

The First Church in Albany *Welcomes you*

First Sunday After Epiphany

January 6, 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.

First Sunday After Epiphany, January 8, 2023

Prelude Reflection *Ephesians 4:1-7*

“I, Paul, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.”

Prelude

“Introit to Epiphany”
Iteke Prins, organist

M. Daruflé

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

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

“Fear seized all of them, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen among us!’ and ‘God has visited his people!’” This is good news! Do not be afraid. Luke 7:16

Call to Worship *Based on Ezekiel 36:25-28*

Leader: There will come a day when I will sprinkle clean water on you,

People: And you will be cleansed from all your uncleanness.

Leader: A new heart I will give you,

People: And a new spirit I will put within you;

Leader: I will remove from your body the heart of stone,

People: and give you a heart of flesh.

Leader: I will put my Spirit within you,

People: and we will follow your precepts.

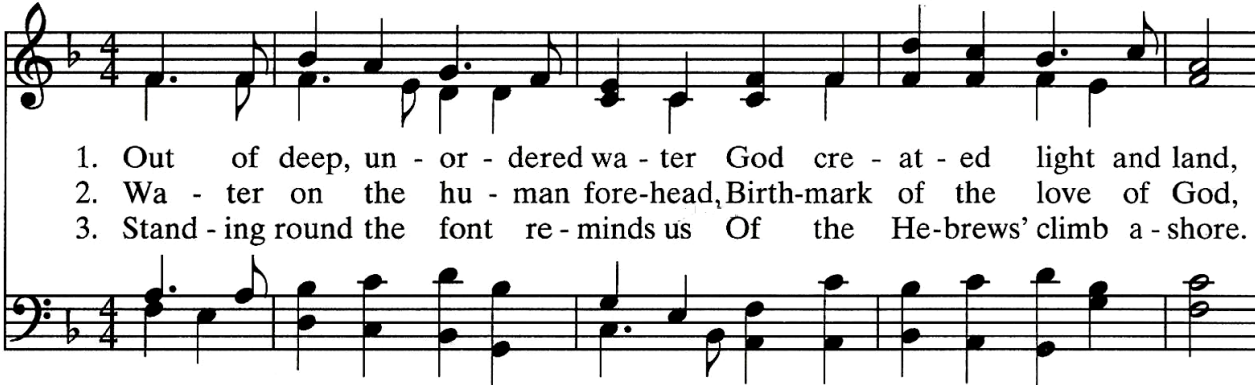
Leader: *pours the baptismal water*

*Opening Hymn Out of Deep, Unordered Water

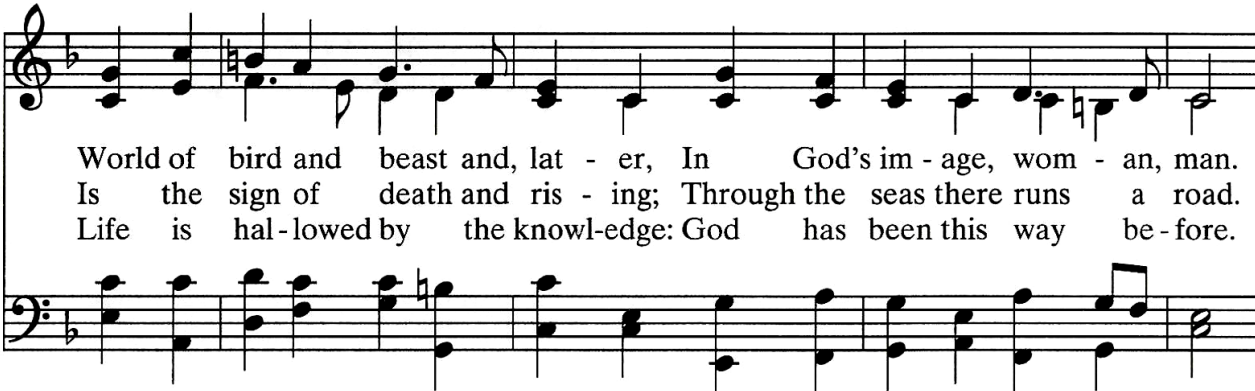
RUSTINGTON 8.7.8.7 D

Fred Kaan, 1965

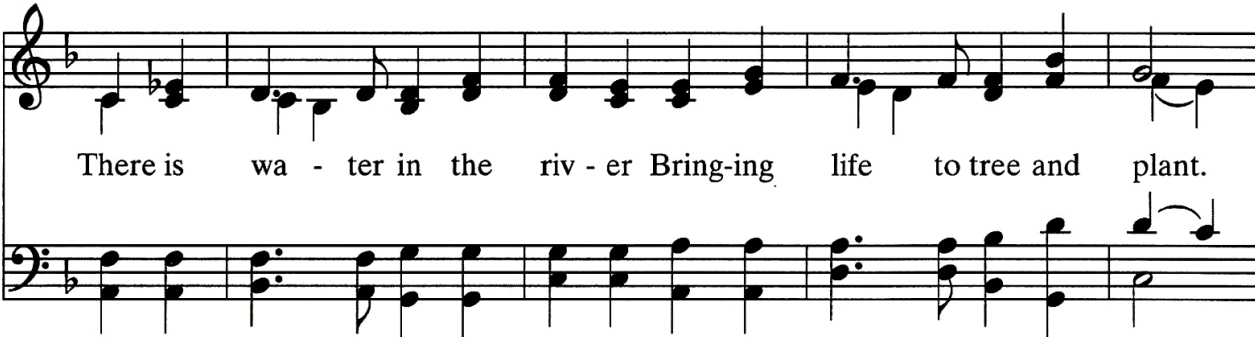
C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897



1. Out of deep, un - or - dered wa - ter God cre - at - ed light and land,
2. Wa - ter on the hu - man fore-head, Birth-mark of the love of God,
3. Stand - ing round the font re - minds us Of the He-brews' climb a - shore.



World of bird and beast and, lat - er, In God's im - age, wom - an, man.
Is the sign of death and ris - ing; Through the seas there runs a road.
Life is hal - lowed by the knowl - edge: God has been this way be - fore.



There is wa - ter in the riv - er Bring - ing life to tree and plant.



Let cre - a - tion praise its giv - er: There is wa - ter in the font.

Alternate tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN, 486

♩=92-100

Text: Copyright © 1968 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Prayer of Confession

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female. For we are all one in Christ Jesus—your children through faith, heirs to the promise. Old things have passed away.”

Forgive us, Lord, for not living out this baptismal reality in our lives. We make selfish divisions, both in our lives and in your church. We live as ungrateful heirs to your grace and love. We live in the old, sinful ways. Remind us today of the promises of our baptism, and how it calls us to new life. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

In the waters of baptism, we are buried, sharing in Christ’s death, and by it, we also share in Christ’s resurrection. Through it, we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember your baptism. Remember that you are forgiven. Remember that you do not need to live in the old ways, but you have been liberated to live in the way of Christ.

*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

God our Father, open the heavens and send your Spirit like a dove. Remind us that we are your children, and give us the strength to go on the mission you are sending us on. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Acts 10:34-43*

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text *Matthew 3:13-17*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon: The Way to Fulfill All Righteousness

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Remembrance of Baptism *based on the RCA Baptismal Liturgy*

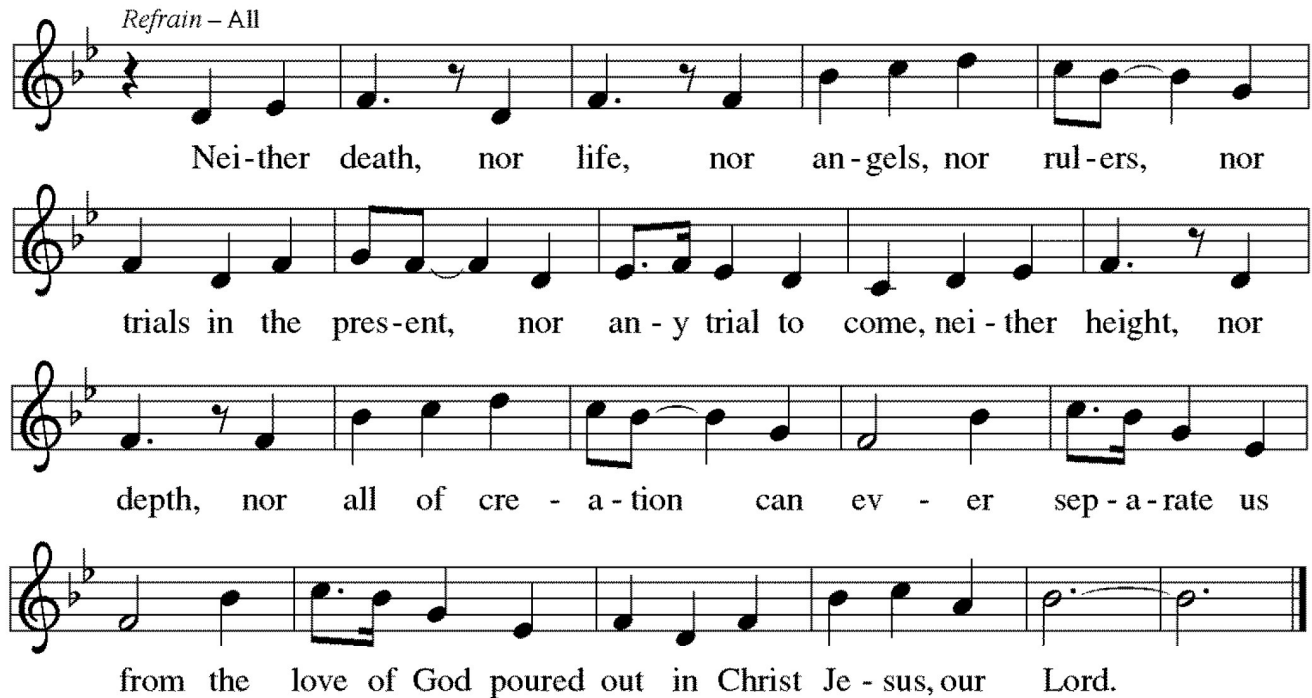
Water cleanses and purifies, refreshes and renews, nourishes and sustains; Jesus Christ is living water, and promises to do these things for us.

*Hymn of Remembrance

(Refrain)

Neither Death Nor Life

Refrain – All



Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor
trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor
depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Verse 1: Dwell in the One who raised Christ from the dead; though your body shall die in Christ you shall rise through the Spirit who brings you to life!

(Refrain)

Verse 2: All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen beloved!

(Refrain)

Verse 4: All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope.

(Refrain)

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

*“Baptized in Water”
Iteke Prins, organist*

Gaelic Melody

***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**

In Christ Called to Baptize

1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,
and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.
In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.
then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

Written for use at the 1997 meeting of the Lutheran World Federation, this text about Christian vocation and ministry organizes the first three stanzas around verbs: baptize, banquet, witness. The final stanza is a prayer for the Spirit's gifts to empower all these callings.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1995

MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; adapt. in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

Text © 1995 The Pilgrim Press

ST. DENIO

11.11.11.11

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

Selection
Iteke Prins, organist

G. Young

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

Note: After the service, head on down to Zimmerman Hall where Rev. Trey will be hosting a brief Q&A regarding baptism. He will try his best to answer any questions you might have about baptism.

You are also invited this afternoon, starting at 1:30pm in the chapel, to the Capital Area Council of Churches special service for the Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism initiative.





The New York State Office of General Services has invited us to join them for a special screening of NYS Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Paths to Change on **Friday, January 13, 2023, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, NY from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

During the red carpet premiere event, you will have a chance to preview a one-hour broadcast tribute to Dr. King through art, music, and inspiring stories, hosted by our own Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston. This year's program will feature segments on the Apollo Theater in Harlem, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, performances by the NYS MLK Ensemble (filmed here at First Church), and more!

The event is FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the program screening will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Music will be provided by DJ Intell Hayesfield. Light refreshments will be served (while supplies last).

Invite others. Let's make this a time to celebrate our commitment to the community and to the ideal of equality!

Contact Colleen at the office to RSVP. with your parties' number. I have to give the rep. from OGS a number by January 9th, so make sure to get your intention to attend to her ASAP.

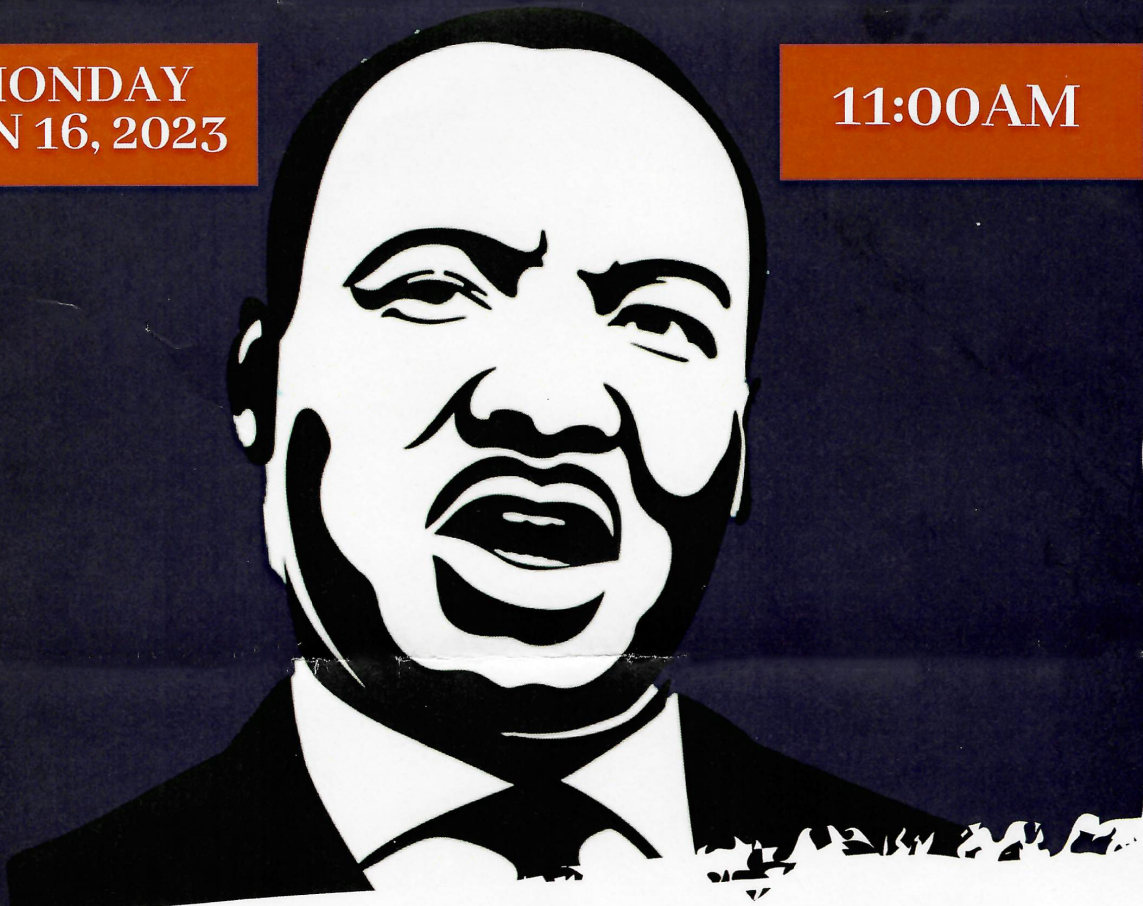
Call 518-463-4449 or email office@firstchurchinalbany.org

— 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](#)

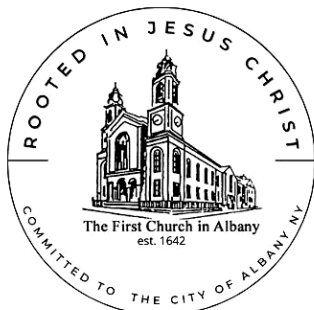


**Join our First Church family and our City of Albany on MLK Jr. Day for
this community march! Meet us at the NYS Museum Entrance
at 10:45 on Monday, January 16th, 2023!**

- ## Upcoming Events

- *Meeting Schedules are subject to change.

AW = After Worship



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

12