

Prayer of Confession

O promised Christ:

We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming.

We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming.

We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;

our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh,

Our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for our grace. Even so:
come, Lord Jesus. Amen

(The prayer may continue in silence.)

Assurance of Pardon

*The Peace

Thanks be to Good who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve. In God's peace may we love one another.

May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

And also with you

*Let us pass Christ's peace

*Response

While We Are Waiting, Come

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first line of lyrics: "1 While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come." The second system contains the second line of lyrics: "Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come." Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The piano part features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

WORDS: Claire Cloninger, 1942-, © 1986 Word, Inc.
MUSIC: Don Cason, 1954-, © 1956 Word, Inc.

6.6.8.6.
WAITING.

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THE WORD OF GOD

A Word with Children

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 Old Testament Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson Luke 21:25-36

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon **“Big Hope”**

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

Offering

Offertory *Never Weatherbeaten Sail*

Thomas Campion

Never weather beaten sail more willing bent to shore, Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more, Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast: O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise, cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes: Glory there the sun outshines; whose beams the blessed only see: O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to Thee! Words by Thomas Campion

*Doxology (Hymn 23- refrain only)

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Meaning of the Sacrament and the Invitation

*The Hymn 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

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 PICARDY)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God: God of power, God of might.

Heav'n and earth, filled with your glory, their hosannas gladly cry.

Blessed is the One that in the Lord's name comes.

Glory be to you, most high.

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn

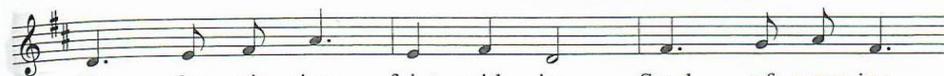
Now the Heavens Start to Whisper 408



1. Now the heav - ens start to whis - per As the veil is
2. Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light Now be - gin to
3. Christ, e - ter - nal sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of



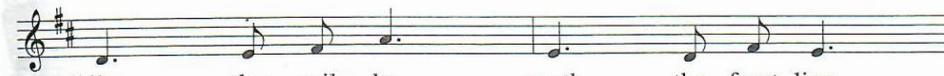
grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
wis - dom's seed, Come to bless with fire and fra - grance



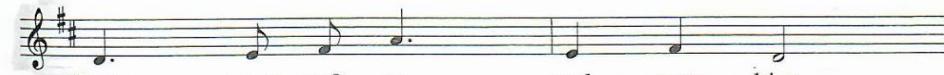
To the stir - ring, faint with - in: Seed of prom - ise,
Shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing
Hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly,



deep - ly plant - ed, Child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
star of splen - dor, Gleams with - in a world grown dim.
in the stran - ger, In the out - cast hid from view:



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line,
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness;
Child who comes to grace the man - ger,



Hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: SUO GAN, 8 7 8 7 D; Welsh melody; arr. by Nicholas Palmer, b.1963, © 2008, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude *O Savior, Tear the Heavens Open*

Helmut Walcha

ΑΩ

*Those who are able please stand.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Liturgist: The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden; Preacher: The Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox; Minister of Music: Mary Bon; Musician: Doug Persons, trumpet.

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.

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.

The flowers this morning are given in gratitude for the life and love and leadership at First Church of James and Margeret Trueworthy Gowie including Consistory and Board of Trustees, youth worship, youth fellowship, and Sunday School (circa 1930-1990). By Cheryl Gowie.

The Chime bells used during the communion anthem were given by Norma McClement and family in memory of her husband.

Thanks to all who contributed so generously to our last Overflow Homeless Shelter Dinner in November. Our next dinner is December 14th. The theme is “Chili with all the fixings”. We need your help! Can you contribute a main dish, side or Dessert? Sign-up at the Hospitality table. Contact Mary Bon at 463-4449 or maryebon@verizon.net for more info if you've got questions - and THANK YOU!

Each Sunday in Advent there is pre-service music at 10:15 am in the sanctuary. Come early during this busy holiday season to meditate, pray, refresh yourself and deepen your worship as we prepare again for Christ's coming within and among us. Next weeks music will be Carols for Organ & Trumpet.

Christmas Decoration Memorials - This year the Worship, Music and Arts Commission invites you to remember loved ones and honor friends by contributing toward the costs of decorating the entire church: poinsettias, wreaths, garlands, bows and all! In the past, costs have totaled as much as \$1800, and any contribution you make will be helpful.

Today join us for the Journey Through the Psalms. We will explore the "Psalms of Sacred History." No need for books or preparation. In the Parlor, right after the worship service.

Today, December 2nd, at 3:30 pm, G. F. Handel's *Messiah* will be performed at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 107 State Street, Albany, with St. Peter's Choir (Neil Keen, conductor), soloists, chamber orchestra and organ (Mary Bon, organist). Come hear the prophecies and Christmas story through the ageless music of Handel. The concert is free, but a free will offering will be received.

If you would like to order a poinsettia as a memorial to be shared with a homebound member or friend, or to take after Christmas to decorate your home, orders need to be placed by extended deadline of **Friday, December 7, 2018**. Please send a note or call the Church office (518) 463-4449 to order the flowers, to designate your memorial, and to indicate if you would like to share or take the plant. A minimum donation of \$10.00 per plant is required. Checks should be payable to **First Church in Albany** (Note: Christmas Decorations/ Poinsettias).

Hanging of the Greens (indoor & outdoor) will occur on **December 8th at 10:00 am**. **Breakfast** will be served at **8:30 am** - . Sign up sheet is on the display table in the lobby.

First Church Readers will meet next week to Discuss *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II* by Liza Mundy. More than 10,000 women were recruited to do the secret work of breaking codes in WW II. Their work was forgotten and their sacrifices were unsung until this highly readable, well researched and documented story.

Christmas Pageant Cancelled

The Christmas Pageant prosed for Dec. 15th and 16th in partnership with First Church in Albany has been cancelled. The Planning Committee did not find enough support in either church to carry the project through. Many thanks to those who did come forward and offer to participate, specially the choirs. The Committee hopes that the project might succeed in a future year. Thanks much, Edith & Ian Leet.

2018 Christmas Offering

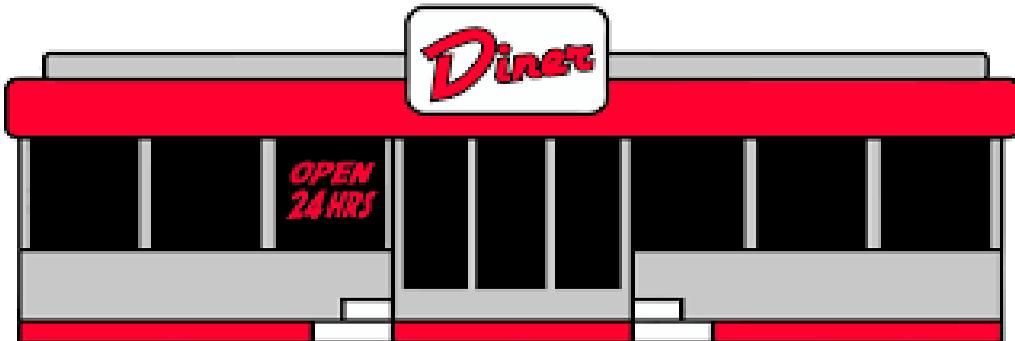
The Christmas letters will be sent out soon with the Board of Deacons 2018 designation for the Christmas offering for 2018. It will also be announced in worship. So, stay tuned!

Monthly Newsletter Update

We are moving to an online newsletter beginning January 2019. If we do not have your email address, please send it to Valerie Williams at vwilliams@firstchurchinalbany.org . If you do not have an email address, we will mail you a paper copy of the monthly newsletter.

Rev. Cameron Monthly Brunch

Rev. Bill Cameron began gathering a group for lunch on the first Thursday of the month. The group continues to meet each month at the Gateway Diner, 899 Central Ave. in Albany. Anyone can join us on December 7th starting at 12:15 and stay until you wish to leave. We all pay for our own. Contact Donna E. Schultz at deschultz07@aol.com or 518.429.1255.



WEATHERVANES
Holiday Dinner Party

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
Zimmerman Hall 12:30 pm

MENU

Chicken Marsala
Scalloped Potatoes Mixed Vegetables
Cake

PROGRAM

Music and Stories



Dinner Cost - \$15.00

Please make your reservations and give payment to:
Audrey Ming - 518-456-5485
by November 25th

BOOKS !!!

Please contribute \$5.00 or more toward the purchase of books which will be Christmas gifts for children of our Food Pantry clients.

JOIN THE

**CHEAPER
THAN THERAPY**

**HEALTHIER THAN
ALCOHOL**

**MORE FUN THAN
WORKING OUT**

**IF YOU CAN TALK
YOU CAN SING!!**



CHOIR

CONTACT MARY BON

maryebon@verizon.net

518-339-5460 (Cell)

THURSDAYS 7:00 PM

SUNDAY 9:30 AM

GREAT FUN

GREAT FELLOWSHIP

GREAT SERVICE

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	12/2	First Sunday of Advent 10:15 am Pre-Service Music 10:30 am Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Susan Vincent-Cox, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation 11:45 am Journey Through the Psalms
Monday	12/3	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 1:30 pm Staff Meeting - Parlor
Tuesday	12/4	12:00 pm Adult Bible Study
Wednesday	12/5	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm AA Meeting 12:00 pm Prayer at Noon 12:30 pm Weathervanes Christmas Party
Thursday	12/6	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	12/8	8:30 am Breakfast 10:00 am Hanging of the Greens
Sunday	12/9	Second Sunday of Advent 10:15 am Pre-Service Music 10:30 am Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Caman Bodden, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation 11:45 am First Church Readers