

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022, 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.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

"Let All Things Now Living"
Martha Deyo, pianist

arr. C. Berry

Welcome, Announcements & Blessing

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship: Based on Luke 4:14-21 & Revelation 5

Leader: Congregation, who is worthy to unfurl the scroll? Who is worthy to break its seals?

People: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!" Worthy is the One who makes "saints from every tribe and language and people and nation."

Leader: Jesus, you are the worthy One who was slain on our behalf and reads the scroll of life, pronouncing:

People: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Leader: In worship, remind us again that this is true, that in you, this scripture has been fulfilled in our hearing today. Let us worship the Lord who is worthy of our praise!

*Opening Song

Gather Us In

v. 1,2, & 4



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing.
 2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry.
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter.
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing.



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
 We are the old— who yearn for your face,
 Here we will take the bread of new birth,
 Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way. But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry.
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
 Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;
 Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en.
Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly.
Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er.



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b 1950
Tune: GATHER US IN, Irregular, Marty Haugen, b 1950
© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of Confession

O Lord our God, we confess that we have not followed you. We readily forget to think of the poor and those in need, or work to release the captive and set the captive free. Holy Spirit, fall afresh on us. Transform us in the knowledge that we love and work for justice because God first loved and worked for justice for us.

Assurance of Pardon: *From 1 John 4*

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God... Since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” Let us love one another by bringing good news to the poor and those in need — by releasing the captive and setting the oppressed free. For in this, we will know the peace of Christ.

Silence



***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

Spirit of the Lord, be upon us, so that in the reading of the Word might be fulfilled in its hearing today. Amen.

Sermon Text Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

The Spirit of the Lord

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Song of Response **Come, Holy Ghost**

v. 1-3

Text: Rhabanus Maurus (A.D. 776-856); chorus by Ray Mills (2005)

Music: Bruce Benedict & Ray Mills • ©2006 Cardiphonia Music, ©2006 Raymond G. Mills

Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest,
5 O com - fort - er, to Thee we cry,
and in our hearts take up Thy rest;
9 Thou heav'n - ly gift of God most high;
Come with Thy grace and heav'n-ly aid to fill our
14 Thou fount of life, and fire of love, and sweet an -
hearts which Thou hast made, to fill our
18 noint - ing from a - bove, and sweet a -
hearts which Thou hast made. Be not a -
23 noint - ting from a - bove.
fraid, where you go there I am with you.

O Holy Ghost, through thee alone know we the Father and the Son;
be this our firm, unchanging creed, that thou dost from them both proceed,
that thou dost from them both proceed.

(Chorus x2)

Praise we the Lord, Father and Son, and Holy Spirit with them one;
and may the Son on us bestow all gifts that from the Spirit flow,
all gifts that from the Spirit flow.

(Chorus x2)

Offering & Offertory *“Change My Heart O God”*
Martha Deyo, pianist

E. Espinosa

You may also mail your offering to the church at First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207.

***Doxology #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

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

THE WORDS HE TAUGHT US

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.**

Sermon Notes

Trouble in the text:

Trouble in our world:

God in the text:

God in our world:

Ways that God is moving in me:

***Sending Song** For Everyone Born: A Place at the Table

v. 1-4

For ev - ery - one born, a place at the Ta - ble,
For young and for old, a place at the Ta - ble,
For bro - ken and bruised, a place at the Ta - ble,
For ev - ery - one born, a place at the Ta - ble,

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
for all who've been hurt, a place to be healed,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

a shel - ter a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
for all who've been shamed, a place of ac - cept - ance,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head.
for young and for old, the right to be - long.
for bro - ken and bruised, a love that is real.
for eve - ry - one born, the right to be free.

Refrain
And God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
joy, com - passion and peace: yes, God will de-light when we are cre -
a - tors of jus - tice, justice and joy!

Words: Shirley Erna Murray (v. 1, 2, 4); Chris Shelton (v. 3). Music: Brian Mann.
Words: © 1998 Hope Publishing, Music: © 2006 Brian Mann

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

“Jesus Shall Reign”
Martha Deyo, pianist

arr. C. Berry

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Pianist: Martha Deyo

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

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- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, friends of the Andrews
- For Katherine's grandmother
- For the friends and family of Nat Phipps (of the Nat Phipps Jazz Trio) at his passing
- Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Peter, Karen Van Epps' brother
- Charnelle Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Samuel, Barb Andrew's son
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- The homeless in our community as we enter this time of colder weather, and for outreach groups who seek to help the homeless.

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



The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets once a month in the Powell Room. We knit or crochet our shawls while we check in with each other. Then we discuss who might need a shawl.

Our next meeting is February 7, 2022 at 11:30 AM.
New members are always welcome.



If you know of someone who needs a shawl, please tell Gertrude Dorn, Kathy Monthie, Mary Weijola or Jean Lamere.



**SOUP IN
Glee Park**

THURSDAY
11:30AM-12:30PM

**FREE SOUP
LUNCH**

Volunteers needed! On Sunday, there will be a volunteer sign up sheet in the work room, near the copier. We need help setting up, serving, welcoming our guests and cleaning up. Soup has been planned and will be prepared for Soup Thursday, but we could use dessert items (i.e. cookies, brownies, etc.).



FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

COMBINED WINTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY, FEB 6th

Both In-person and Online

The First Church in Albany

110 N. Pearl St - 10 AM

Details and Zoom Link at:
www.firstchurchinalbany.org

or

www.focuschurches.net

Office Bearers & Staff at The First Church in Albany 2021-2022

Deacons:

Deb Anderson - *First Term, Second Year*
Erica Bliss (Senior Deacon) - *Second Term, Second Year*
Harry Sanford - *First Term, First Year*
Imani Janae Brewer - *First Term, Second Year*
Jean Lamere - *First Term, Second Year*
Nicole Hall - *First Term, First Year*

Elders:

Chip Welge
Fran Car Morton - *First Term, First Year*
Jay Reohr - *First Term, Second Year*
Mary Weijola - *First Term, First Year*
Monica Marsh - *First Term, Second Year*
Norma Jean Ballou (Senior Elder) - *Second Term, Second Year*

Trustees:

David Bradley
James Folts (*President*)
Joyce Recene
Ned Monthie
Philip Labatte (*emeritis*)

Leadership:

James Folts
Chip Welge
Erica Bliss
Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston
Norma Jean Ballou
Ross Westhuis

Staff:

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston (*Sr. Minister*)
Rev. Trey Tirpak - *Synod Fellow, Minister for Discipleship and Outreach*
Colleen Lais - *Office Manager*
Keith Curry - *Sexton*
Ray Van Epps - *Treasurer*
Lorraine Houk - *Food Pantry Coordinator*

Ray Van Epps
Robert Dorn
Ross Westhuis (*Vice President*)
Shirley Bone



Database Housekeeping

It's been a good long time since we have been in one another's company consistently. A lot can happen over the course of two years. If you have moved, changed phone numbers or emails, please send an update to the office at office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call 518-463-4449. Help us to keep our database as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

