

Advent

At First Church in Albany



Sunday, December 6, 2020
10am ZOOM Online Service

Join us for this season of expectation!

First Church in Albany

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

THE BEGINNING OF THE
GOOD NEWS OF JESUS
CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.

Mark 1:1

Prelude

“Messiah: He Shall Feed His Flock”

G.F. Handel

Peter Subers, baritone; Mary Bon, organ

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd
And He shall gather The lambs with his arm, With his arm.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd And He shall gather
The lambs with his arm, With his arm.
And carry them in his bosom And gently lead those That are with young
And gently lead those, and gently lead those That are with young.

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

One: From ages past, for years to come

All: We wait on your revelation

One: Know that no one has heard, no ear perceived

All: No Eye has seen what you have prepared for your people.

One: The unexpected awaits us and we proclaim anew

All: Light will come to our darkness, a light for all your people.

Solo

“Messiah: Come unto Him”

G.F. Handel

Rose Hunsberger, soprano; Mary Bon, organ

Come unto Him All ye that labour. Come unto Him ye
That are heavy laden And He will give you rest.
Come unto Him, ye That are heavy laden
And He will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you And learn of Him;
For He is meek And lowly of heart, And ye shall find rest
And ye shall find rest Unto your souls.
Take his yoke upon you And learn of Him
For He is meek And lowly of heart And ye shall find rest,
And ye shall find rest Unto your souls.

Lighting of the Candle (*based on Matthew 3:1-12*)

- **Leader:** John the Baptist proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
- **People:** **And the people went out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.**
- **Leader:** And John said, “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals.
- **People:** **He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.” We light the first Advent candle to remind us to keep awake and be ready. (*Pause while the first candle is lit*) We light the second Advent candle to remind us to change our ways.**
- *Second candle is lit.*

Response

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

Prayer of Confession

Lord of Christmas peace,
We have done wrong.
We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.
We have buried you so deeply in our hearts,
The world doesn't see you.
We have not followed Christ,
We have ignored your teachings,
We have lived lives of apathy against your love,
We have built fences and fortresses to push people away,
And we have silenced the screams of those in need.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us from our sin,
Free us from our captivity,
Free us to a life lived in joy
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen

The Rev. Nathan Decker

Assurance of Pardon

God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.

(Adapted from Titus 3:4-7, The Message)

Anthem

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

The Choir of First Church in Albany

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sin
Who loved us all, and shed his blood That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord The Lord almighty God
Who was and is, and is to come Sing holy, holy Lord.

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein Rejoice on earth, ye saints below.
For Christ is coming , Is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon.

E’en so Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more.

They need no light, no lamp, nor sun/ For Christ will be their All!

Text: Ruth Manz, paraphrase of Revelations 21:1-4, and 22

Prayer of 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

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Mark 1:1-8

¹“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “see, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I’m not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Sermon

The First

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Meaning of the Sacrament and the Invitation

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

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.

Lord's Prayer

Josh Bliss

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

“Come thou long expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charge & Blessing