



Alleluia!

Our Savior Lives!

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

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

Email: firstchurch@verizon.net ~ 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 21, 2019

Prelude

Prelude in G BWV 541

Johann Sebastian Bach

Partita no.3 in E for solo violin: Prelude and Giga J. S. Bach

Greeting – *This ancient Easter greeting is exchanged three times.*

The Lord is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Call to Worship

Hear these words of Isaiah the prophet to a people in exile,
words about God's new creation to a people in need of good news,
words whose fulfillment is begun in Christ's resurrection.

Listen and find hope!

Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am doing;

For I am about to create my people as a joy.

I will delight in my people.

No more shall there be an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime.

One who does not live a hundred years shall be considered accursed.

My people will not work in vain;

they will not raise children for calamity.

Even before they call, I will answer;

while they are still speaking, they will know that I hear.

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**The wolf will dwell with the lamb, the lion will eat straw like the ox.
They will not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain.
This is the word of the Lord.**

Isaiah 65.17-25

*Hymn # 123 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

EASTER HYMN

Confession of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*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 (sung to tune 115 ST. KEVIN)

**‘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.**

A Word with Children

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.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 24.1-12

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Anthem

Away with gloom, away with doubt!

Barry Ferguson

*Away with gloom, away with doubt! With all the morning stars we sing;
With all the people of God we shout The praises of our King, Hallelujah!
Of our returning King.*

*Away with death, and welcome life; In Him we died and live again;
And welcome peace, away with strife! For He returns to reign. Hallelujah!
The Crucified shall reign.*

*Then welcome beauty, He is fair; And welcome youth, for He is young;
And welcome spring; and everywhere Let merry songs be sung! Hallelujah!
For such a King be sure!*

Text: Edward Shillito

The Sermon

“How Will I Be Different?”

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*Hymn 122

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

Offering

Offertory

To God Sing Praises – Alleluia

(from Regina Coeli K. 108)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

To God sing praises forever, forever! Alleluia. The Lord is risen, be joyful, sing praises! Alleluia! Rejoice, the Lord reigns in glory. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Doxology (Tune 455: LASST UNS ERFREUEN)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise Creator, praise the Son,
Praise Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Meaning of the Sacrament and the Invitation

*The 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 No.4 In D Major*

Georg Friderich Handel

Prayer after Communion

*Charge and Blessing

Easter Response *Messiah Hallelujah Chorus*

Georg Friderich Handel

Everyone is invited to join in singing the Hallelujah Chorus. Copies of the Chorus are available from the ushers. Please feel free to join the choir in the balcony or to sing from your pews.

Postlude *Symphony V: Toccata*

Charles Marie Widor

ΑΩ

*Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Liturgist: The Rev. Susan Vincent Cox; Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden; Minister of Music: Mitzuko Suzuki, violin; Doug Persons, trumpet; David Bon-Keen, timpani

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. Please join us for refreshments and conversation after worship.

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. This morning, all other children will remain in worship. In honoring children's safety all First Church staff and volunteers who work with children and youth have received updated background checks and yearly training in child physical and emotional safety.

NOMINATIONS:

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.

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 12:30 pm 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	4/21	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
Monday	4/22	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 11:30 am Prayer Shawl 12:00 pm Adult Bible Study NO STAFF MEETING 6:30 PM Leadership Meeting - Parlor
Wednesday	4/24	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm AA Meeting 12:00 pm Prayer at Noon
Thursday	4/25	5:00 pm Music Task Force Meeting NO CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sunday	4/28	Second Sunday of Easter 10:30 am Worship Service – Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Nat Phipps Jazz Trio Post Service: Coffee & Conversation 11:45 am First Church Readers – Powell Room 12:00 pm New Members Gathering - Parlor