



Reformation *sunday*

Sunday, October 27, 2024, 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 Reflection *A reflection for Reformation Sunday*

Every last Sunday of October is Reformation Sunday, commemorating when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses, consequently launching the Protestant Reformation. Today, through the World Communion of Reformed Churches, we join millions of Christians around the world to reflect on how this day calls us to renew our commitment to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, who is always reforming the Church—“reformed and always reforming according to the Word of God.”

In his book *Awaiting the King*, contemporary Reformed philosopher James K.A. Smith emphasizes that our faith is not just a set of beliefs, but it's a way of being in the world, shaped by our worship and practices. On this Reformation Sunday, we celebrate our calling to live as agents of change, embodying the hope of Christ in a world that longs for renewal. Join us in worship as we recommit to Christ's mission, nurturing our identity in him, and embracing his call to follow him—a call that transforms us and our communities through love and service.

Prelude *KINGSFOLD* arr. A. Fedak

Tolling of Bell

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.” **Amen.** II Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship *Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda*

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
Amen.

Leader: We gather as a church “reformed and always reforming,” seeking to be transformed by the Word of God.

People: Today and always, the Spirit of the Living God moves among us, calling us to new life and renewed purpose.

Leader: God’s reformation is not just a moment in history—it is a call that echoes through the ages and in our hearts today.

People: By God’s grace, we are being reshaped and renewed, led to walk in the ways of the One who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord, whose Word reforms us and whose Spirit makes us new!

***Opening Hymn** *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* (see p. 6)

Call to Confession

Confession is the first step in reclaiming our identity as citizens of the Kingdom. Let us come before God, acknowledging the ways we have strayed from our true calling, seeking Christ’s grace to restore us to be faithful witnesses in our world that belongs to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, we confess that our hearts are often drawn to things that do not reflect your Kingdom of love that is emerging all around us. There are parts of us that like when politicians demean others. We’re drawn to believe that our faith is only for our personal, spiritual piety, and we excuse policies that do not love our neighbors or our enemies in reality. We even conflate our identity as a citizen of your Kingdom with being a citizen of worldly governments. Forgive us, and, by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew our sense of call—our vocation—to follow you.
Amen.**

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Beloved, in Christ we find forgiveness and renewal. Let us live out our vocation as his followers to challenge injustice and spread his love, embodying the transformative message of the Kingdom in every aspect of our lives.

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 fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of 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 all 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

Kingdom Calling: Follow Me

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** “*Today We All Are Called To Be Disciples*” (see p.8)

Confession of Faith *The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only 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

“Psalm 124 TOULON”

Worp/Stam

***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

(see insert for prayer list)

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**

“I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”

(see p.10)

***Charge & Blessing**

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord smile toward you, and give you peace.

Postlude

“EIN’ FESTE BURG”

arr. S. L. Aber

Notes:

- Join us in Zimmerman Hall for refreshments and fellowship. Afterward, join Rev. Trey for part 2 of 2 of a discussion on Christian Nationalism.
- If you would like particular individuals remembered during our All Saint’s Sunday service next week, please contact the office.

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

TEXT: Martin Luther, 1529; trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852
 MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.

EIN' FESTE BURG
 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7

Come, Holy Spirit

SPIRITUS

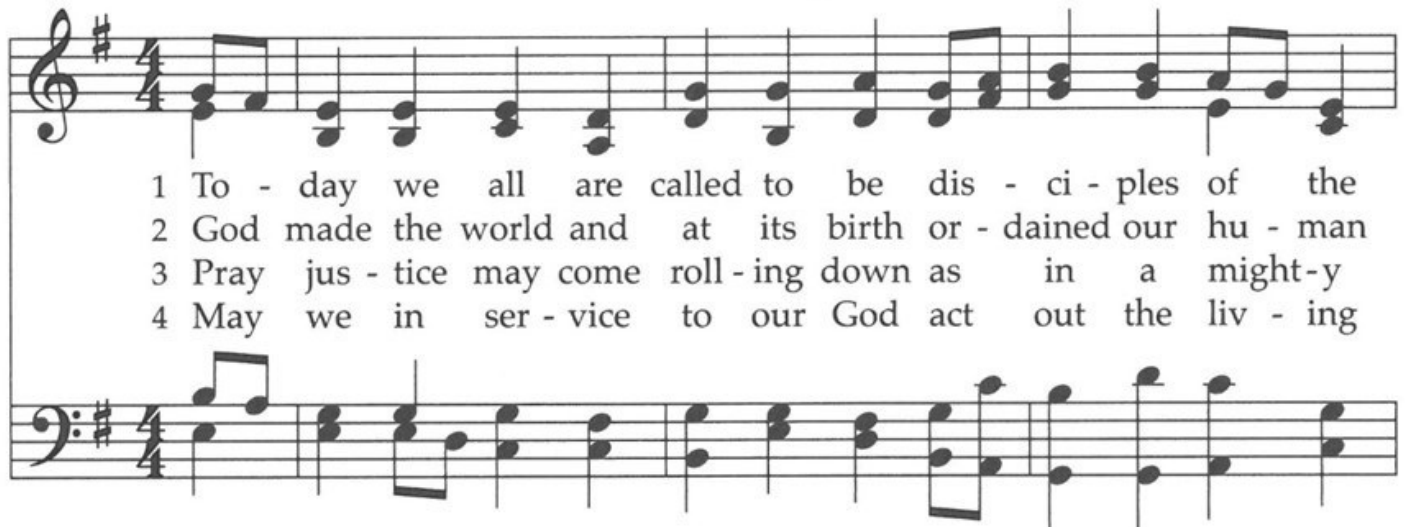
55 77 74

John Thornburg (b. 1954)

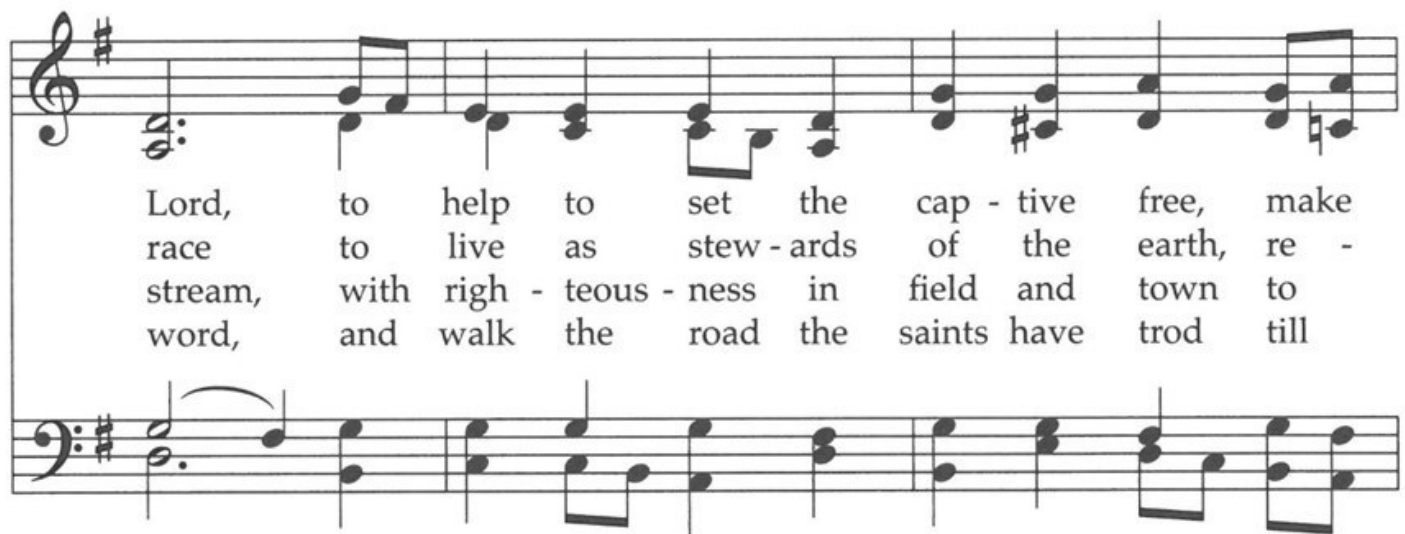
Iteke Prins

Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come, Ho - ly Spir - it;
 break the chains our fears cre - ate; teach us love and
 sti - fle hate; help us rest, but not es -
 cape. Come, Spir it, come.

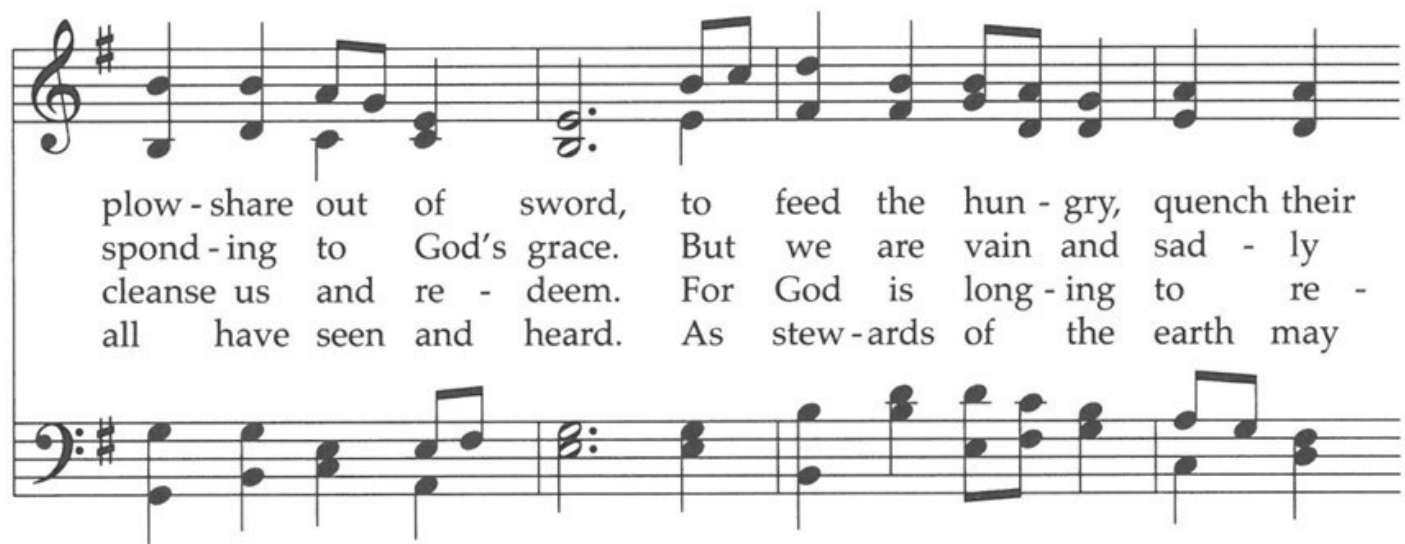
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985
 MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

KINGSFOLD
 CMD
 CCLI# 1296903

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

C

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -

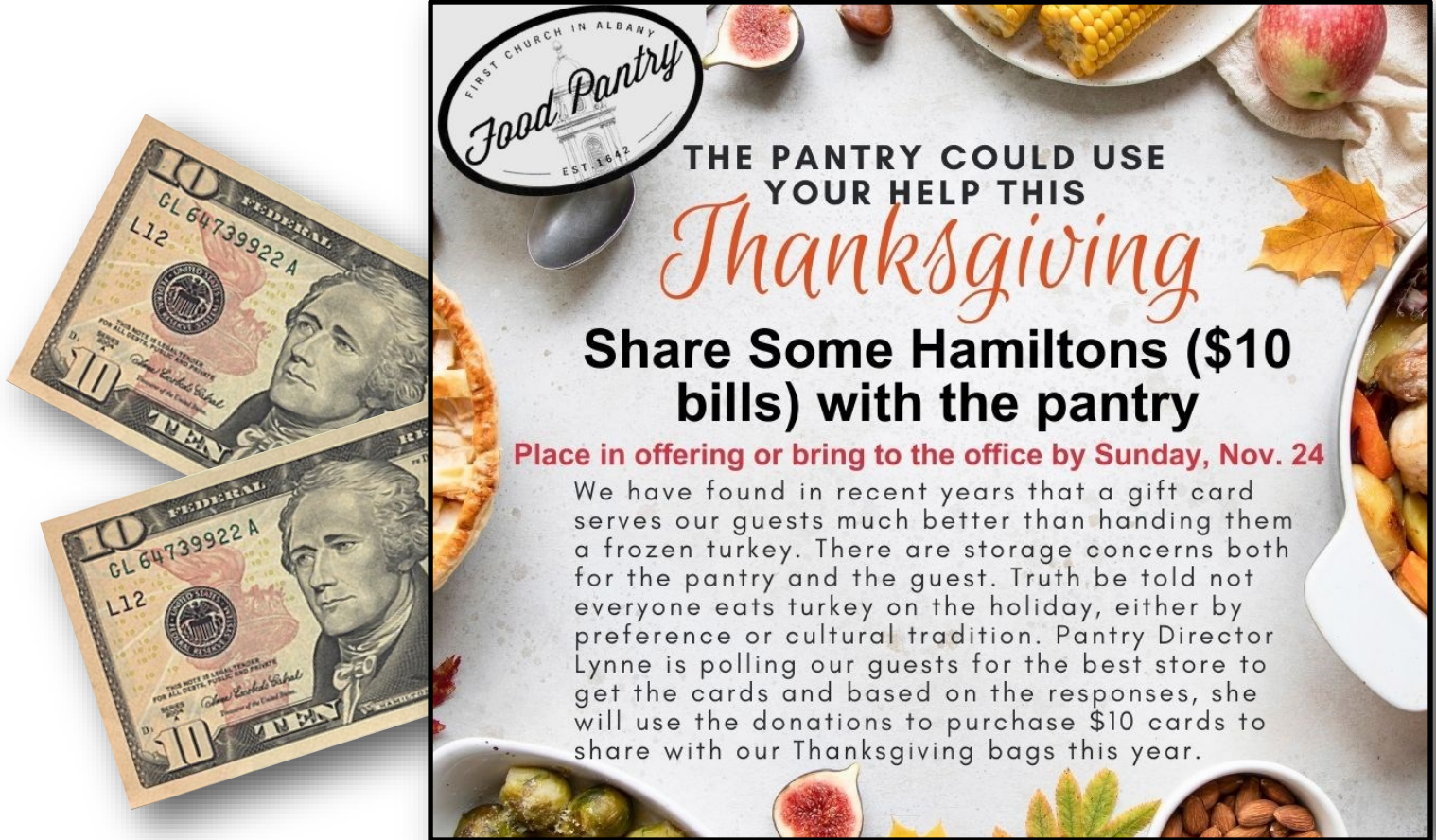
F C

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low

C/G G7 C

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

- 2 The world behind me, the cross before me—(3x)
no turning back, no turning back.
- 3 Though none go with me, I still will follow
- 4 Will you decide now to follow Jesus? . . .



THE PANTRY COULD USE YOUR HELP THIS

Thanksgiving

Share Some Hamiltons (\$10 bills) with the pantry

Place in offering or bring to the office by Sunday, Nov. 24

We have found in recent years that a gift card serves our guests much better than handing them a frozen turkey. There are storage concerns both for the pantry and the guest. Truth be told not everyone eats turkey on the holiday, either by preference or cultural tradition. Pantry Director Lynne is polling our guests for the best store to get the cards and based on the responses, she will use the donations to purchase \$10 cards to share with our Thanksgiving bags this year.




SOUP & SANDWICHES
Cleeⁱⁿ Park
 Wednesday, 11:30am
 If you would like to volunteer to serve on a Wednesday, please contact office@firstchurchinalbany.org
#firstchurchinmotion



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



MON	LEADERSHIP BUDGET MEETING	10 AM
28		
TUE	PANTRY 9 AM	
29	ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	1 PM
	REIMAGINE I-787	5 PM
	CONSISTORY MTG	6 PM
WED	CENTERING PRAYER	12 PM
30	AA MEETING	12 PM
	ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	7:30PM
THU	HALLOWEEN 🎃🎃🎃🎃🎃🎃🎃	
31	PANTRY	9 AM
NOV.		
SUN	ALL SAINTS' WORSHIP	10 AM
3	FOLLOWED BY COFFEE HOUR	

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