

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

not one stone...



Sunday, November 14, 2021, 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.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 14, 2021

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

"Be Thou My Vision"
Margaret Randall, organist

H. Willam

Welcome, Announcements & Blessing

"You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11

Call to Worship (*Inspired by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA*)

Leader: Come into this time of worship through Jesus Christ, the new and living way.

People: We come with true hearts and in full assurance of our faith.

Leader: Come with joyful expectation!

People: We gather in full confidence of the gospel's promise.

Leader: Let us praise God together and open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit,

People: So that we may encourage and support each other to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to be God's instruments of grace.

*Opening Hymn Eternal Father, Strong to Save

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, all trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 wild and rude, and bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we
 gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

The year after this text was written for a student sailing to America, it was included in the most influential British hymnal of the 19th century. The tune especially composed for it preserves the ancient Roman name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked, now called Malta.

TEXT: William Whiting, 1860, alt.
 MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

MELITA
 8.8.8.8.8.8

Call to Confession *(Inspired by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA)*

The church year begins with Advent where we remember and hope together for the coming of Christ and the reign of God. Advent is soon to come. However, we are in the final liturgical season of Pentecost, which is a time to grow spiritually and faithfully through the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

So today we acknowledge that, despite our better efforts both individually and collectively, Advent and its hope for a better world feel far away.

Let us take this time to confess our sins of omission and commission that keep afar that day when the sound of weeping across the land will be no more.

Prayer of Confession

Despite our better efforts, O God, we have not always lived as we ought. Our own short-sightedness and impatience have led us to make choices based upon our immediate needs over your desire and will for the world. Forgive us for our selfish ways. According to your promise of this Pentecost season, send your Holy Spirit to transform our short-sightedness and impatience into farsighted wisdom and a holy patience that will manifest as Advent hope.

Words of Assurance

As our Psalm of Blessing from the beginning of the service reminds us, A cord of love binds us to God. God will not allow us to enter Sheol or to see the Pit. We are forgiven and saved by God's love for us. In this love we can be transformed and we can hope. Thanks be to God!



***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of the 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 of Illumination

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Scripture

Mark 13:1-8

¹ As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

A Building Not Made by Hands

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

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:

*Hymn of Response

O for a World



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON
CM

Offering & Offertory

*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.**

* Sending Hymn

Take My Life and Let It Be (v. 1,4 & 6)

F C7 F Dm Gm F/C C7 F

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee.
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.

C C7 F Bb

Take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 Take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 Take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag -
 Take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as

C7 Dm F Bb F/C C F

end - less praise, let them flow in end - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 es from thee, filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart—it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store.
 Take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

Alternate tune: TEBBEN (with no repeat) see 376, 864

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1874, P.D.

Music (HENDON 7.7.7.7 with repeat): H.A. Cesar Malan, 1827, P.D.

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

“A Litany of Joy”
Margaret Randall, organist

A. V. Fedak

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Steve Hoffman

Guest Organist: Margaret Randall

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Linda N. and Robert H., family friends of Colleen Lais
- Charnelle Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Samuel, Barb Andrew's son
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Ian and Edi Leet
- 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
- Veterans, retired and active duty, we give prayers of thanksgiving for their service.

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

COME JOIN US



for a
**NIGHT
OF
WORSHIP**



A NEW WORSHIP
OPPORTUNITY AT THE FIRST
CHURCH IN ALBANY

**THE
STEPHEN JAMES
CHAPEL**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7PM
ADVENT SERVICE WITH MUSIC BY GLENN CLAYDON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 7PM
EPIPHANY SERVICE

Consecration

SUNDAY

is November 21, 2021



The First Church in Albany
along with
FOCUS CHURCHES
invite you to



A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

What is a Blue Christmas Service?

This purpose of this service is to comfort those among us who are approaching the holidays with heavy hearts due to loss or other difficulties. You are not alone and we want you to know that you are cared for in this season.

**Thursday, December 16
6:30pm**

Join us for this
candlelight service
in
the First Church
Stephen James Chapel

