



*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.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

April 9, 2017

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Announcements

The Entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9)

Leader: ... A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

People: “**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**”

*The Processional Hymn 88 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* ST. THEODULPH
Children and others are invited to join in the processional, waving their palm branches and spreading them on the chancel floor in the front of the sanctuary.

Children's Sermon

*Hymn 89 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (verses 1 and 2)

ELLACOMBE

THE LITURGY OF THE PASSION

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson Romans 3: 21-26

The Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Anthem *Behold the Savior of Mankind* American Folk Tune arr. Austin Lovelace

Behold the Savior of mankind nailed to the shameful tree!

How vast the love that him inclined to bleed and die for thee!

Hark, how he groans! while nature shakes, and earth's strong pillars bend;

See how he bows his sacred head! He bows his head and dies.

But soon he'll break death's envious chain, and in full glory shine:

O Lamb of God, was ever pain, was ever love, like thine?

Text: Samuel Wesley

The Gospel Lesson Matthew 27: 33-56

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

Hymn 92 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Offering

Offertory *Crux Fidelis*

John IV of Portugal

Faithful cross! above all other, one and only noble Tree! None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peers may be; sweetest wood and sweetest iron! Sweetest weight is hung on thee!

*Doxology (Hymn 591)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

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 Hymn 98 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

*Charge and Blessing

God proves his love for us in that
while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

**While we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son.**

You have been crucified with Christ.

**Now we live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved us and gave himself for us.**

You have been buried with Christ.

**So that we might be dead to sin
and alive to God in Jesus Christ.**

You are ambassadors for Christ.

**We live no longer for ourselves,
but for Christ who died and was raised to life for us.**

*Postlude v.1 O sacred head, now wounded...

v.2 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered...

v.3 What language shall I borrow...

arranged by: Iteke Prins

AΩ *Those who are able please stand.

(Please consider remaining in the sanctuary to listen to the postlude, or leave quietly to enable others to listen. Thank you)

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgists: The Rev. Susan Cox; Preacher: The Rev. John D.

Paarlberg; Organist: Iteke Prins; Choir Director: Mary Bon; the Choir of First Church.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: The entire congregation.

The Sunday of the Passion

The liturgy for the first day of Holy Week is in two parts. It begins with a procession with palms as a dramatic prelude. The service then moves to a celebration of the Passion of Jesus Christ, a highlight of which is the reading of the passion account in one of the Gospels. As a prelude to the reading of the passion, the procession with palms provides for an appropriate outburst of joy which does not lose sight of the solemn goal of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. He rides on to die. The somberness of the passion, which is the focus of Holy Week, is thus framed by the joy of the preparatory procession and by the greater joy of Easter which is its purpose and culmination.

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 downstairs after worship.

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

Being Disciples small group will meet for prayer and discussion on Tuesday evening, April 11, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. This week: chapters 5 (Faith in Society) and 6 (Life in the Spirit) of ***Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life*** by Rowan Williams.

Joe Paparone, our FOCUS advocacy coordinator, will be the preacher for the **FOCUS Sunrise Service at 6:30 am Easter morning**, April 16. We will meet again on the west steps of West Capitol Park (across from the Alfred E. Smith building on Swan). A hot breakfast will be provided again at Emmanuel Baptist Church (275 State St) at 7:15, following the service. All are invited!

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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	4/9	Palm/Passion Sunday
		10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship Children & Worship (during service)
		11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
Monday	4/10	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open 6:00 PM Dinner for Overflow Shelter Volunteers @ First Lutheran Church
Tuesday	4/11	12:00 NOON Bible Study
Wednesday	4/12	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Open 12:00 NOON AA Meeting
Thursday	4/13	7:30 PM Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Service of Tenebrae
Friday	4/14	Good Friday
Sunday	4/16	Easter Sunday 6:30 AM FOCUS Sunrise Service @West Capitol Park 10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship (Communion) 11:30 AM Coffee and Conversation

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- April 13** **Maundy Thursday**
7:30 pm
The Celebration of the Lord's Supper and Service of Tenebrae
First Church in Albany
- April 14** **Good Friday**
12:00 Noon
Ecumenical worship sponsored by the Capital Area Council of Churches at
the Church of St. Vincent de Paul (Madison Avenue at the corner of Partridge
Street)
or
1 pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church. A one-hour service including a series of
brief reflections on the words that Jesus spoke from the cross.
or
1 pm
St. Matthew Passion by J. S. Bach
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 107 State Street, Albany
- April 16** **Easter Sunday**
6:30 am
Easter Sunrise Worship (FOCUS Churches)
at West Capitol Park, followed by breakfast at Emmanuel Baptist Church

10:30 am
Festival of the Resurrection and Celebration of Holy Communion
First Church in Albany

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.