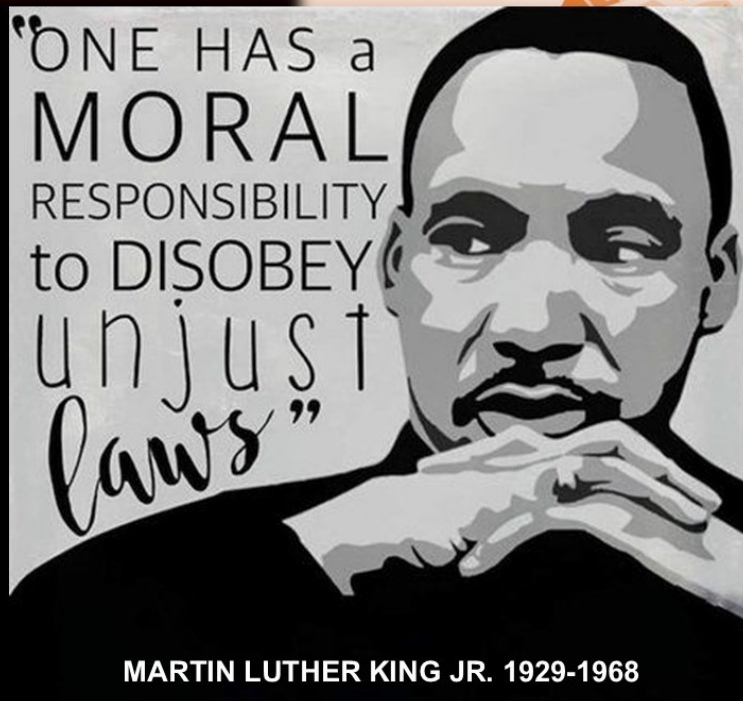


Welcomes you

The First Church in Albany



**Second Sunday After Epiphany
January 15, 2023, 10am Worship Service**

The First Church in Albany
(Reformed Church in America)
Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today.

Second Sunday After Epiphany, January 15, 2023

Prelude Reflection *Exodus 3:5*

“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

Prelude	<i>Meditation on SLANE</i> <i>Iteke Prins, organist</i>	E.E. Thiman
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Tolling of Bell: *bell tolled by children of First Church*

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *Exodus 3:2*

“There, the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.”

Call to Worship *Based on Isaiah 40:3*

Votum: “Every valley shall be exalted - That is, every valley, or low piece of ground, shall be filled up so as to make a level highway, as was done in order to facilitate the march of armies. **Amen**

Leader: One day

Right Side: One day

Left Side: One day

All: One day, every valley gonna be filled;

Leader: One day

Left Side: One day

Right Side: One day

All: One day, every mountain and hill gonna be made low;

Right Side: One day

Leader: One day

Left Side: One day

All: One day, all the crooked gonna be made straight;

Leader: One day

Right and Left Sides: One day

All: One day, all the rough ways gonna be made smooth;

Leader: One day

Right and Left Sides: One day

Leader: One day

All: One day, God's gonna do it!

We're all gonna see it!

*Opening Hymn Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

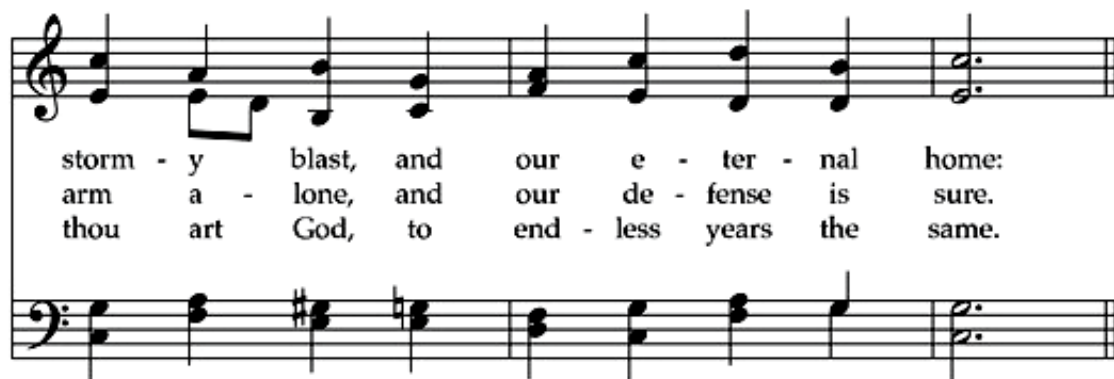
(Psalm 90)



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or



hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing



storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
 CM

Prayer of Confession *adapted from a quote by Dorothy Day*

God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right. Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as You intended them to do. Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute – the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, so that we can, with your help, change the world. Enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, and to love our enemy as our friend.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Christ is our peace and has torn down every barrier between us and heaven; between us and all humanity. He has broken down these barriers that separate, by his life, and has built us up into one body in God by the Spirit. Whoever repents and believes, he has promised reconciliation and peace. Let us live as people reconciled. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**



Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a hand-sign of peace.

Touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger, and wave to one another. This hand-sign makes Christ's gesture of blessing in a lot of iconography in the Orthodox Tradition.

Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination *Please sing*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Sermon Text Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,
 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,

call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
 and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
 Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:
 So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.
 then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1-12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36).

Profession of Faith: *Congregational Prayer of Commitment by Nolan Palsma,
adapted from the Belhar Confession*

Lord, as you have taught us, we bow down before you in all humility, gentleness and patience, supporting each other with love and trying to keep the unity of the spirit by the bonds of peace, that we may become “one body and one spirit,” according to our common calling and vocation.

With one voice, repenting of our divisions, we commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation, peace, and justice, and we stand together in imploring you: help us to live as your disciples, overcoming selfishness and arrogance, hatred and violence; give us the strength to forgive.

Inspire our witness in the world, that we might foster a culture of dialogue, and be bearers of the hope which your gospel has implanted in us. Make us instruments of your peace, so that our homes and communities, our parishes, churches, and nations might resonate more fully with the peace you have long desired to bestow upon us. Amen.

Tithes & Offerings: *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*

Offertory

*“There Is a Balm in Gilead”
Iteke Prins, organist*

A. Hailstork

***Doxology #592 in pew hymnal**

**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

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our 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,
forever. Amen.**

*Sending Hymn

Together We Serve

Capo 3: (G) B \sharp (D) F (Em) Gm (Bm7) Dm7



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) E \flat (G) B \sharp (Am7) Cm7 (Dsus) (D) Fsus F



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) B \sharp (D) F (C) E \flat (Bm) Dm



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) B \sharp (C) E \flat (G) B \sharp (Am) Cm (D7) F7 (G) B \sharp



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

Andante from Sonata No. 2 for Organ
Iteke Prins, organist

F.B. Price

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Organist: Iteke Prins

Leading the Congregation in Song: Jean Lemere and Norma Jean Ballou

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

Congregational meeting after worship in Zimmerman Hall




Musical Notes from today's service: African American Composers

- ♪ **The Offertory**, “*There Is a Balm in Gilead*” by Adolphus Hailstork. Hailstork moved to Albany with his parents, and was a student at Albany High School. While a student there, he started a Glee Club. After graduation, he entered college and pursued music degrees. He received his doctorate in composition from Michigan State University. He has a diverse catalog of compositions written for chorus, solo voice, piano, organ, various chamber ensembles, band orchestra, and opera. His works have been performed and recorded by major orchestras. Dr. Hailstork is retired from teaching and currently works as a composer in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- ♪ **Postlude**, *Andante from Sonata No. 1 for Organ* by Florence B. Price. Florence Beatrice Smith Price was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on April 9, 1887. She composed over three hundred works and was the first Black woman to have symphony performed by a professional orchestra (Chicago Symphony Orchestra). Her songs were performed by some of the most admired voices of her day. Price died in 1953.

Prayer Joys & Concerns

- Kokese Ballou
- Carol LaBatte
- Family of Janice Rowell
- For Pamela Carter as she grieves the loss of her brother
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Larry McCarthy, friend of the Andrews Family
- For Jason Shahid
- The family of Danielle, as they approach the year anniversary of her death
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- Rose Hunsberger, her father Jim and their extended family as they mourn her mother's passing.
- The Reohr Family
- Joe Vasta and wife Albie, friends of the Persons
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Brian Zapel, friend of Dave Andrews
- Ronald Stockhoff.
- For Mia and Wim Westman
- For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Norma McClement
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Mary Ann Selmer
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath.
- An end to the war in Ukraine

Prayer Concerns? If you would like your church family to join you in prayer, please share your concerns and joys with us. Call the office at 518-463-4449 or email office@firstchurchinalbany.org.



SOUP IN
Clee Park
TAKING A BRIEF HIATUS
THERE WILL BE NO SOUP IN
THE PARK FOR THE
REMAINDER OF JANUARY

The team that runs this ministry is meeting to discuss what changes, if any, are needed to best serve and reach our community. We have found that on some cold days we serve very few people and on other days we may serve more. We believe that its best to assess how and why we serve and return to it able to best represent that which Christ calls us to... to show his love by feeding the hungry and to fellowship in community. Please keep our planning in prayer and watch this space for any updates.

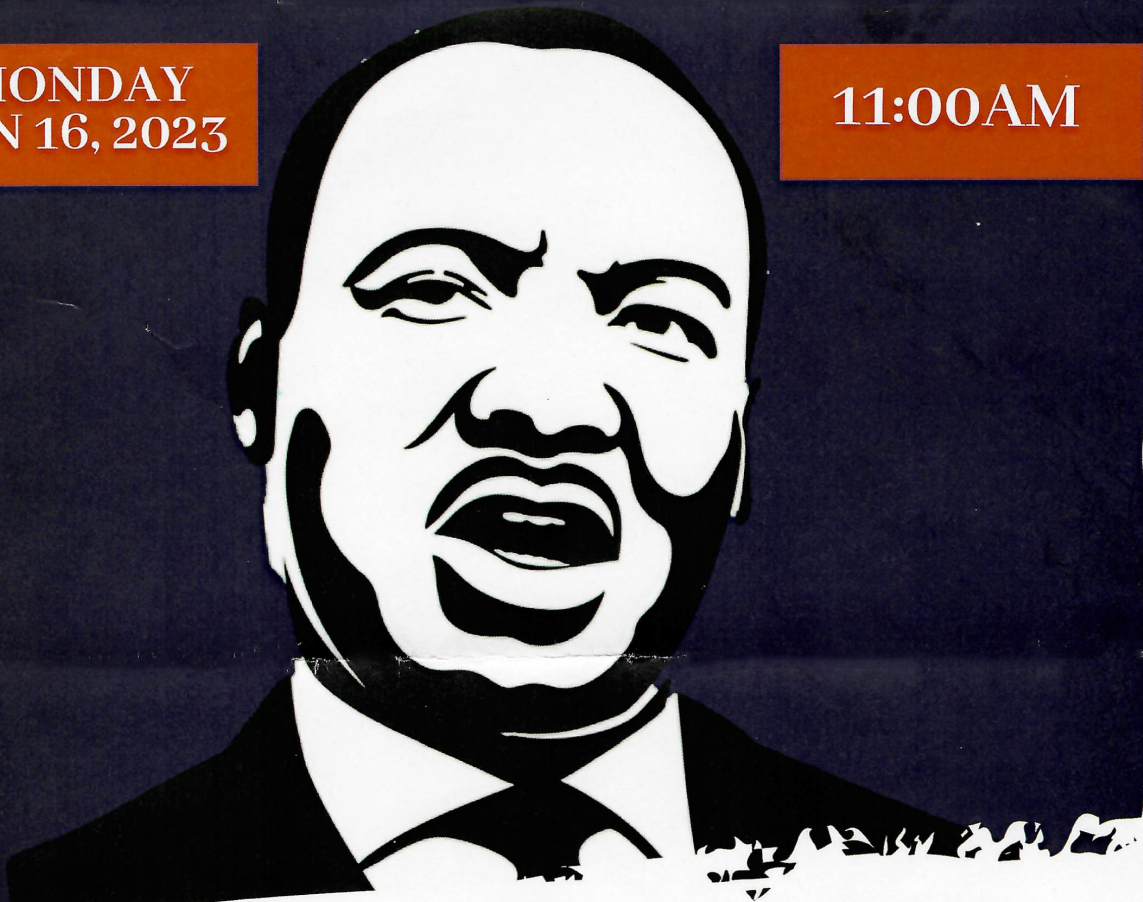
#firstchurchinmotion

— OFFICE OF —
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY MARCH

**MONDAY
JAN 16, 2023**

11:00AM



**Steps off on Madison Avenue in
front of NYS Museum**



WWW.ALBANYEVENTS.ORG
[@ALBANYNYEVENTS](#)



**Join our First Church family and our City of Albany on MLK Jr. Day for
this community march! Meet us at the NYS Museum Entrance
at 10:45 on Monday, January 16th, 2023!**

I HAVE A

—dream—



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 1.15 10am Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
AW Congregational Meeting
- Monday 1.16 11:00am **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**
Office and Food Pantry Closed
Community March (see info inside)
- Tuesday 1.17 12pm Adult Scripture Study
6pm Leadership Meeting
7pm Consistory Meeting
- Wednesday 1.18 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
12:30pm Weathervanes—bring a lunch, dessert
served. (History of Christmas Trees with
Tom Allison)

Upcoming Events

- Sunday 1.29 AW Trustees Board Meeting
- Monday 2.6 11am Prayer Shawl Meeting
- Wednesday 2.15 12:30pm Weathervanes (Rev. Trey Presents)

*Meeting Schedules are subject to change. Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.

AW = After Worship



First Church in Albany

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org