

The First Church in Albany Welcomes you

say, **Repent; for the kingdom of**

18 ¶ And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon ^p called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, **Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**

20 ¶ And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

21 ¶ And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James *the son of Zebedee*, and John ^p brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets: and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship, and their father, and followed him.

23 ¶ And Jesus went about Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and

Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 22, 2023, 10am Worship Service

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.

Third Sunday After Epiphany, January 22, 2023

Prelude Reflection Collect for the Third Sunday After Epiphany, Book of Common Prayer, pg. 215

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prelude "AZMON" D. Bedard
Iteke Prins, organist

Tolling of Bell: *bell tolled by children of First Church*

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *Isaiah 60:1-2*

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.*

Call to Worship *Psalms 27:1, 4-9*

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Right Side: One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Left Side: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent: he will set me high on a rock.

Leader: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Right Side: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

Left Side: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Leader: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

*Opening Hymn O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON CM

Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - oner free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,

The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri-umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.

Prayer of Confession: *Holdfasttowhatisgood.com*

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.

We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! 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

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.



Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

How Far Will You Go?

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** (Please sing the Refrain as the * indicates)

From the Nets of Our Labor We Will Rise Up and Follow

Dm Gm6/E A7

**Refrain*

1 From the nets of, our la - bors, through the noise and con -
 2 When we faint and grow wea - ry from the bear - ing of
**Refrain* 3 In the eyes of the stran - ger— tear - ful, joy - ous, or
 4 When we hear words of ha - tred spread - ing fear or false
 5 In each mo - ment of cour - age, stead - fast e - ven through
**Refrain* 5 Like dis - ci - ples be - fore us, from the cit - y or

Dm Gm7 Gm

fu - sion, from the cit - y or sea - shore,
 bur - dens, with a mes - sage of com - fort,
 fright - ened in the face of each neigh - bor,
 wit - ness, words that cry to be chal - lenged,
 trem - bling; in the year - ing for jus - tice,
 sea - shore, risk - ing self - less com - pas - sion:

A7 Dm A7 Dm Gm

**Refrain*

Je - sus sum - mons us all. We will rise up and fol - low,

C7 F Dm

Christ be - fore and be - side us, lov - ing pat - tern to

Gm6/E A7 Dm

guide us, as we an - swer the call.

This text effectively evokes the call of the disciples who were fishermen (Matthew 4:18–22/Mark 1:16–20/Luke 5:1–11), while also describing the circumstances of our daily lives through which Jesus continues to summon us to be responsive to the needs and challenges of our own day.

Profession of Faith:

Q&A 23

Q. What are these articles?

A. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 \flat (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 \flat (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 \flat (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 \flat (C) E \flat (G) B \flat (Am) Cm (D7) F7 (G) B \flat



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

*“A Rejoicing”
Iteke Prins, organist*

A. Fedak

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

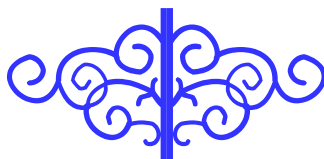
Liturgist: TBD

Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalist: Glenn Claydon

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

Looking for a way to serve? We are always looking for liturgists. A liturgist reads a few pieces at the beginning of the service. Please let Rev. Mashona or Rev. Trey know if you are interested or have any questions.



Note: Please enjoy a time of coffee and refreshments in Zimmerman Hall after the service.

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
Glee Park
RETURNS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

**AFTER SOME GREAT CONVERSATION,
 WE HAVE CHOSEN TO RESUME THIS
 MINISTRY ON THURSDAYS
 BETWEEN 11:30AM & 12:30PM**

**WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED
 ABOUT SOME NEW IDEAS TO
 REACH OUR COMMUNITY
 COMING SOON!**

If you would like to volunteer to serve soup on a Thursday, please contact office@firstchurchinalbany.org

#firstchurchinmotion

How Did FCIA Celebrate MLK JR. Day?



Watch this wonderful
program hosted by
Rev. Mashona online.
Find the link at
www.firstchurchinalbany.org



This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 1.22 10am Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
- Monday 1.23 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 1.24 12pm Adult Scripture Study
- Wednesday 1.25 9am Food Pantry
- 12pm AA Meeting **“Happy Anniversary!”**
- 12pm Centering Prayer

Upcoming Events

- Sunday 1.29 AW Trustees Board Meeting
- Thursday 2.2 11:30am Soup in the Park resumes
- 7pm A Night of Worship (Potluck at 6pm)
- Sunday 2.5 10:30am Combined FOCUS Worship Service at
- Monday 2.6 First Presbyterian Albany on State St.
- Tuesday 2.7 11am Prayer Shawl Meeting
- 6pm Consistory 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