



reformation sunday

WELCOME

TO THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

10AM

The International Monument to the Reformation in Geneva Switzerland.

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 haiku for today's worship*

Nailed theses of change,
Reformation's timeless call,
Grace's light to all.

Prelude

"A Mighty Fortress"

Michael Praetorius

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

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *Romans 15:13*

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Call to Worship *Based on Psalm 18*

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

Amen.

Leader: I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

People: For the Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer;

Leader: My God is my strength, in whom I will trust;

People: Though the pangs of death surround me,

Leader: And the floods of ungodliness make me afraid.

People: In all my distress, I will call upon the Lord, and cry out to my God;

Leader: For God will hear my voice from the temple,

People: and deliver me because God delights in me.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord, the Almighty—the one who delivers us!

***Opening Hymn** *“Praise Ye The Lord, the Almighty ”* (see insert)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, on this Reformation Sunday, we humbly remember our need for constant renewal and transformation. We recognize our tendency to overlook what guides us towards renewal and transformation: our failure to fully comprehend the depth of your grace. Forgive us and give us the grace to change. As reformers of old sought to be instruments of your reformation, may we also strive for transformation in our lives and communities. Send your Spirit among us today to lead our community, that we may contribute to unity, purity, and peace. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law *Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-9*

“You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked ... but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.”

***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 *Lifelong Learners*

Prayer for Illumination

Everlasting God, in the shadow of the cross, we find hope in suffering and life even in the midst of death. Grant us the strength to embrace the cross's transformative power and discover resurrection in our darkest moments. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Numbers 21:4-9*

"From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text *1 Corinthians 2:1-13a*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”

God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Look to the Cross

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** “*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*” (see insert)

Confession of Faith *An excerpt from the Belgic Confession, Article 21*

“Therefore, we rightly say with Paul that we know nothing ‘except Jesus Christ and him crucified’; we ‘regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord.’ We find all comfort in his wounds and have no need to seek or invent any other means to reconcile ourselves with God than this one and only sacrifice, once made, which renders believers perfect forever.”

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

“Amazing Grace”

arr. George Shearing

***Doxology**

**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**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

(see insert)

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

"All My Hope on God Is Founded"

Michael Burkhardt

Note: All are welcome to write their thesis of who God is to them on the large post-it note found in the lobby.

Note: After coffee time, consistory members and trustees who would like to participate, meet in the sanctuary to do a "dry run" of traditional communion in preparation for next Sunday.



Minister: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist:

Consistory Chaplain of the Day:

Organist: Gloria Norton

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

- Dave and Barb Andrews and Donna Jones, for the passing of close friend Barbara Walter. For Ms. Walter's other friends and family, especially partner Sam Yang.
- Avery Bradley, granddaughter of Marilyn and David, an athlete recovering from a leg injury that required surgery
- Norma McClement
- From our pantry family, Maureen Jackson and her brother Maurice, both dealing with health issues
- Family of Gillian Persons and for her sister Sylvia
- Baby Dana in the NICU. Dana is the daughter of an acquaintance of the Andrews
- For Shirley Mockel, good friend of Marilyn Bradley, with health concerns.
- Kathleen Claydon
- Doug Plummer, friend of the Bradley family, as he begins treatment for health concerns
- For Barbara, friend of Barb Andrews and Donna Jones
- Becky Gardner
- Virginia Giguere and family as they mourn the passing of her brother Jason Miller in June.
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering
- Carol LaBatte
- Sharnelle Jones
- Joeanna Brown
- Family of Norma Jean Ballou
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- 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
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- Prayers for the community of Lewiston, Maine following a shooting there this week. For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.

Join Us for This Week's Events

SUN
OCT
29

- 10am: Reformation Sunday Worship (also on Zoom and YouTube), See our website for links to worship info.

MON
30

- 9am: Food Pantry in original location

TUE
31

- Noon: Adult Book Study on Zoom



Scan for
full event
calendar

NOV.

WED
1

- 9am: Food Pantry in original location
- Noon: Centering Prayer (Powell), AA Mtg (Parlor)

THU
2

- 6pm: Potluck in the Parlor
- 7pm: First Thursday Night of Worship in the Chapel

Worship now streaming live on YouTube.





2023 NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 Nov. 5 @ 2am Clocks ahead 1 hr			1	2 Potluck First Thursday Night of Worship G	3	4
5 Communion Sunday M All Saints Sunday	6 Prayer Shawl Meeting	7 Polling Place	8 AA	9 	10 Veteran's Day observed Office Closed	11 Veteran's Day
12 Pack Thanks- giving bags T	13 	14 Thanksgiving Bag Day	15 AA Weathervanes	16 	17 	18 Advent Decoration TBD
19 Consecration Sunday T Advent Decoration 1	20 	21 	22 AA	23 Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 M Advent Decoration 2	27 	28 	29 AA	30 		

Key:



Indoor
Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Book
Study

Preacher: **M** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

T Rev. Trey Tirpak **G** Guest

FCIA DIRECTORY

Please take one per family initially.

We will print more.

Contact the office with any corrections or updates.



Soup & Sandwiches
in
Clee Park
Thursdays at 11:30am-1pm



Beginning in
November 2023

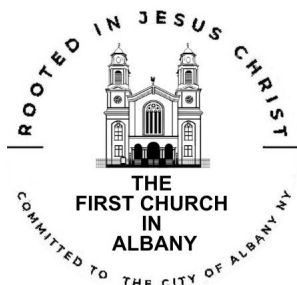
#firstchurchinmotion

Hey NEIGHBOR

Join us for
Sunday Worship
@ 10am



firstchurchinalbany.org



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.

Albany NY 12207


518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org


Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty




1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

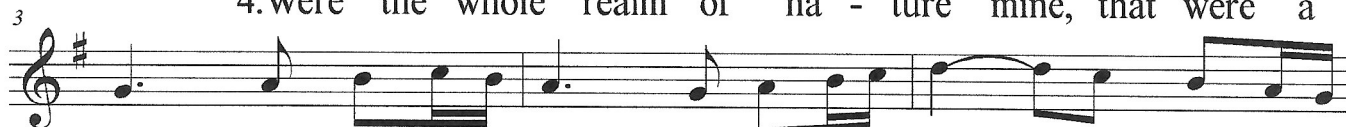
This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

O WALY WALY



1. When I sur - vey__ the won - drous cross on which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of Glo - ry - died, my rich - est gain__ I count but
 death of Christ my_ God; all the vain things__ that charm me
 gled flow min - gled down; did e'er such love__ and sor - row
 pre - sent far to__ small; love so a - maz - ing, so di -



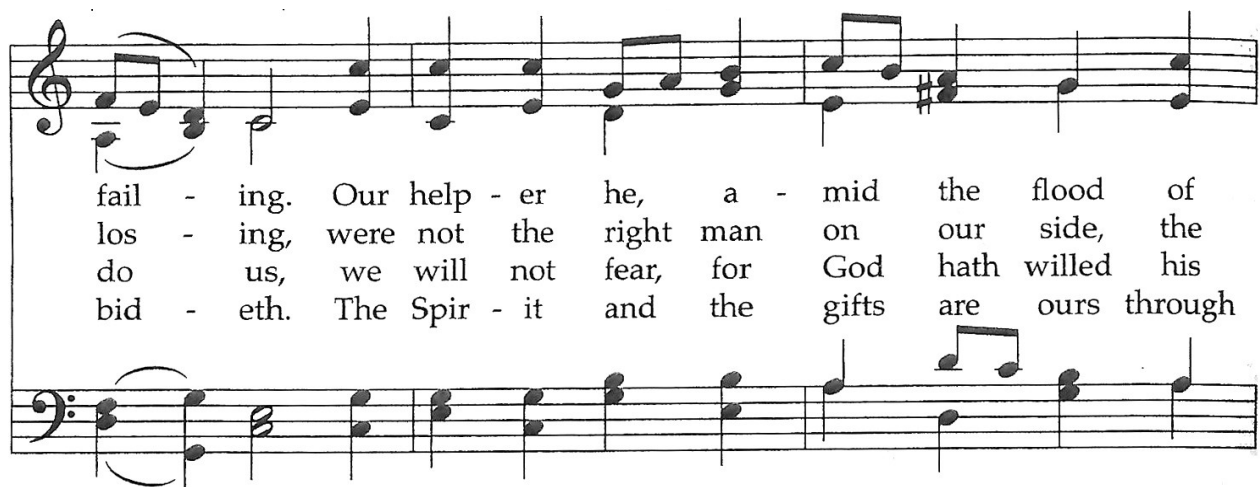
loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride
 most, I sac - ri fice them to his__ blood.
 meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a__ crown.
 vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

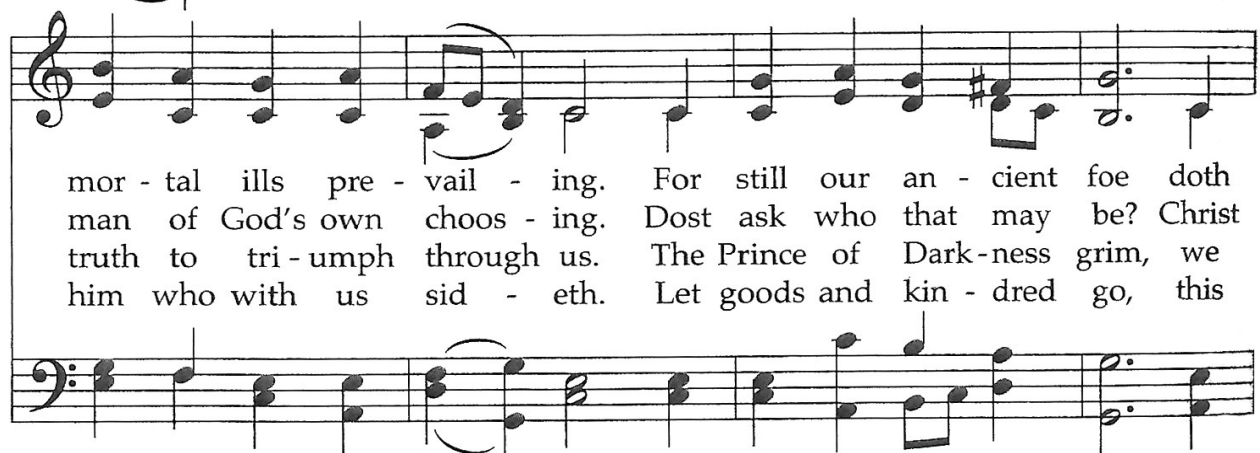


1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

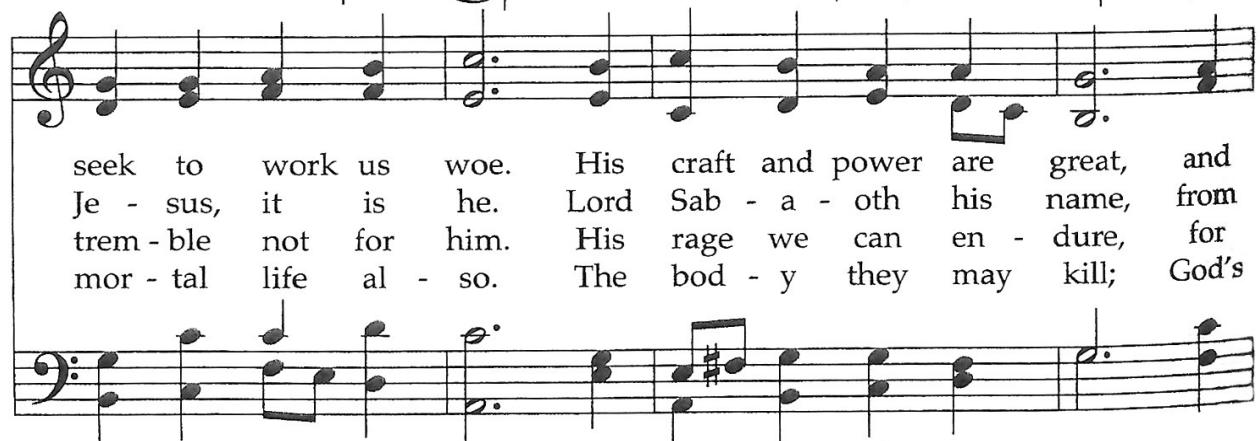




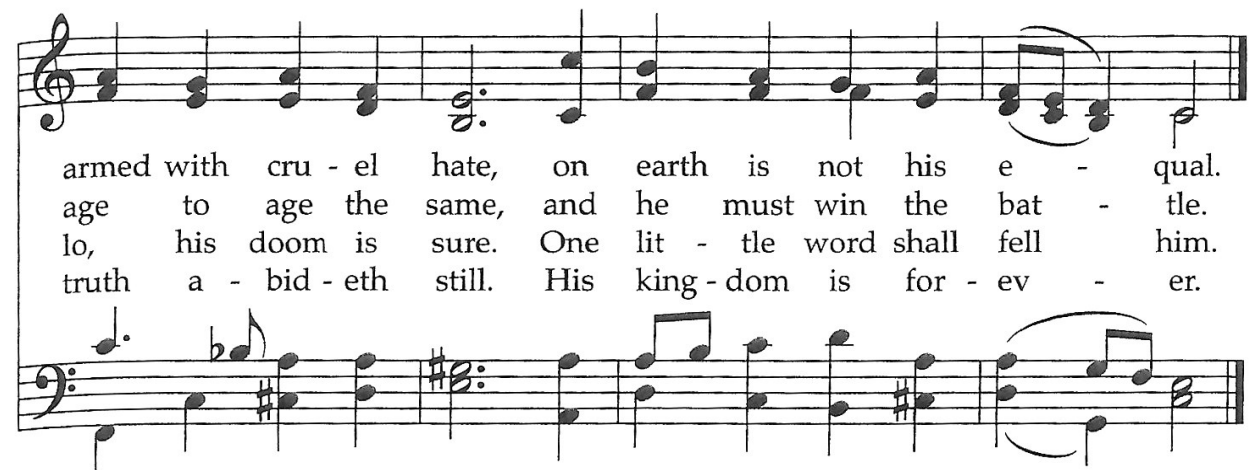
fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



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.