Music and Choir Director; Organist: Iteke Prins; the Choir of First Church; Eric Latini, Doug Persons, Trumpets; David Bon-Keen, Bassoon, Timpani.  
WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: The entire congregation.

**We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far.** The order of worship is based on the historic liturgy of the Christian church. Through the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the sacramental meal we encounter the living God, who graciously heals and powerfully renews our lives. If you are a first time visitor, please sign the guest book or complete a visitor's card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. If you have questions about our ministry, we encourage you to speak with a pastor or an usher. There is an elevator in the building, which makes every floor accessible. **Please join us for refreshments and conversation Zimmerman Hall after the service.**

**We invite everyone to join in** singing the *Hallelujah Chorus*, found in the pews.

**The Easter offering** has been designated for two ministries: the local Habitat for Humanity program and the Reformed Church in America refugee crisis fund which supports the efforts of RCA mission coworkers and partner churches in Europe as they provide for the needs of refugees.

**Drive-in worship** begins Sunday, May 7, 9 a.m. Each Sunday in May through the first Sunday in September worshippers gather in the Sheridan Avenue parking lot and in Clee Park for a half-hour worship service led from the outdoor pulpit.

**The CROP Walk** is Sunday afternoon, May 7. Plan to walk or sponsor our walkers. Sign up today at the table in Zimmerman Hall. You can also go online to register or pledge to support the team from First Albany. Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny> Money raised in the annual CROP walk helps hungry people in Albany and around the world.

Many people of faith are concerned about racism in America today. Where do we start? What can we do? How can we respond to the systemic nature of racism in our politics, our economy, public education and our criminal justice system? Join us to learn what you can do! *BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: Racism and Beyond*, facilitated by Sisters Patty Chappell and Anne-Louise Nadeau. Friday night, April 28, 2017 from 7 to 9 pm and Saturday April 29, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the First Church in Albany. Please contact pastor John Paarlberg or the church office for more information.

**Join the Weathervanes on Wednesday, April 19th, at 12:30 p.m. in Zimmerman Hall.** Bring a sandwich. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be served. After lunch, Tom Allison will take us on an "armchair tour" of our church. Please let Audrey Ming know that you plan to attend.

**Renowned Dutch organist, Berry Van Berkum, will play a free concert** at First Church in Albany on May 12th at 7:30 as part of our Heritage Weekend.

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

Sunday	4/16	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
		6:30 AM FOCUS Sunrise Service @West Capitol Park
		10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship (Communion)
		11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
Monday	4/17	Office & Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday	4/18	12:00 NOON Bible Study
		7:00 PM Board of Elders
Wednesday	4/19	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open
		12:00 NOON AA Meeting
		12:30 PM Weathervanes
		6:30 PM Trustees
Thursday	4/20	No choir rehearsal
Sunday	4/23	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>
		10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship
		Children & Worship (during service)
		11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation

## The Lord's Supper at First Church

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion or Eucharist) is a celebration of remembrance, of communion and of hope.

As we share the bread and the cup we remember that during his earthly ministry, Jesus shared meals with his followers and sat at dinner tables as a sign of his acceptance of the sinner and the outcast. In the last meal before his death, Jesus took bread and wine, and shared them with his disciples speaking of these elements as his body and blood, signs of the new relationship with God brought about by his impending death. On the day of his resurrection, the risen Jesus made himself known to his followers in the breaking of bread (Luke 24).

As we share this meal we trust that Christ is present with us today. When we receive the bread and the cup in faith we receive Christ into our lives and we are drawn into his presence. Through this sacrament we are renewed and empowered to be the church, the body of Christ, in the world.

This holy meal is therefore a joy-filled and hopeful celebration. It is a sign and foretaste of God's coming reign of justice and peace where love conquers all hatred and heals all wounds.

All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. Access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and the cup in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. (At today's celebration of the Lord's Supper the bread is gluten free and grape juice is used in place of wine.)

This morning the congregation will be served by elders and deacons in an act symbolizing their roles as servant leaders in the church. The congregation also takes on the role of serving: worshipers take the bread and grape juice from the plate held by their neighbor and then they take the plate and serve the neighbor on their other side. At First Church it is our custom to partake of the bread as soon as it is received, but to retain the cup and drink together at the conclusion of the supper. Empty cups are placed in the ringed holes in the pew racks.