

# 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.*

## Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

### HEALING SERVICE

February 17, 2019

#### THE APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Adolphus Hailstork

Announcements

Call to Worship

God our Maker

Yours are the hands that traced the rainbow and hurled the stars into space.

**OPEN OUR HEARTS, LOVING GOD, TO MEET YOU HERE.**

Christ our Redeemer

Yours are the hands that blessed the children

that healed the sick and broke the Passover bread.

**OPEN OUR HEARTS, LOVING JESUS, TO MEET YOU HERE.**

Holy Spirit and Comforter

You hold our hands when we need you

you breathe new hope and strength into our lives.

**OPEN OUR HEARTS, LOVING SPIRIT, TO MEET YOU HERE.**

God our Maker, our Redeemer, our Comforter

you write our names on the palms of your hands.

**YOU ARE OUR GOD**

**WE ARE HERE TO WORSHIP YOU!**

(Ruth Burgess, Iona Community)

Prayer of Penitence: God With Us

God with us

you know our captivity.

We pray for deliverance into your glorious freedom. When we are inclined to sink into self-pity or self-righteousness, confront us with the life of the world in all its suffering and all its beauty, and release us into a longing for justice.

Lord have mercy on us

**CHRIST HAVE MERCY ON US**

When we are driven and relentless with ourselves and with others, tied up with pressures of time and money, release us, through your economy of generosity into a wider knowledge of value.

Lord have mercy on us

**CHRIST HAVE MERCY ON US**

When we privilege our own agendas, hurt others in the effort to impose our will, or chain ourselves to our fears, tumble us off the throne of our pride, and release us into finding our worth in your love.

Lord have mercy on us

**CHRIST HAVE MERCY ON US**

Lord Jesus Christ, you know us, you love us, you free us and then call us to follow you and we bless you.

Your mercy meets us in our confusion; may your spirit meet us in our everyday living.

**AMEN**

(Kathy Galloway, Iona Community)

## The Peace

As God heals, restores, and forgives us, let us celebrate and share together the peace we are given through God's healing.

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

**And also with you.**

\**Response* (Hymn: sung to LAUDA ANIMA) (Praise My soul the King of Heaven)

*Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;  
Jesus comes again in answer To our earnest, heart-felt prayer;  
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and calms our fears.*

## A Word with Children

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### The Prayer for Illumination

What is a healing service?

Anthem *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Harry T. Burleigh

*Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sin-sick soul.  
Some times I feel discouraged, And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit Revives my soul again. Refrain  
If you cannot sing like angels, If you can't preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, And say, "He died for all." Refrain*

Meditation on Healing

James 5:13-18

"The Prayer of Faith"

Silent meditation on our need and requests for healing (paper/pencil will be provided)

\*Coming forward to bring our needs to God: light a candle, leave requests on alter table, ask to pray with elder or pastor.

**(please also feel welcome to stay in your seat to pray)**



**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:** Worship leaders: The Rev. Susan Vincent Cox; Liturgist: Debbie Anderson; Prayer Leaders (Elders): Ian Leet, Joanna Brown, Becky Hudak, Becky Mondore; Mary Bon, Minister of Music; The First Church Choir.

**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.

**During flu season,** please feel free to pass the peace as you are comfortable: with a handshake or hug, or an elbow tap, fist bump, head nod or kind smile if more distance seems healthier. Be aware we have hand sanitizer in the back of the sanctuary. And if you have not yet gotten a flu shot and are able to, please do!

**The Call to Worship** and prayers come from Iona Community Healing resources

**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.



**AED** 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** by Bob, Mary Beth and family in memory of Kenneth, Betty and Pat Huba.

**Confirmation** meets today in the Parlor. Confirmands will be learning about denominational differences, history of the RCA and taking a tour of our sanctuary and St. Mary's Catholic Church. This tour will be led by mentor Mary Bon who will teach some of the difference in Catholic and Protestant worship.

**Many thanks** to everyone who contributed to our Overflow Homeless Shelter Dinner last Friday. Our next dinner is March 22 – *Casseroles and Comfort Food*. Sign up at the hospitality table. Contact Mary Bon for more information at [maryebon@verizon.net](mailto:maryebon@verizon.net).



**SIGN UP NOW!**  
**FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR  
 LARRY UNDERDUE**

**CATERED LUNCHEON  
 SUNDAY FEB. 24TH  
 AFTER SERVICE**

**FAREWELL LUNCHEON – On February 24** after worship, we invite you to join us in thanking Larry Underdue for all he has done for us at a catered luncheon. Please call the office or sign-up online <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0549AFAD2DAAFA7-farewell>. You are welcome to contribute to a gift purse for Larry, too. Please mark your gift: Larry Underdue, so that we make sure to credit it properly.

## **CONSISTORY FOR 2018-2019**

### **Board of Deacons**

Theresa Brewer	2019	Robert Dorn	2020*
Bill Kendall	2019	Richard Gardner	2020
		Andy Mondore	2020

### **Board of Elders**

Norma Jean Ballou	2019	Joeanna Brown	2020
Becky Hudak	2019*	Chip Welge	2020
Rebecca Mondore	2019		
Peter Pagerey	2019*		

### **Board of Trustees**

Ned Monthie	2019	Shirley Bone	2020
Joyce Recene	2019	David Bradley	2020
Ray Van Epps	2019	Andy Mondore	2020
Ross Westhuis	2020	James Folts	2021
Wayne Sivaslian	2021		

\* INDICATES SECOND TERM

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	2/17	<b>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 10:30 am      Worship – Sanctuary – Healing Service The Rev. Sue Vincent Cox, leading Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation Deacons Meeting 12:00 pm      Confirmation
Monday	2/18	President’s Day Food Pantry Closed Church Office Closed
Tuesday	2/19	6:30 pm      Search Committee Meeting
Wednesday	2/20	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm      AA Meeting 12:00 pm      Prayer at Noon 12:30 pm      Weathervanes – Name That Flower
Thursday	2/21	5:30 pm      Worship, Music & Arts Meeting 7:00 pm      CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sunday	2/24	<b>Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 10:30 am      Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Carmen Bodden, preaching The Nat Phipps Jazz Trio Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Farewell Luncheon for Larry Underdue

In observance of President’s Day, the church office will be **closed Monday, February 18, 2019**. We will resume normal business hours Tuesday, February 19, 2019.