

# THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449

Email: [info@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:info@firstchurchinalbany.org) ~ Website: [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://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.*

## Second Sunday in Lent March 17, 2019

Prelude

*Ah, Dearest Jesus: In the Cross of Christ I Glory, Go to Dark  
Gethsemane (From a Suit of Passion Hymn Settings) Wilbur Held*

Announcements

Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 27*)

God is my light, my hope, my all in all: whom shall I fear?

**God is the stronghold of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?**

One thing I asked of God: let me live in the shelter of you,  
in the beauty of your realm, in the wonder of your house.

**We seek your face, God! Do not turn aside!**

Teach us your way, God. Show us your path through all that life brings.

**We shall see the blessing of God: come, Holy Spirit!**

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**Amen.**

Psalm 124:8

\*Hymn 339

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

## Prayer of Confession

**We hear the call to trust in you always, God,  
But honestly, some days our stresses and doubts  
are even more real to us than you, and trust is elusive.**

**We remember how Abram dared to believe in your promises.  
Belief like that is hard to come by.  
We are often inclined to think,  
“God helps those who help themselves,”  
instead of daring to rely on your word, O Creator.**

**When the world seems filled with dangers,  
we can be quick to protect ourselves,  
and we forget the wisdom of scripture, which reminds us that  
we find traces of evil both outside and inside of ourselves.  
Only with your help will we be able  
to confront our fears and struggles.  
So we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull.  
Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings.**

*The prayer may continue in silence.*

## Assurance of Pardon

### \*The Peace

In this time and in this place, God is with us offering us the peace found in forgiveness, in community, in discipleship. Despite challenges and doubts, the peace of God is real. Let us share that peace with each other.

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

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

\*Response (Tune: #101 HAMBURG )

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

A Word with Children

## THE WORD OF GOD

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                      Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*None Other Lamb*

Will Todd

*None other Lamb, none other Name, None other hope in Heav'n or earth or sea, None other hiding place from guilt and shame, None beside Thee!*

*My faith burns low, my hope burns low; Only my heart's desire cries out in me  
By the deep thunder of its want and woe, Cries out to Thee.*

*Lord, Thou art Life, though I be dead; Love's fire Thou art, however cold I be:  
Nor Heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head,  
Nor home, but Thee.*

Text: Christina Rossetti

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 13.31-35

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Journeying

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

\*Hymn (Insert)     *At the Heart of Human History*

PSALM 42

Offering

Offertory     *Soprano Aria: Jerusalem (from St. Paul)*                     Felix Mendelssohn  
*Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets, thou that stonest them which are sent  
unto thee; how often would I have gathered unto Me thy children, and ye would  
not!*

\*Doxology     (Tune: #591)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise, Holy Spirit evermore;  
The Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.**

\*Hymn (Insert)     *O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising*

CHARTERHOUSE

\*Charge and Blessing

Postlude     *Improvisation on "Jesus Leads Us Ever On"*

Johannes Brahms

AΩ

\*Those who are able, please stand

**During Lent, we are meditating on the question: When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?** Each week we will also have a framing question for the coming week. This week's question is: *What practical steps can I take to carve out time for daily contemplation?*

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:** Liturgist: Mary Weijola; Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden; Minister of Music: Mary Bon; Rose Hunsberger, soprano.

**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 liturgy this morning** is adapted from the work of the Rev. John A. Nelson.

**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**.

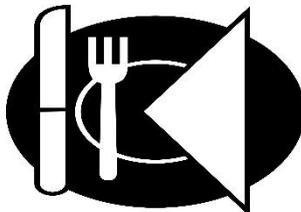
**After A Word with Children,** children age 4 and under are welcome in the Nursery. Children 4-12 are invited to be a part of Children and Worship.

**Pocket Prayer Shawls are available at today's Worship.** Please ask one of our greeters and they can provide a basket of pocket prayer shawls to choose from. Pocket Prayer Shawls are made and filled with prayers and can be given to someone in need of comfort, healing, or a reminder of the closeness of God.

**The flowers this morning** are given anonymously in honor & encouragement of the Search Committee.

**Available Sunday Flower Dates:** March 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> are available for the dedication of sanctuary flower arrangements. The cost is \$65.00 for two vases. Please call the Church Office (518) 463-4449, if you are interested

**For the month of March,** we will be collecting “Feminine Products” for the First Church Food Pantry.



**OUR NEXT SHELTER DINNER IS MARCH 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Casseroles and Comfort Food*

**CAN YOU contribute a main dish, side, bread or dessert for 6-8 people?**

Sign-up at the Hospitality Table or drop Mary an email. Bring your dishes to church any day from 8:30-1:00 pm, Thursday evening from 6:30 - 7:30 pm or Friday before noon. We'll deliver them to the shelter on Friday afternoon. USE NON-RETURNABLE DISHES, label food “Shelter Dinner,” and clearly mark all pork dishes. AND THANKS!

Questions? Contact Mary Bon 518-463-4449 (church,) 518-339-5460 (cell), or [maryebon@verizon.net](mailto:maryebon@verizon.net)

**First Church Readers Meets March 24<sup>th</sup>** when we will discuss - *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. It's the simultaneously hilarious and heart-breaking story of a young woman learning to find herself and make peace with her roots. Everyone is Welcome!

**Music Note: SONGS THROUGH ENDLESS AGES.** This morning, and throughout Lent, listen to *Great hymns of our Faith* through arrangements played in our preludes and postludes. Come early to relax, pray, meditate or just listen to some beautiful music as you travel on your Lenten pilgrimage.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	3/17	<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 am      Worship Service – Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation
Monday	3/18	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 11:30 am      Prayer Shawl 12:00 pm      Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm      Staff Meeting – Parlor
Wednesday	3/20	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm      AA Meeting 12:00 pm      Prayer at Noon 12:30 pm      Weathervanes
Thursday	3/21	6:15 pm      Pastoral Search Committee Mtg – Off site 7:00 pm      CHOIR REHEARSAL
Friday	3/22	Emergency Overflow Shelter Dinner
Sunday	3/24	<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> 10:30 am      Worship Service – Sanctuary The Rev. Lynn Carman Bodden, preaching Children & Worship (during worship) Post Service: Coffee & Conversation 11:45 am      First Church Readers 12:00 pm      Confirmation

If you would like to become a member of the First Church in Albany or would like to learn more, please join us after church on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> in the Parlor at noon for a light lunch and conversation.

