



*Alleluia*

CHRIST IS RISEN

# 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.*

## Easter Sunday

April 1, 2018

Prelude: Music for Bassoon and Violin

Announcements

Call to Worship

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

Psalm 124:8

**Amen.**

Easter begins in the dark. Our life, our love, our hope lie dead, crushed by grief, bottled up in a cave behind a boulder.

### **Who will roll away the stone?**

Then early in the morning, the sun begins to rise and Easter takes us by surprise. The obstacles we expected to face are removed. Hope begins to sprout wings to fly from emptiness. It is, at first, too good to be true.

### **Where have you laid him?**

When faced with a miracle, our first reflex is to run.

**Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.**

Rising as quietly as the sun creeping over the horizon, realization begins to dawn. The truth in the moment explodes like fireworks, painting the world with dazzle. The One who was dead comes to life in our presence.

**Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!**

\*Hymn 123 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We can dare to confess our sin honestly and openly to God, for God has promised always to forgive us and always to love us.

**Alleluia!**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

\*The Peace

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

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

\*Response Hymn 114 vs. 2

AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM

**‘Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst His prison,**

**And from three days sleep in death as a sun hath risen.**

**Now rejoice, Jerusalem, and with true affection**

**Welcome in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

**Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your word be heard; in the meditation of our hearts, may your word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown. Amen.**

## A Word with Children

Anthem: *Angels Rolled de Stone Away* African American Spiritual Arr. Jester Hairston

*Refrain: Oh de angels rolled de stone away The angel rolled the stone away. T'was on that Easter Sunday morning Dat the angels rolled de stone away. Sister Mary she came runnin' just about the break of day, She was bringin' news from heaven dat the angels rolled de stone away. Refrain. Said the angel, "he's not here; He is risen as He said, Why seek ye the living, way down here among the dead?" Refrain. Jesus said, "touch me not Mary, but go on ahead of me, Go and tell all my disciples to meet me in Galilee." Refrain.*

The Gospel Lesson Mark 16:1-8

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon "What Happens Next?"

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

### THE RESPONSE TO GOD

\*Hymn 105 *Because You Live, O Christ* VRUECHTEN

Offering

Offertory *Achieved is the Glorious work (from Creation)* Franz Joseph Haydn  
*Achieved is the glorious work; Our song let be the praise of God.  
Glory to our risen Lord. Our God on high exalted reigns, Hallelujah*

\*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 514 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

LINSTEAD

The Communion Prayer and the Prayers of the People

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.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise.

Lord God of truth...

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore praising you and singing:

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!**

Embracing our humanity...

that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

**Dying he destroyed our death,**

**Rising he restored our life.**

**We await his coming in glory.**

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 Music                      *Sonata in D: Afetuoso*                      Georg Fridrich Handel

Prayer after Communion

\*Hymn 108                                      *Christ Is Alive*                                      TRURO

\*Charge and Blessing

Postlude                                      *Symphony V: Toccata*                                      Charles Marie Widor

ΑΩ

\*Those who are able please stand.

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:** Liturgist: Tom Allison and The Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox; Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden; Minister of Music: Mary Bon; Musicians: David Bon-Keen, basson and timpani; Holly Larson, violin; Doug Persons, trumpet; Peter Suber, baritone; Rose Hunsberger, soprano; David Bon-Keen, tenor; Doug Persons, trumpet and the Choir of First Church.

**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.

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



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

The Call to Worship was adapted from work by John W. Howell, found in [Touch Holiness](#). The Confession was written by Rev. Elsa A. Cook.

If you are interested in delivering Easter plants to the sick, shut in and church members that have recently lost a family member, please stop by the table in the lobby to sign up. You may also take plants at this time or anytime this week between the hours of 8 am – 3 pm.

**April 8th Pulpit Swap with The Rev. Peter JB Carman**, Pastor of Emmanuel Friedens Church, spouse of Rev. Lynn. The Nat Phipps Jazz Trio will offer their musical gifts in worship. Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden will be preaching at Emmanuel Friedens Church in Schenectady.

**Sunday Flower** Dates Available: **April 22nd** is available for the dedication of sanctuary flower arrangements. The cost is \$65.00 for two vases. Please call the Church Office (518) 463-4449, if you are interested.

**The CROP Walk is being held again this year on Sunday, May 6**, 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	4/1	<b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 am      Easter Sunrise Service – W. Capitol Park 10:15 am      Pre-Service Music 10:30 am      Festival Easter Communion Service 11:30 am      Coffee and Conversation
Monday	4/2	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open No Staff Meeting
Tuesday	4/3	12:00 noon    Bible Study
Wednesday	4/4	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm      AA Meeting 12:00 pm      Prayer for the Church – Sanctuary 6:30 pm      Consistory Meeting
Thursday	4/5	No Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	4/8	10:30 am      Sanctuary Service - <b>PULPIT SWAP</b> The Rev. Peter JB Carman, Pastor of Emmanuel Friedens Church, spouse of Rev. Lynn, preaching 11:30 am      Coffee and Conversation 11:30 am      Care Callers Meeting - Parlor