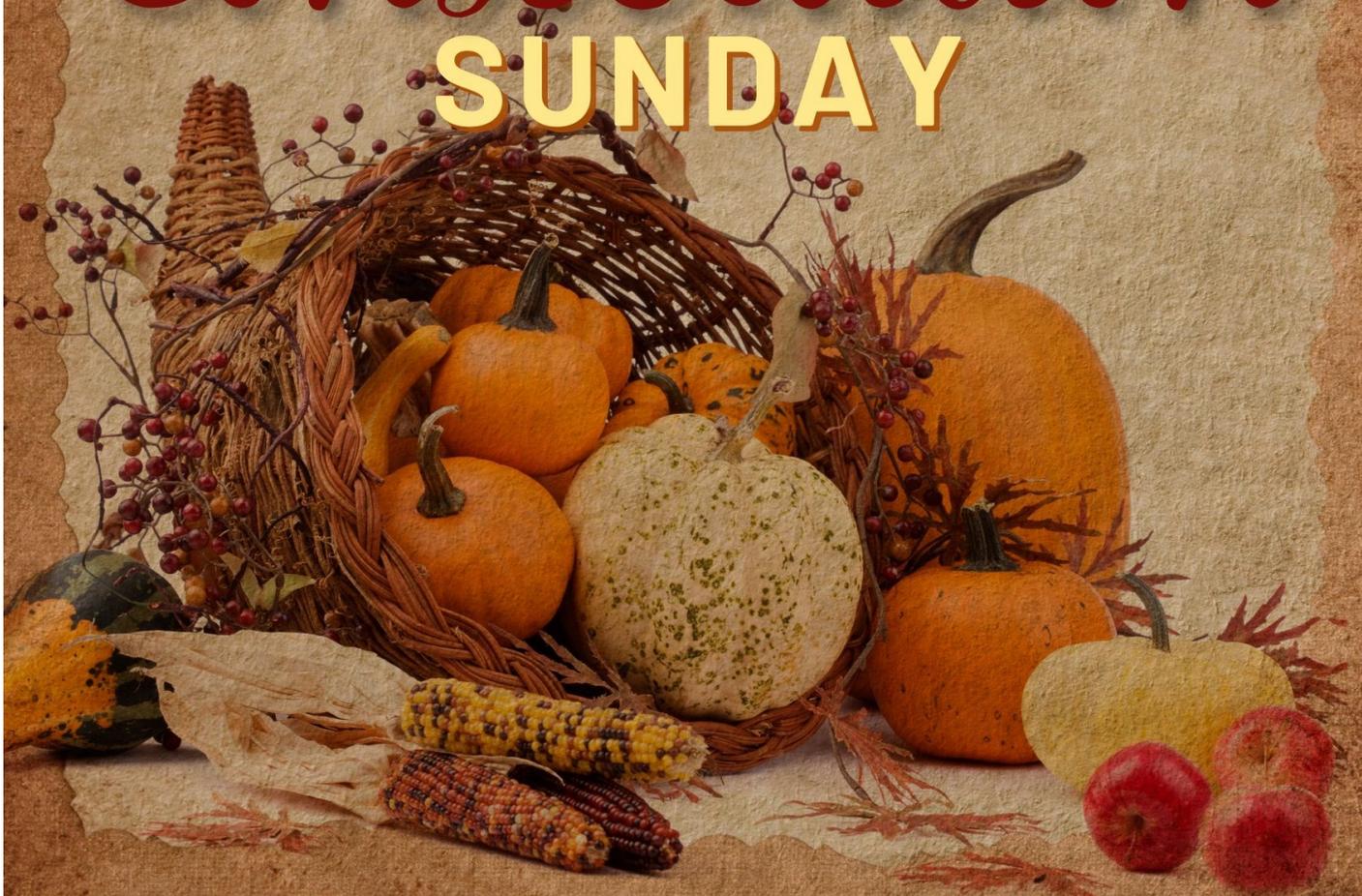


The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

November 20, 2022 - 10am Worship Service

Consecration
SUNDAY



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.

Consecration Sunday & Christ the King Sunday November 20, 2022

* = rise in body or in spirit

Prelude Reflection *A poem for Christ the King and Consecration Sunday*

Christ, our humble king
To you, our gifts, we bring
Make our lives a living offering

Prelude Meditation on REPTON settings by R. Hobby
Iteke Prins, organist

Tolling of Bell (will be tolled by children of First Church)

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **Amen.** James 1:17

Call to Worship *Based Psalm 46*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and the mountains shake and the waters roar.

Leader: For there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

People: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

Leader: God will help those of the city when the morning dawns.

People: God makes wars cease

Leader: by breaking the bow, shattering the spear, and burning the shields.

People: Be still and know that I Am God.

Leader: Know that the Lord of hosts is with us and is our refuge.

People: Let us worship this God who brings us delight!

Consecration Sunday Testimonial

Take My Life

HENDON 7.7.7.7

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

H. A. César Malan, 1827

4. Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;

Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as

Thou shalt choose, Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: '4. Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold; Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose, Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.'

*Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

William Chatterton Dix, 1866

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter,
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Thou on earth our
4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Thee the Lord of

His the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,
sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;
food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful
lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry,

His the vic - to - ry a - lone! Hark! the songs of peace - ful
Faith be - lieves nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
Flee to Thee from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
Earth Thy foot - stool, heaven Thy throne. Thou with - in the veil hast

Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus out of
ceived Him, When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of
en - tered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest; Thou on earth both

ev - ery na - tion Hath re - deemed us by His blood.
 get His prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 Priest and Vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we, like prodigal children, have turned from you to the world's values. We asked for our inheritance now, so that we can live life on our terms. Forgive us for overlooking our friends and familial relationships for more things. Help us to love our neighbor and be your ambassadors in this world.

Time of Silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law *From Matthew 11*

Jesus says, come: "Come all you who are heavy burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

*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 *Please sing*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. 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 Reading *Psalm 46:1-7, pg. 450*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Jesus Is Calling

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

G C G

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh! For the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

A D G

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
 you and for me; though we have sinned he has

C G D7 G

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain D7 G D E7 A7 D7

Come home, come home, you who are wear - y, come home;
Come home, come home,

G C G D7 G

ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

Words: Will L. Thompson (1847-1909), P.D.
 Music (THOMPSON 11.7.11.7 refrain 4.7.11.7): Will L. Thompson (1847-1909), P.D.

Profession of Faith *Question and Answers 110 & 111 of the Heidelberg Catechism regarding the 10 commandments, specifically the eighth commandment, “Thou shall not steal.”*

Q. What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

A. God forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law. But in God’s sight, theft also includes all scheming and swindling in order to get our neighbor’s goods for ourselves... In addition, God forbids all greed and pointless squandering of his gifts.

Q. What does God require of you in this commandment?

A. That I do whatever I can for my neighbor’s good, that I treat others as I would like them to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.

Tithes & Offerings (If you are planning on giving a Consecration pledge today, please hold onto your envelopes for the Consecration Sunday Litany to follow.)

Offertory *“Softly & Tenderly Jesus is Calling”* setting by W. Held
Iteke Prins, organist

Consecration Sunday Litany

One: In the letter of James, we are reminded that,

All: “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.”

One: And so today, we remember the generous gifts you have bestowed on us.

All: And we respond to your generosity, O God, by being generous ourselves.

One: On this Consecration Sunday, we pledge to give back to you some of what you have so generously given to us:

All: Our time, talents, and tithes.

Congregants are invited to walk up and place their pledges on the communion table while music is being played. A prayer will then be given over the pledges and the next fiscal year.

***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 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 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord**

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A)(D)
 E^b B^b Cm A^b E^b B^b E^b

1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

(G) (Em) (A) (F[#]m) (Bm) (G) (Em)
 A^b Fm B^b Gm Cm A^b Fm

to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -
 if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -
 whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your
 in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) (D) (A7)(B) (Em) (G)(A7) (D)
 B^b7 E^b B^b7 C Fm A^b B^b7 E^b

stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

Note: Please proceed downstairs to Zimmerman Hall for fellowship and food.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Monica Marsh, Senior Elder

Organist: Iteke Prins

Musician: Doug Persons

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr



Prayer Concerns

- The Reohr Family
- The Pagerey Family
- Jason Shahid
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Becky Hudak
- 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
- Brian Brooks, Gayle W's brother
- Lloyd, father of Nikki Ballou
- Sally Higgins, friend of the Persons family
- Brian Zapel, friend of Dave Andrews
- Ronald Stockhoff.
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- For Mia and Wim Westman
- For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Norma McClement
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Mary Ann Selmer
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Jeff Curry
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath.
- An end to the war in Ukraine

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.

**THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY
ALONG WITH FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY
INVITE YOU TO A**

BLUE *Christmas* **Service**

Wednesday
December 14
6:30pm

A time of remembrance & hope in a season that is sometimes difficult.

We will also recognize those who have passed due to violence in Albany NY this year.



HAPPY
Thanksgiving!

This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 11.20 10am Consecration & Christ the King Sunday
Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom (Lunch after worship)
- Monday 11.21 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 11.22 12pm Adult Scripture Study
- Wednesday 11.23 9am No Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
- Thursday 11.24 Thanksgiving—Office Closed
11.25 Friday—Office Closed

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 12.1 7pm A Night of Worship
- Sunday 12.4 Meeting of the Joint Boards
immediately after worship (Parlor)
- Wednesday 12.14 6:30pm Blue Christmas Service

Meeting Schedules are subject to change.
Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.

GROUP & MINISTRY LEADERS, SEND US YOUR

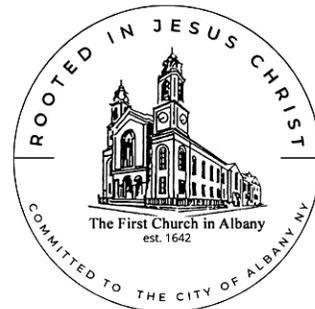
CALENDAR UPDATES

ONE-TIME EVENTS
OR RECURRING MEETINGS

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH YOUR
SCHEDULED GATHERINGS SO THAT WE CAN PUT
THEM ON THE CHURCH EVENT AND
OPERATIONAL CALENDARS.



EMAIL
OFFICE@FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG
OR CALL
518-463-4449



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