

# The First Church in Albany

# CHRIST THE KING

Sunday, November 24, 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.*

## Prelude Reflection *a haiku for Sunday*

Kingdoms rise and fall,  
Yet his truth remains steadfast:  
Christ, the one true King.

**Prelude**      *"Trio on ST. PETERSBURG" arr. A. Fedak*

## Tolling of Bell

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing Revelation**  
1:4b, 5

"Grace to you and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth." **Amen.**

## Call to Worship *for Christ the King Sunday*

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

Leader: Jesus said, "My kingdom is not from this world."

**People: His reign is truth; his power is love.**

Leader: Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

**People: We come to worship the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

Leader: Let every heart proclaim: Christ is King!

**People: Forever and ever, Christ reigns! Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn "Rejoice the Lord Is King" (see p.5)**

## Prayer of Confession

**Jesus, you once said, “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” We confess to not listening to you. We believe what we want to believe, and we order our lives around what we feel the truth is or should be. Correct us. Make us people who love the truth, even when it challenges us or proves us wrong. Shape us into a community that is defined by the truth—a community defined by you, “the way, the truth, and the life.” Amen.**

*Time of silence*

## Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Friends of Jesus, hear the good news for us today: Even when we fail to listen, Christ still calls out to us: “Follow me!” We will only come to know the freedom and truth of Christ if we follow him. So, follow Jesus—the truth—and He will set you free. Amen.

## \*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 with Christ’s peace.

## Prayer for Illumination

**Come, Holy Spirit; open our hearts to receive a word of truth, then set us free to follow in the power of Christ’s love. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Proverbs 8:22-31

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon Text

John 18:33-38a

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to you, O Christ!

**Sermon** "What is truth?"

**A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

**\*Hymn of Response** "The Church's One Foundation" (see p. 6)

**Stewardship Sunday** *various music*

Stewardship Sunday is a dedicated time to reflect on God's work at First Church and commit to partnering with God in the year ahead. We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge for 2025 and bring it forward to place on the communion table as a symbol of your commitment. (You can send in your pledge to the office this coming week, too.)

**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 Earth Is White with Snow and Ice" Grindal/Husberg  
*The First Church Choir*

**\*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** "With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring" (see p. 7)

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude** "Deck the Halls!" Willocks/Rutter

**Preacher:** Rev. Trey Tirpak  
**Liturgist:** Norma Jean Ballou  
**Organist:** Iteke Prins  
**Vocalist and/or specialist:** Choir  
**Audio/Visual:** Joshua Bliss and  
Stephen Reohr

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

**Note 1:** Please stay to help with the “hanging of the greens.” There is a potluck in Zimmerman Hall.

**Note 2:** Today at noon, join First Church members who are going to Westminster Presbyterian Church for FOCUS Churches of Albany’s “Thanks and Giving”! First Church will have its own booth.

If this season presents a bit of a challenge, we invite you to the

# Blue Christmas



11 DECEMBER, 2024  
WEDNESDAY, 7:00PM  
IN THE STEPHEN JAMES  
CHAPEL

SERVICE

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The First Church in Albany  
110 North Pearl St.  
Albany NY 12207  
518-463-4449



[firstchurchinalbany.org](http://firstchurchinalbany.org)



## Rejoice, the Lord Is King! 363

*Descant*

4 Re-joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!  
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
 4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.  
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.  
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.  
 and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re - joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.

## The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ her Lord.  
 2 E-lect from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has un-ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.  
 her char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,  
 she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more:  
 and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho-ly bride.  
 One ho-ly name she bless-es, par-takes one ho-ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi-sion glo-rious her long-ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap-py ones and ho-ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press-es, with ev-ery grace en-dued.  
 And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low-ly, may live e-ter-nal-ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

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# With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring

(Psalm 138)

1 With grate - ful heart my thanks I bring; be - fore the  
 2 I cried to you, and you did save; your word of  
 3 O Lord, en - throned in glo - ry bright, you reign a -  
 4 You will stretch forth your might - y arm to save me

"gods" your praise I sing. I wor - ship in your ho - ly  
 grace new cour - age gave. The kings of earth shall thank you,  
 lone in heaven - ly height; the proud in vain your fa - vor  
 when my foes a - larm. The work you have for me be -

place and praise you for your truth and grace; for truth and  
 Lord, for they have heard your won - drous word; yes, they shall  
 seek, but you have mer - cy for the meek. Through trou - ble  
 gun shall by your grace be ful - ly done. Your love for -

grace to - geth - er shine in your most ho - ly Word di - vine.  
 come with songs of praise for great and glo - rious are your ways.  
 though my path - way be, you will re - vive and strength - en me.  
 ev - er will en - dure: your mer - cy, Lord, is ev - er sure.

Though Psalm 138 is usually regarded as a personal song of thanksgiving, this paraphrase makes clear that it also deals with the theme of God’s sovereignty over would-be deities and over all human rulers. The fourth stanza shows that the psalm looks forward as well as backward.

TEXT: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909, alt.  
 MUSIC: Dimitri S. Bortniansky, 1825, alt.

ST. PETERSBURG  
 8.8.8.8.8





In partnership with 518 Albany SNUG and Toys for Tots, First Church will help provide toys and other gifts to area children this holiday season.

518 SNUG Albany is an anti-violence program aimed at reducing gun violence by using outreach workers to interrupt potentially violent situations; part of the Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region family of programs and services.



Please bring **NEW, UNWRAPPED** toys and gifts and place them beneath the tree in the Lobby outside of our Sanctuary. All gifts must be under the tree by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

# PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For Melanie, sister of Monica Marsh as she recovers from a fall. For Monica who has traveled to be with her sister.
- For Baby Stella who is home with her family, as she continues to grow stronger. For Kaitlyn Bliss and Victor, Stella's parents as they settle in with their new baby.
- For Rebecca Keller, Zaquan West, family and friends of Andy Mondore as they mourn his passing.
- For the congregation of Elijah Missionary Church of Albany after a devastating fire.
- For the family and friends of The Rev. Dr. Robert A. White. Rev. White was a very active minister and educator with the RCA, who also served locally.
- The Rev. Leroy Koopman, minister, author, lifelong learner via HASP, active in music and theater in Holland MI.
- The Rev. Carlton Bruce Wierks, active in the RCA in many varied roles.
- For the Johnson family, mother of three who passed. Prayers for children and grandchildren.
- For Mark, the cousin of a pantry guest, and his family
- For the Lloyd family for the passing of Donald
- Stephen Giguere, Virginia's husband, diagnosed with cancer
- Shawn Giguere, Virginia's son, with a health diagnosis
- David Allen, recovering from emergency surgery
- Teresa Wheeler's grandmother Cindy, with health concerns
- Donna Jones
- Michelle Williams
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Carol LaBatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- 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.
- For government officials at all levels as we move forward into the new year.

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



## Advent in Narnia

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON



### Advent Devotional Book & Discussion Times

This Advent (Dec. 1-24), join me in reading a daily devotional book or come to our special Second Hour discussions based on the book "Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season" by the Rev. Heidi Haverkamp. Drawing from the beloved, fictional world of Narnia, this devotional invites us to reflect on the powerful themes of hope, redemption, and transformation as we await the coming of Christ.

#### How to Participate:

**Sign Up for Your Copy of the Book:** Sign up to receive your copy of *Advent in Narnia*, and immerse yourself in daily reflections that link the magic and imagery of C.S. Lewis's Narnia with the themes of Advent.

#### Join the Discussions:

On December 1, 15, and 22, we will gather after worship for special **Second Hour** discussions in the Stephen James Chapel—there may even be a magical lamp post! Together, we will explore how Narnia's world, with its deep themes of winter waiting and the triumph of light over darkness, mirrors our own Advent journey as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

Let's grow together in hope, anticipation, and faith as we await the coming of Christ.

Rev. Trey

<https://www.amazon.com/Advent-Narnia-Reflections-Heidi-Haverkamp/dp/0664261795>

## We need cookies for Wassail Hour

Christmas Eve will be here before you know it. One of our favorite traditions on Christmas Eve is our Wassail Hour after worship.

We need you!

We are calling out to all our First Church Bakers!!! Please consider baking 2 - 4 dozen of your favorite cookie recipes to share. More details about drop-off times and dates to follow.

Please let Monica Marsh know what you are bringing to Wassail Hour. Call her at 518-265-7621

## Centering PRAYER

Each Wednesday  
at noon

Open to all



[firstchurchinalbany.org](http://firstchurchinalbany.org)

If this season presents a bit of  
challenge, we invite you to the

# Blue Christmas

SERVICE

WITH FCIA & FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY

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11 DECEMBER, 2024

WEDNESDAY, 7:00PM  
IN THE STEPHEN JAMES  
CHAPEL

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# December



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>Worship 10am</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>2nd HOUR</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>New Day Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11:30am</p> <p>BIBLE Zoom Study 1:00pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Soup &amp; Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p>12pm</p> <p>Weather vanes 12:30pm</p> <p>BIBLE Zoom Study 7:30pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Downtown Hot Chocolate Stroll 11am-3pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 10am</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>Deadline for Toys for Tots Joint Boards Mtg</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>BIBLE Zoom Study 1:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Boutique at 1st 9am</p> <p>Soup &amp; Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p>12pm</p> <p>Blue Christmas 7pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 10am</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>2nd HOUR</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Boutique at 1st 9am</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>BIBLE Zoom Study 1:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Soup &amp; Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p>12pm</p> <p>BIBLE Zoom Study 7:30pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 10am</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>2nd HOUR</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pantry Closed</p> <p>Brass Quartet 6:30 pm</p> <p>Christmas Eve 7pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 10am</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p>January 1</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p> <p>Office Closed</p>			

Key:



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



## NOV. & DEC. 2024

**MON**      **BUDGET MTG.**      **10 AM**  
**25**

**TUE**      **PANTRY**      **9 AM**  
**26**      **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**      **1 PM**

**WED**  **SOUP & SANDWICHES** **11:30PM**  
**27**      **CENTERING PRAYER**      **12 PM**  
      **AA MEETING**      **12 PM**

**THU**      **THANKSGIVING**  
**28**      **PANTRY & OFFICE**  
      **CLOSED**

**FRI**      **OFFICE CLOSED**  
**29**



## DECEMBER

**SUN**      **WORSHIP**      **10 AM**  
**1**      **FIRSTKIDS (FORMERLY 9UP)**  
      **2ND HOUR AFTER WORSHIP**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT  
[WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG)



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