

# Consecration *Sunday*

Sunday, November 15, 2020  
10am Drive-in Service

First Church in Albany  
Welcomes You!!

First Church in Albany

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)

*Thank You!!!!*

- FCIA Consecration Sunday

Thank you to all the generous members and friends who continue to support this vital ministry. We are called to be a light to the community in the heart of downtown Albany and the entire Capital Region. Your commitment of time, talent, and tithes along with God's Holy Spirit helps keep the light bright.

- Thank you, Fred Boehrer, our distinguished guest speaker!
- We especially thank Tom Allison, Chair and Kaitlyn Bliss Co-Chair for leading us through this challenging season.



## Prelude

## *Here I Am Lord*

*Daniel Schutte*

Rose Hunsberger, soprano; Peter Subers, baritone; Mary Bon, organ

I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.  
I, the Lord of snow and rain I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them They turn away.

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts of love alone.  
I will speak my words to them, whom shall I send?

Repeat Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide 'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them, Whom shall I send?

Repeat Refrain

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## **Welcome & Announcements**

Consecration Chair, Co-Chair  
& Pastor Mashona

## **Call to Worship**

Fred Boehrer

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord

Congregation: **Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

**All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Invocation

Pastor Mashona

## Music

### ***At the Heart of Human History*** ***(First Church Anniversary Hymn)***

Rose Hunsberger, soprano; Peter Subers, baritone; Mary Bon, organ

At the heart of human history stands a single, empty cross,  
emblem of the world's redemption, drawing life from grief and loss.  
For suffering, Christ was born, as a lily 'mid the thorn,  
joy resplendent and surprising in his dying and arising.

At the heart of every person stirs a thirsty, restless soul,  
keen to drink from living water, find new hope and be made whole.  
Faith and courage are restored by the promise of the Lord:  
“In my arms, I will enfold you; comfort, strengthen, and uphold you.”

At the heart of every city dwells a world in need of care:  
Those who long for food and shelter, those who seek a house of prayer—  
one that beckons, “Come, be fed with a feast of living bread.  
Here the hurting and the broken find God's welcome fully spoken.”

At the heart of all creation, God's embodied Spirit sings.  
Ways break open in the desert; driest valleys gush with springs.  
With all creatures, we rejoice, giving thanks in mortal voice,  
till we join in heaven's chorus with the saints gone on before us.

Mary Louise Bringle, 2017

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## **Scripture: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37 (NRSV)**

Fred Boehrer

### *The Believers Share Their Possessions*

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. <sup>36</sup>There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”). <sup>37</sup>He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

## **Sermon**

### **“Are We of One Heart? A Call for Unity”**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Josh Bliss

**Music*****We'll Build a Church****Carolyn MacDade*

Rose Hunsberger, soprano; Peter Subers, baritone; Mary Bon, organ

We'll build a church where we bind up the broken.  
We'll build a land where the captives go free,  
Where the oil of gladness dissolves all mourning.  
Oh, we'll build a promised land that can be.

Refrain: Come build a church where sisters and brothers,  
anointed by God, may then create peace:  
where justice shall roll down like waters,  
and peace like an ever flowing stream.

We'll build a church where we bring the good tidings  
to all the afflicted and all those who mourn.  
And we'll give them garlands instead of ashes.  
Oh, we'll build a church where peace is born.  
Refrain: Come build a church where sisters and brothers...

We'll build a church building up ancient cities,  
raising up devastations from old;  
restoring ruins of generations.  
Oh, we'll build a land of people so bold.  
Refrain: Come build a land where sisters and brothers...

Text *Barbara Zanotti*  
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**Benediction**

Pastor Mashona

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**Biography of Fred Boehrer, today's guest speaker**

Fred serves as Executive Director of FOCUS Churches of Albany. Prior to joining FOCUS, Fred was Director of Service-Learning and taught at the College of Saint Rose. Since 1996, Fred and his wife Diana Conroy have been living with and supporting homeless families at the Albany Catholic Worker Community at Emmaus House, located in the South End of Albany. Diana, Fred, and their three children, have lived with homeless families throughout the United States, Africa, Eastern Europe, South Asia, and Latin America. Through Emmaus House, Fred has helped to transform two vacant city lots into neighborhood vegetable gardens, developed a partnership with a rural Zulu village in South Africa (KwaNdebeqheke) and co-founded the Albany chapter of New Sanctuary for Immigrants. Fred holds a Ph.D. in Religion from Syracuse University.