

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you



Sunday, November 21, 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-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost November 21, 2021

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

“Now Thank We All Our God”
Iteke Prins, organist

G.F. Kaufman

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.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship *Psalm 100*

Child 1: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Leader: Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before him with joyful songs.

ALL: Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Child 2: Enter his gates with thanksgiving And his courts with praise;

Leader: give thanks to him and praise his name.

ALL: For the Lord is good

and his love endures forever;

His faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100)

***Opening Hymn**

For the Fruit of All Creation

F B^b Gm C B^b2 C7 F

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

B^b Gm C B^b2 C7 F

For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

B^b Gm7

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and des - pair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

F B^b Gm C B^b2 C7 F

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

For a descant see 946

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, © 1970 Hope Publishing Company
Music (AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4): Welsh melody (c. 1784), P.D.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, how do we express thanks in a world that tells us we do not have enough and are not enough? Lord, forgive us for the times when we want to receive more and give less. Forgive us for the times we want others to listen to us but we will not listen to others. We confess that as Christians we often seek to consume more than we seek to contribute and live in gratitude.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: For God so loved the world He gave His only Son so that whosoever believes in Christ will not perish but have eternal life.

People: 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

Eternal God, your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and enlightens us to hear your Word fresh each day. Help us to rely always on your promises in Scripture. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Scripture

2 Samuel 23:1-7

¹ Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

² The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.

³ The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,

⁴ is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

⁵ Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

⁶ But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

⁷ to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

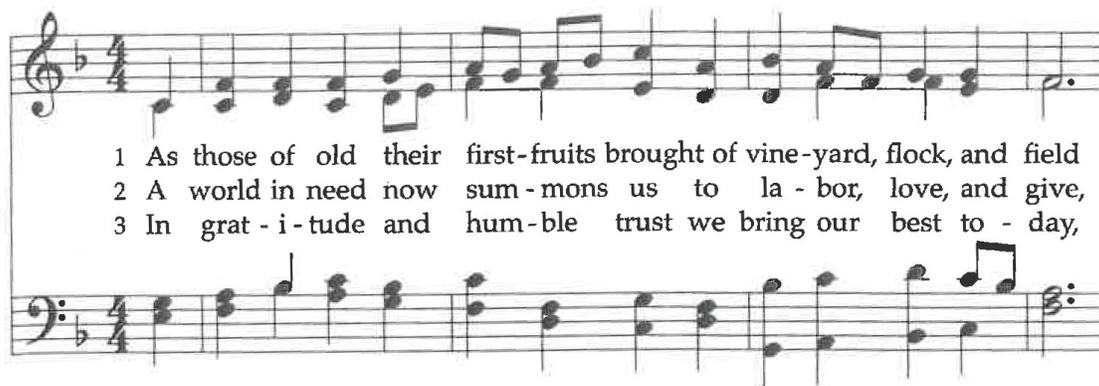
Thankful Living

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

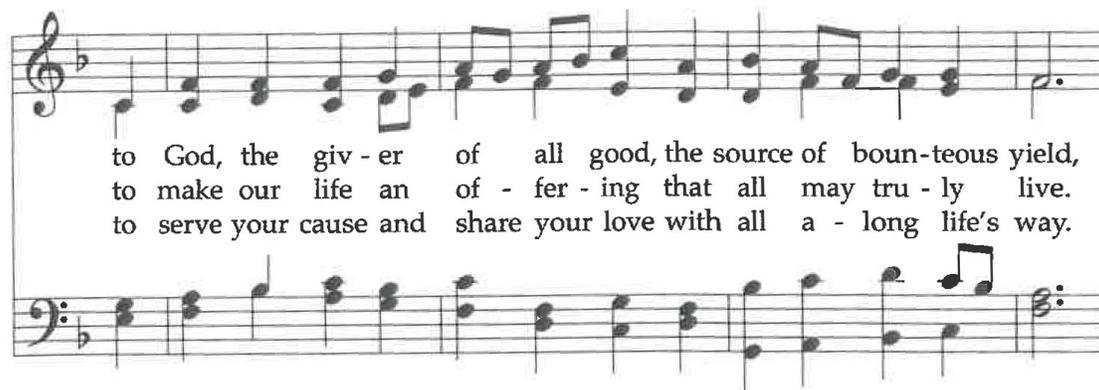
A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of
Response**

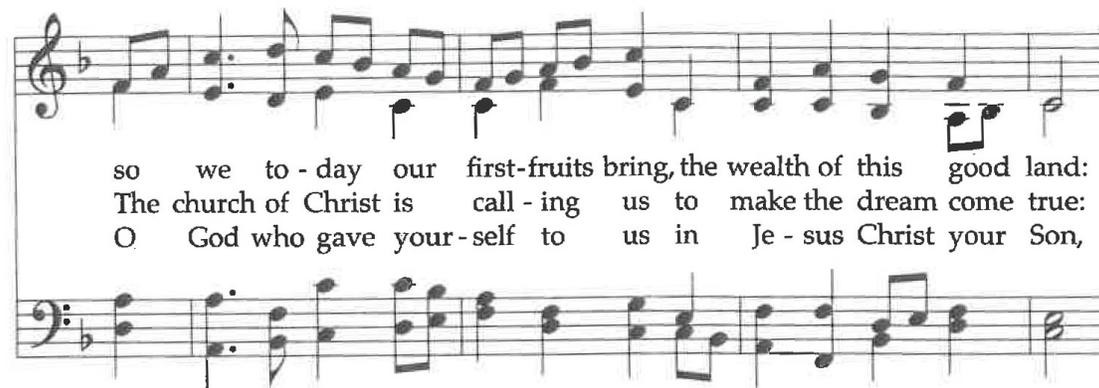
As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought



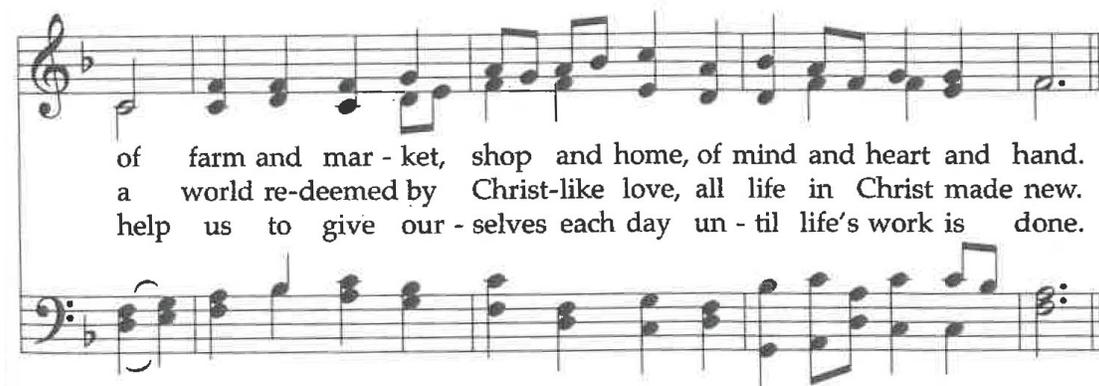
1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and give,
3 In grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to-day,



to God, the giv-er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of-fer-ing that all may tru-ly live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a-long life's way.



so we to-day our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
The church of Christ is call-ing us to make the dream come true:
O God who gave your-self to us in Je-sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar-ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
help us to give our-selves each day un-til life's work is done.

This text by a Presbyterian pastor in California expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger collected this tune in 1903.

TEXT: Frank von Christierson, 1960, alt.
MUSIC: English folk melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Text © 1961, ren.1989 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

FOREST GREEN
CMD

Offering & Offertory

*“Ar Hyd y Nos”
Iteke Prins, Organist*

Arr. A.V. Fedak

***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.**

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

Lead On, O King Eternal

C F/C C F/A G

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,

C F C G D7 G

hence - forth in fields of con - quest your tents will 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.

C7 F D7 G

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
For not with swords' loud clash - ing or roll of stir - ring drums—
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us, we jour - ney in its light;

C/E F C/G G7 C

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.

Words: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888, alt., P.D.
Music (LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6 D): Henry T. Smart, 1836, P.D.

***Charge & Blessing** *17th Century Puritan Sermon*

Please be gentle with yourself and others. We are all children of chance, And none can say why some fields blossom While others lay brown beneath the harvest sun. Take hope that your season will come. Share the joy of those whose season is at hand. Care for those around you. Look past your differences. Their dreams are no less than yours, Their choices in life, no more easily made. And give. Give in any way you can. Give in every way you can. Give whatever you possess. Give from your heart. To give is to love. To withhold is to wither. Care less for the size of your harvest than for how it is shared, And your life will have meaning And your heart will have peace. In Christ, Amen.

Postlude

*“LANCASHIRE”
Iteke Prins, organist*

Ann Slowins

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Monica Marsh

Guest Organist: Iteke Prins

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Today’s beautiful floral arrangements are dedicated to the loving memory of Wayne Sivaslian, a beloved member and trustee of the First Church in Albany, by his family, wife Monica and daughter Nicole.

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
- The homeless in our community as we enter this time of colder weather, and for outreach groups who seek to help the homeless.

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

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

