



# Thanksgiving Sunday

**Sunday, November 22, 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)

**At First Church in Albany, we are thankful for each of you, our church family!**

*Enter his gates  
with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

*Psalm 100:4*

## Prelude

### Hymn 551

### ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***

*St. George's Windsor*

Come, ye thankful people, come  
Raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant, that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.  
For the Lord, our God, shall come

And take the harvest home.  
From the field shall on that day  
All offences purge away.  
Give the angels charge at last  
In the fire that tares to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store

Even so Lord quickly come,  
To thy final harvest home;  
Gather thou thy people in  
Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified,  
In God's presence to abide;  
Come, with all thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home!

*Text: Henry Alford (Scriptural References: Exodus 23:16; Matthew 13:24-30, 39)*

### ***Hallelujah Amen (from Judas Maccabaeus)***

*G.F. Handel*

*The First Church Choir*

Hallelujah Amen. O Judah Rejoice. Rejoice, O Judah! In songs divine,  
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious, join!

And in Songs divine harmonious Join.

Hallelujah Amen. O Judah Rejoice. Rejoice, O Judah! In songs divine,  
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious, join! Halleluhah, Amen.

## Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship

Psalm 100; A Psalm of Thanksgiving

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>Worship the LORD with gladness;  
Come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
And his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

<sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good;

His steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## Invocation

### Music

#### *Thou Visitest the Earth*

Maurice Greene

*Rose Hunsberger, Soprano; Peter Subers, Baritone*

Thou visitest the earth and blesses it and blesses it  
And crownest the year, the year with thy goodness  
And crownest the year, the year with thy goodness

### Scripture:

#### **Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSV)**

##### *The Judgement of the Nations*

<sup>31</sup>”When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

### Sermon

#### **“If in My Living”**

## The Lord's Prayer

Josh Bliss

### Music

### *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

*Healey Willan*

Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;  
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest, A joyous song of love.

By Him the clouds drop fatness, The deserts bloom and spring,  
The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with His fullness All things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with goodness, With plenty, and with peace.

Bring to His sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls He died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall,  
And with your lives adore Him, Who gave His life for all.

Text: John Monsell (Scriptural References Exodus 23: 16, 19; 34:26; Psalm 65:9-13)

### Benediction

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#### **Please Pray for...**

Judy Seuss

Olivia

Jane Ward

Charles Welge (Chip's dad)

Sara Welge

Families in Bereavement

Brown and Pagery

## **Thank you to the staff**

We thank the staff of FCIA for their tireless efforts during this pandemic. Their time of service has been a challenge for us all. There is no blueprint for serving during a pandemic and cries for justice. Our staff have come to work uncertain of their own risk to health from COVID-19 and FCIA staff showed up to work even with fires up the street and neighboring buildings boarded up. I encourage you to join me in saying thank you.

### **Office Manager Colleen**

Colleen, who has most recently joined the staff and in addition to her skill and positivity has become our inhouse compliance officer. We thank Colleen her diligence with keeping us all safe.

### **Sexton Assistant Jeff**

Jeff, who in addition to hard work and dedication has become our resident staff chaplain. Did you know that Jeff prays for the staff and the church? We thank Jeff for his prayerful spirit and willingness to help other staff fulfill their best roles.

### **Sexton Keith**

Keith, who has worked faithfully during the entire pandemic. In March when the pandemic first hit our city and business were closing, Keith helped keep FCIA food pantry serving by taking extra cleaning precautions. Keith could also be seen outside helping patrons socially distance and mediating peace with those upset by all the sudden change.

### **Minister of Music Mary**

Mary, who has offered up her gifts to God faithfully in ministry of music to our outdoor service. Mary has handled music selection, scheduling of soloist and musicians, and now recording of music. Mary could be seen outside on Sunday morning attempting to play the piano as music sheets blew away in the wind. We thank Mary for serving in these challenging times.

### **Office Assistant Rose**

Rose, who has pivoted and filled the needs of the office while learning on the job during the height of the first wave of the pandemic and even now. Rose has been faithful even when often getting the brunt of unhappy persons on the other end of the phone. We thank Rose for her quiet and steady manner.

### **Communications Betsy**

Betsy, who has become the main source of information exchange during a time when we have gone paperless. Did you know that Betsy is the artist commissioned for the decorating of Cleo?

## **Thank you to the staff** (continued)

### **Technicians & Worship Assistants Stephen and Josh**

From the very beginning of the pandemic Stephen was the main person working in the lot on Sunday morning. Stephen would arrive early and clean the lot, then set up the heavy iron stairs and equipment. Stephen has not missed one Sunday. Last week when the weather again turned brutal I realized that Stephen has been a source of strength for me as senior minister.

Josh has recently joined as technician. Josh jumps right in with setting up stairs, chairs, and equipment. We thank Josh for working with Ian of WMA to provide ZOOM and work with temperamental equipment. The last week Josh and Stephen were the last to leave the parking lot attempting to figure out the many glitches. They never complain about the wind, cold or swirl of demands.

### **Unnamed**

Please do not inform this next person of thanks. In the early days of the pandemic Ray and Ned would arrive early and help motorists figure out how to park and attend outdoor service. Ray rarely misses a Sunday and has done everything from set up tents, pick up garbage in the parking lot, direct building of outdoor pulpit, and ask meaningful questions about procedure. The ways Ray contributes to FCIA are countless and the additional services he has provided during the pandemic are invaluable.

### **Overall Leadership of FCIA**

Thank you for stepping in and filling in the many gaps.

We thank Ross for helping meet the tremendous demand of pastoral care during this time. Not only is there a pandemic, but we are down a minister of word and sacrament.

Thank you Norma Jean and elders for the many decisions and countless hours of contemplation and direction provided. You all have been a port in the storm.

Thank you Jean and Erica and Deb for helping provide communion and serving in the outdoor service when others due to health concerns could not.

Thank you Jim and all Trustees for continuing to work behind the scenes to meet the many demands of operating in these times. We continue to pray for you.

In all these things we offer our thanks,  
Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston