

The First Church in Albany

REVIVAL & Redemption

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10am

The First Church in Albany (Reformed Church in America)

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 we are loved.

Prelude

"NETTLETON"

arr. J. Carter

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Opening Prayer

Create in us a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within each of us. By the grace of your love may our repentant hearts meet this new year with clean hands and clean hearts to serve you. Amen.

Call to Worship Jeremiah 31:7-14

Votum: For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

Amen.

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

Pause

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Pause

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

***Opening Hymn** *“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* *Pew hymnal #356*

Call to Confession

We are like sheep, who have gone astray. We need you Lord to redeem us from hands too strong. Make us radiant over Your goodness. May we never languish again in the ash heap of this world. May we never again believe the common reasoning of a world that continuously tells us what we cannot do and who we cannot become. Instead, may we believe in your superb state of divinity that says we can be radiant and that we can live in love and and charity with our neighbor.

Pause for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Children of God,

It is clear that Jesus Christ came to help the weak, the weary and the lost.

In Jesus Christ, we are restored to radiance!

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us rise and greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

Letters of the New Testament

Sermon Text

Ephesians 1:3-14

The will of God made known in Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Revival & Redemption

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** “*I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*”

See p. 6

Tithes & Offerings:

Offertory Prayer

Dedication: In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive we pray these offerings we bring. May they be used in service of your Grace and Truth dwelling among us. In Christ’s holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Offertory

*“Let Us Build a House”
Congregation to sing*

M. Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **(Refrain)**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **(Refrain)**

*Doxology

Pew hymnal #592

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

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 forever.
Amen.**

*Sending Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

Pew hymnal #467

Charge & Blessing

Postlude


“KREMSER:

arr. J. Carter

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Wlston
Liturgist: Audrey Ming
Organist: Iteke Prins
Audio/Visual: The team is taking a much
deserved holiday.

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Note: Join us in Zimmerman Hall after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Have a blessed week!



PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- Teresa Wheeler and her family for the death of her father last week. Teresa recently lost her grandmother as well.
- For David Allen with ongoing health concerns.
- For Kathleen Claydon, recovering from a broken leg after a fall.
- For the families of the two children who tragically passed after falling through the ice at Washington Park. For the first responders who worked valiantly to save them.
- For Melanie, sister of Monica Marsh as she recovers from a fall. For Monica who has traveled to be with her sister.
- For Baby Stella, home with her family, as she grows stronger. For Kaitlyn Bliss and Victor, Stella's parents as they settle in with their new baby.
- For the Johnson family, mother of three who passed. Prayers for children and grandchildren.
- Stephen Giguere, Virginia's husband, diagnosed with cancer
- Shawn Giguere, Virginia's son, with a health diagnosis
- Donna Jones
- Michelle Williams
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Carol LaBatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Ministers, staff, and leaders of First Church as they move forward into our everchanging world.
- Those dealing with natural disasters exasperated by climate change.
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.
- For government officials at all levels as we move forward into the new year.

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na











live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

2025 January

Key:

-  Indoor Worship 10am
-  Communion Sunday
-  Coffee Hour
-  Pantry 9am
-  Centering Prayer 12pm
-  AA 12pm
-  First KIDS
-  Choir
-  Zoom Study 1pm
-  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am	2  Pantry 9am	3	4
5  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  Communion Sunday	6  Open House & Press Day	7  Pantry 9am Prayer Shawl Group  BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	8  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm 4pm Crop Walk Mtg Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	9  Pantry 9am	10	11
12  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  Communion Sunday  2nd HOUR  First KIDS	13	14  Pantry 9am  BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm	15  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  AA 12pm  Centering Prayer 12pm  Weather vanes 12:30 Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	16  Pantry 9am	17	18
19  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  First KIDS  First KIDS  2nd HOUR Soup & Sand. Mtg 11:15 am	20 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed  Inauguration	21  Pantry 9am  BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm 6:30pm Consistory	22  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	23  Pantry 9am	24	25
26  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  First KIDS  2nd HOUR Congr. Mtg 11:15 am	27	28  Pantry 9am FOCUS Board Mtg. 6:30pm	29  Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am  Centering Prayer 12pm  AA 12pm Zoom Bible Study 7:30pm	30  Pantry 9am	31	 I have a DREAM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

JANUARY 2025

MON 6	CACC OPEN HOUSE & PRESS DAY	NOON
TUE 7	PANTRY PRAYER SHAWL MTG. ZOOM BIBLE STUDY CONSISTORY MTG	9AM 11:30AM 1PM 6:30PM
WED 8	SOUP & SANDWICHES CENTERING PRAYER AA MEETING CACC CROP WALK MTG ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	11:30AM NOON NOON 4PM 7:30PM
THU 9	PANTRY	9AM
SUN 12	LECTIO-DIVINA PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL 2ND HOUR STUDY	9:15AM 10AM 11AM

BEGINNINGS AT 9AM IS ON HIATUS THROUGH MARCH

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org