

# The First Church in Albany

Sunday, January 24, 2020, 10:00 am

*On the third Sunday of Epiphany, we worship in the joy  
Of knowing we can see the glory of God in Jesus Christ*

## Order of Service

### We Gather in the Presence of God

#### Prelude

#### Welcome & Announcements

#### Call to Worship

Leader: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**People: God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble,  
and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

Leader: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love:

**People: God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us!  
Be our guide and our light instead!**

Leader: One thing we ask of God:

**People: That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our  
life, and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

Leader: Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving,  
for God is among and within us!

**People: Thanks be to God**

#### Song

*Come We That Love the Lord*

#### Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, in Christ you call us to unity of mind and  
purpose, but we confess that our hearts are often turned  
toward separation and division.**

**We quarrel; we encourage rivalries;  
we tear down our brothers and sisters in faith.**

**Help us to remember that all have been baptized as one body  
into Christ's death and resurrection.**

**Teach us to hold fast to those promises  
which draw us together in the Spirit,  
so that we may proclaim the power**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Receive the good news: there is no place, not even in our hearts,  
where the love of God cannot penetrate.  
and calling us to new life as one body, united in Christ.  
God is around and among us, healing, restoring

**People: Praise be to god  
for the gift of forgiveness and the promise of peaceful unity!**

**Song** *Just as I am without One Plea*

## **A Reading of the first Scripture**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

3:1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying,

3:2 “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

3:3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across.

3:4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

3:5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

**Time to Upgrade**

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

## **Prayers for the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Josh Bliss

## **Benediction**

Go now in peace,  
for Christ has called you to live in peace  
among your brothers and sisters in Christ.  
Go now in courage,  
for Christ has called you from the places of your life  
to be agents of redemption and partners in healing.  
Go now in joy and thanksgiving,  
for Christ is our light!  
Go now as one body,  
to love and serve God as you love and serve the world!

**A Call to Unity: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany** was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, Minister and Team Leader for Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) UCC

**Liturgist:** Norma Jean Ballou

**Guest Organist:** Justan Foster

**Soloist:** Rose Hunsberger

**Technical Team:** Ian Leet, Stephen Reohr, and Josh Bliss