

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 6, 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.

Every year on the first Sunday in October, Christians around the globe celebrate World Communion Sunday. It is a day to remember that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that every Christian Church and any denomination that promotes Christian unity are one. Today, people draw faith and inspiration from seeing that they are part of a community that boasts millions of believers and worshippers.

Prelude "Christ, Thou Art Our Day and Night" G. Böhm
"Blessed Jesus We Are Here" J.G. Walther

Tolling of Bell

Processional Anthem

"African Processional" (see p.9)

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 Based on Psalm 26

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

L: Today we gather to praise God for the steadfast love that helps us walk faithfully.

P: We eagerly rejoice and come to bless the Lord.

L: This is the day to sing a song of thanksgiving; to tell of God's wondrous deeds!

P: We trust God to redeem us.

L: Our faith leads us to bless God today and every day,

P: Even as we celebrate our covenant commitment to be followers of Jesus, the

***Opening Hymn**

“God’s House Has Many Spaces”

(see p.10)

Prayer of Confession

**You gave us commandments, God of love,
Because you know the hardness of our hearts
You have created us to live in community,
and still we oppress others and separate ourselves from each other and
from you.**

**Jesus loved the children,
but there are still children in the world
Who live in hunger or fear, rejected and unloved.**

Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness.

**Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers,
and nurture us with your love and forgiveness,**

Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness.

**Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers,
and nurture us with your love and forgiveness,**

**that we might share what we have been given,
and receive your kingdom**

with the wonder and gratitude of children.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Jesus said, Let the children come to me,
do not stop them;
for it is so to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Seeing our repentant hearts,
Jesus will embrace us in grace
and comfort us with mercy.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven

We are children of God! Live in peace!

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us rise if able and spend a few moments
greeting one another.



Children's Message & Blessing

The cloth on the Communion table is 112 years old. It was given to Rev. and Mrs. P.H. Ingwersen in 1906. They were missionaries in Poeredwoerdjo, Java for 14 years. They are the grandparents of Iteke Prins. The cloth is Batik, printed in the ancient way of placing wax on the fabric to resist the dye and create patterns.

Prayer for Illumination "Come, Holy Spirit" (Please Sing, see p.12)

Come, Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit; break the chains our fears create; teach us love and stifle hate; help us rest, but not escape. Come, Spirit, come.

Scripture Reading Genesis 2:18-20

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon Text Mark 10: 2-16

Some, testing him, asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Safe in His Arms

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”* (see p.11)

Litany for New Ministry Partners (Members) *Iteke Prins*

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 *“The Prayer Wheel’s Contant Whirring”* J. Core/ J. Clemens
The First Church Choir

***The prayer wheel’s ceaseless whirring proclaims a mystery,
In neighbors’ ears more moving than all our liturgy.
Muezins cries are sailing through all our towns to tell
As surely of God’s presence as any Christian bell.***

***In native flute and tom-tom played by a canyon’s rim,
God’s song sounds on the four winds as loud as any hymn.
The shofar that once echoed on Temple Mount alone
Peals out across our landscape its order to atone.***

***Old chants once only sung out on distant tropic air
Are carried now by chill winds across our city square,
And gongs and cymbals ringing of ev-’ry size and type
Play just as much God’s music as any organ pipe.***

***Bring all the dif-f’rent voices with their variety
And celebrate in this place di-verse divinity,
A God of many faces whose songs of many parts
Together now are making one music in our hearts.***

***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.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Eucharistic Anthem "*Bread of the World in Mercy Broken*"

(see p.12)

Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Mystery of the Faith

Christ has died!

Christ has risen!

Christ will come again!

Celebration of Communion

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**

"Lead On, O King Eternal!"

(see p.13)

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

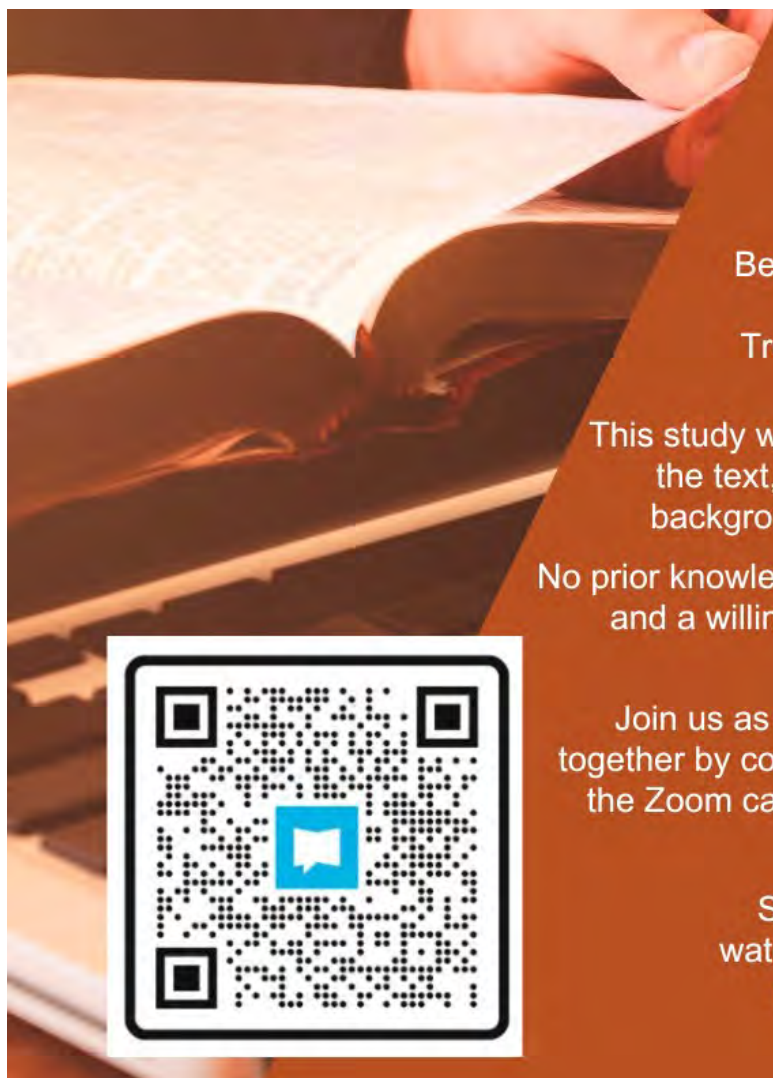
Liturgist: Sara Bonham-Welge

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

*CCLI License #463379;
One License #A-700689*

Note: Join us in downstairs in Zimmerman Hall for refreshments and fellowship.



New Evening Zoom Bible Study with Rev. Trey

Beginning on Wednesday, October 2nd at 7:30 PM via Zoom, Rev. Trey will lead a new Bible study on the book of Colossians!

This study will offer a simple journey through the text, with Rev. Trey providing helpful background and context along the way. .

No prior knowledge needed—just an open heart and a willingness to learn! All you need is a Bible.

Join us as we dive deeper into God's Word together by contacting Rev. Trey or just joining the Zoom call (the link will be available in the EBlast and on the website.)

Scan the code with your phone to watch a video from BibleProject that provides an animated summary of the Book of Colossians.





OCTOBER 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT						
 Please note new days for pantry Tue. & Thu		ATTENTION PLEASE 1 Pantry 9am	2 Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	ATTENTION PLEASE 3 Pantry 9am Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	4	5						
 Indoor Worship 10am World Communion Sunday Coffee Hour Choir	6	 Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11:30am	7	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	8	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	9	 Pantry 9am	10	11	12	 Blessing of the Animals 11am
 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour	13	 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE Office Closed	14	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Weather-vanes 12:30pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	15	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	16	 Pantry 9am	17	18	19	
 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Private Event 1:15pm	20	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Albany Classis Mtg. 6pm FOCUS Board Mtg. 6:30pm	21	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	22	 Pantry 9am	23	 Pantry 9am	24	25	26	
 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour	27	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Reimagine 1-787 4pm-6pm	28	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	29	 Pantry 9am Bible Zoom Study 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm Bible Zoom Study 7:30pm	30	 Pantry 9am HALLOWEEN	31	Daylight Saving Time Turn Clocks Back One Hour Sat. Nov. 3, 2am		



Key:



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



OCTOBER 2024

MON **PRAYER SHAWL**
7 **MINISTRY 11:30 AM**

TUE **PANTRY 9 AM**
8



WED **CENTERING PRAYER 12 PM**
9 **AA MEETING 12 PM**
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 7:30PM

THU **PANTRY 9 AM**
10



SAT ~~**BLESSING OF THE**~~
12 ~~**ANIMALS**~~ **CANCELLED**

SUN **WORSHIP 10 AM**
13 **FOLLOWED BY COFFEE HOUR**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



African Processional

Collected by E.
Hanson

Arr. R.M. Johnson

Choir 1. Praise, praise, praise — God, —
Choir 2. We have seen your glo - ry
Congregation join in 3. We have felt your po - wer
Congregation join in 4. God, who spins the pla - nets,

2
Praise God's ho - ly name, Al - le - lu - ia.
stream - ing through the clouds, Al - le - lu - ia.
ri - sing from the earth Al - le - lu - ia.
lead us in a dance Al - le - lu - ia.

3
Praise God's ho - ly name, Al - le - lu - ia.
Stream - ing through the clouds, Al - le - lu - ia.
Ri - sing from the earth, Al - le - lu - ia.
Lead us in a dance Al - le - lu - ia.

4
Praise God's ho - ly name, Al - le - lu - ia.
Stream - ing through the clouds, Al - le - lu - ia.
Ris - ing from the earth, Al - le - lu - ia.
Lead us in a dance, Al - le - lu - ia.

Earthsongs vs 1; Additional verses Bret Hesla

©

God's House Has Many Spaces.

John Core

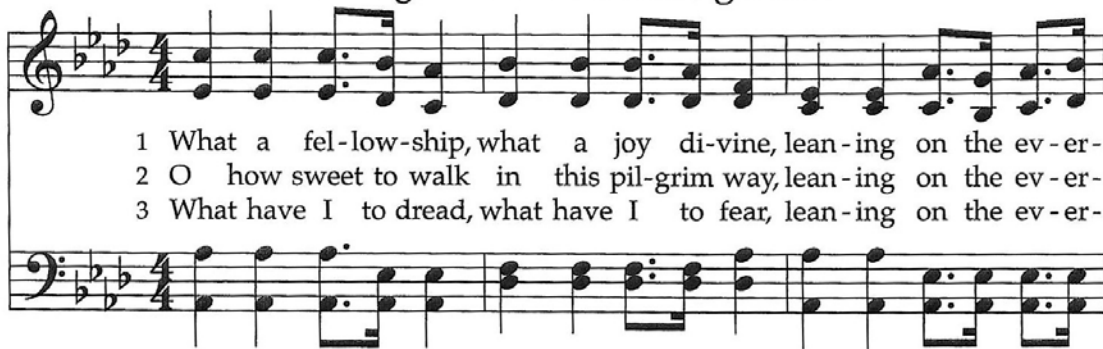
SACRED SPACE

Iteke Prins 2023

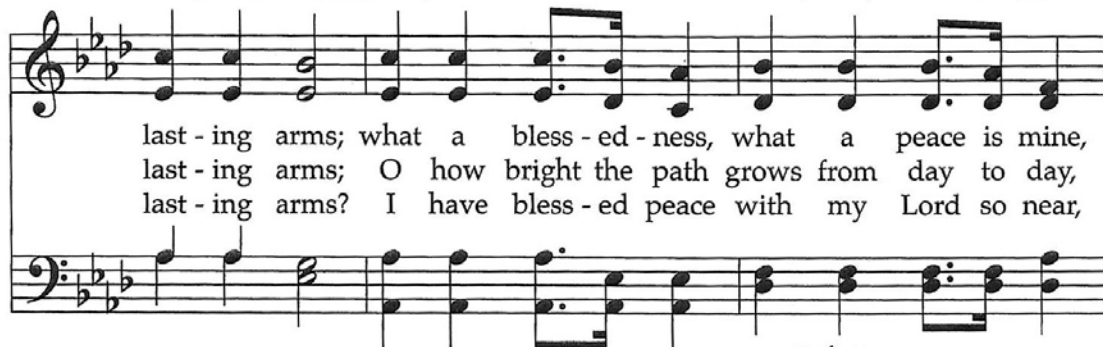
Choir 1. God's house has ma - ny spa - ces just past our line of
Choir 2. They ring quite dif - f'rent songs and gongs what we raise to -
Congregation join in. 3. If fra - grant ho - ly spi - ces are not fa - mil - iar
Congregation join in. 4. God's house has ma - ny spa - ces, light - bright or dark as
4 sight, these strange and a - lien - pla - ces glow with a dif - f'rent
day. Bells, logs and reeds and gongs now call all to praise and
here, how odd must seem - vi - ces that we hold near and
8 tombs, high al - tars or plain pla - ces, yet all are hal - lowed
light. There oth - er - signs, not cross - es, have
pray. The drones and drums, wheels turn - ing, priests'
11 dear. As oth - ers' robes and mo - tioans are
rooms. In one - we have re - si - ded, God,
hung for cen - tu - ries, and to - tems hung with moss - es grace
mum - bling, yelps of youth, all speak of end - less yearn - ing t'ward
strange what they lift up, how far from their de - vo - tions must
15 grant us now to see, not some vast house di - vi - ded but
green - er can - o - pies.
heav'n and time - less truth.
seem our bread and cup.
all your fam - i - ly.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

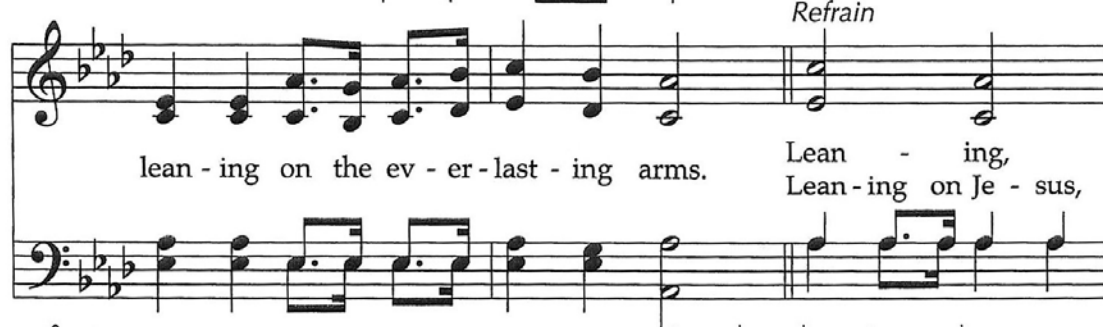
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



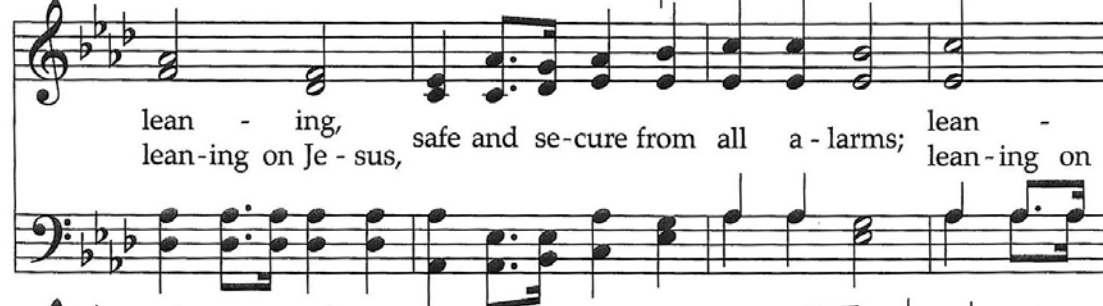
1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-



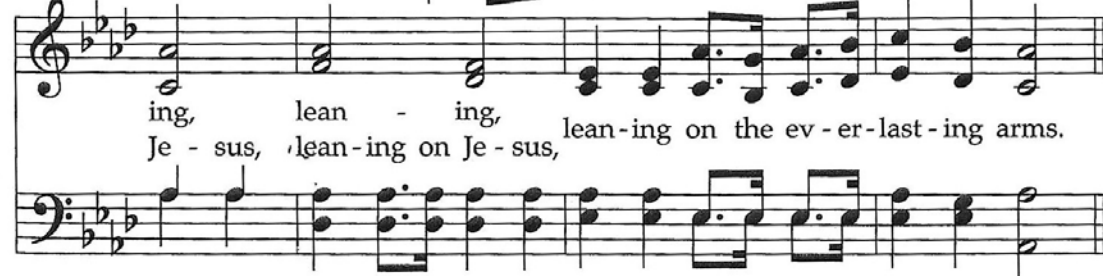
last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,



Refrain
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
Lean-ing on Je-sus,



lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
lean-ing on Je-sus,



ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

Reginal Heber, 1827

John S. B.. Hodges, 1868

1. Bread of the world in mer - cy bro - ken, Wine of the
2. Look on the heart by sor - row bro - ken, Look on the

6
soul in mer - cy shed, By whom the words of life were spo - ken,
tears by sin - ners shed; And be the feast to us the to - ken

13
And in whose death our sins are dead:
That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

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.

Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence - forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heav - en - ly king - dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on "deeds of love and mercy" and courage for life's journey.

TEXT: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

LANCASHIRE
 7.6.7.6.D
 (this tune in a higher key, 233)

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- Baby Stella and her mom recovering, daughter of Kaitlyn Bliss and Victor.
- For the Lloyd family for the passing of Donald.
- For Uncle Rev. Trey Tirpak and family on the birth of his nephew, Henry Ezra to his brother and sister-in-law.
- Stephen Giguere, Virginia's husband, diagnosed with cancer.
- Shawn Giguere, Virginia's son, with a health diagnosis.
- David Allen, recovering from emergency surgery.
- Mary Bon, recovering from a recent injury to her knee.
- Donna Linen's health concerns, friend of the Dorn's.
- Teresa Wheeler's grandmother Cindy, with health concerns
- Donna Jones
- Michelle Williams
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Donna Schultz
- Carol LaBatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health concerns
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Ministers, staff, and leaders of First Church as they move forward into our everchanging world.
- Those dealing with natural disasters exasperated by climate change.
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.
- U.S. Federal, State and Local Elections

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



The First Church in Albany is committed to the city and people of Albany NY.

This feeding ministry is part of our commitment.

Pantry Hours

**Tuesday and
Thursday
9am - 11:30am**

The pantry entrance is on Orange St.

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St.
Albany NY 12207

Brooks BBQ Drive Thru

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

3 PM – 6 PM (or sold out)

Preordering not available.

BETHANY

REFORMED CHURCH

760 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

Convenient to Route 85 at Buckingham
(518) 482-7998

½ Chicken	\$10
½ Chicken Dinner	\$15



Dinner includes:

Chicken
Baked potato
Coleslaw
Roll
Dessert

www.bethanyrc.org

Bethany Reformed Church is a faithful supporter of the FCIA Food Pantry.

SOUP & SANDWICHES

Cleeⁱⁿ Park

Wednesday, 11:30am

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

#firstchurchinmotion



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