



The First Church in Albany
Welcomes you

Hope

First Week of Advent
November 27, 2022
10am Worship Service

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.



First Sunday of Advent (Hope) November 27, 2022

* = rise in body or in spirit

Prelude Reflection *Rev. Alexander Arthurs in his Advent Devotional "The Joy of Every Longing Heart"*

“Advent is a season of hope. Hope is equal parts memory and expectation; one part remembering, one part anticipating. During Advent, we look back on all that God has done, and we look forward, knowing what He has done, He continues to do, He will one day bring to a consummate end.”

Prelude

Pastoral Overture and Comfort Ye!
Glenn Claydon, soloist, Iteke Prins, organist

G.F. Handel

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

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” **Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting The Candle of Hope

***Advent Anthem**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART 8.7.8.7

Charles Wesley, 1744

Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715; alt.

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Call to Worship & Opening Hymn

Each Sunday in Advent, our Call to Worship, which is usually based on the lectionary Psalm, will be a responsorial Advent Psalm. This will also serve as our Opening Hymn. Sing out!

Psalm 122 | A Responsorial Setting

- refrain* ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
 “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- ² Now our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city
 that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD. *refrain*
- ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
 the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 “May they prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls
 and quietness within your towers.
- ⁸ For the sake of my kindred and companions,
 I pray for your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
 I will seek to do you good.” *refrain*

May be sung in canon

Do - na, do - na, do - na no - bis pa - cem!

For “Grant Us Peace” in Latin

Prayer of Confession

Triune God, as we enter this season of Advent — a season of hope — make us a community whose longings align with yours. Send your Holy Spirit to transform what we selfishly want for our lives, our church, and our world to be what you want. Move us from what is trite to what is true, from arrogance to meekness, from the pursuit of fleeting happiness to accepting the enduring joy that only comes from you.

Time of Silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law *Based on Psalm 16*

St. Augustine reminds us that our hearts are restless — our longings are misplaced and won't satisfy — until our hearts rest in God. For as the psalmist says, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you... you are my chosen portion... You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

*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 9up Advent Art Presentation

Prayer for Illumination *by Rev. Andy James*

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.



Scripture Reading Isaiah 2:1-5, p. 550 in the pew bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.” For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

We Long, Therefore We Are

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

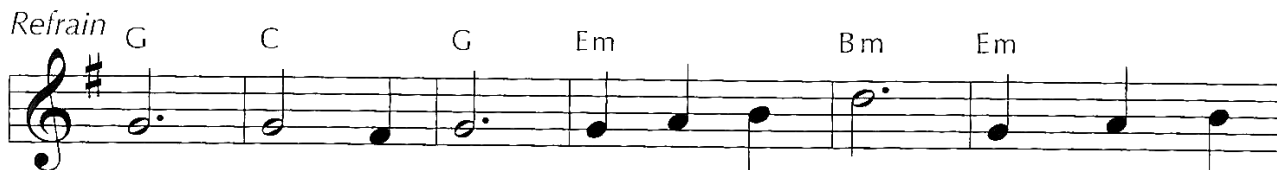
Christ, Be Our Light

The musical notation is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Em, Am7, Bm7, Esus, Em, Am7, Bm7, Esus, Em, Am7.

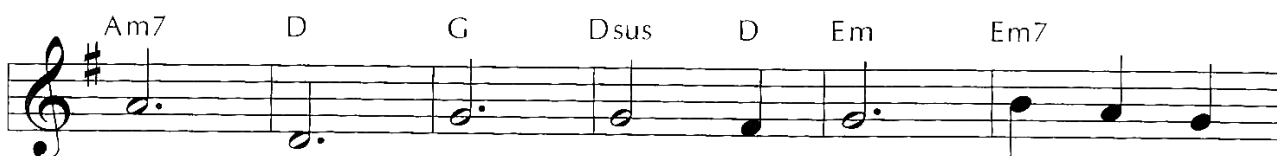
1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Profession of Faith *Point One of Section Three of the Belhar Confession*

We believe,
that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ,
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the
world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the
church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the
new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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

“From Heaven to Earth I Come”
Iteke Prins, organist

F.W. Zachau

***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 Of the Father's Love Begotten**

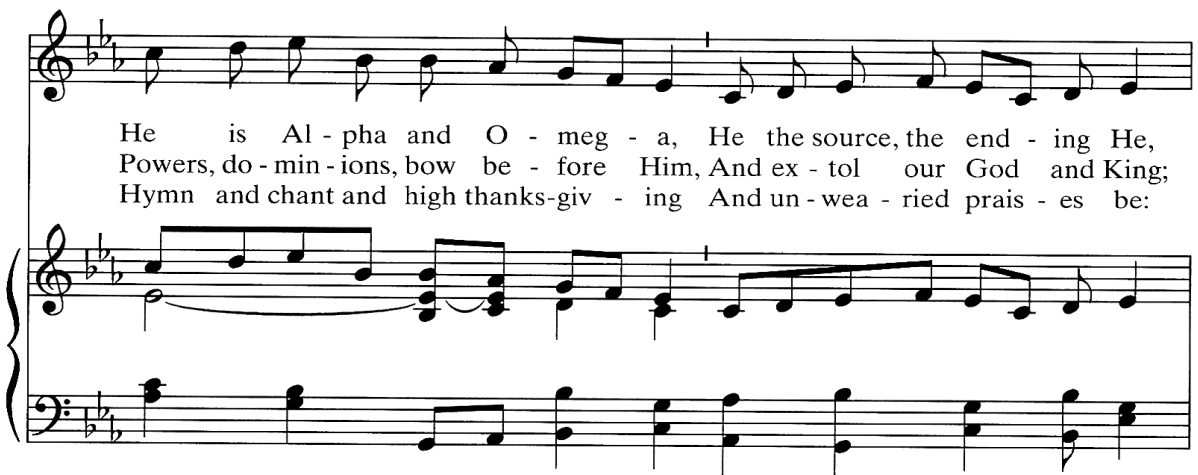
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–413)
Trans. John Mason Neale, 1854,
and Henry Williams Baker, 1859

Plainsong, Mode V
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. O ye heights of heaven a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His prais - es sing;
3. Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - meg - a, He the source, the end - ing He,
Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him, And ex - tol our God and King;
Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - wea - ried prais - es be:

Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Music: © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund. Used by permission.

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

“Break Forth, O Beauteus Morning Light”
 Iteke Prins, organist

J.S. Bach

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Cameron Carley

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

Prayer Concerns

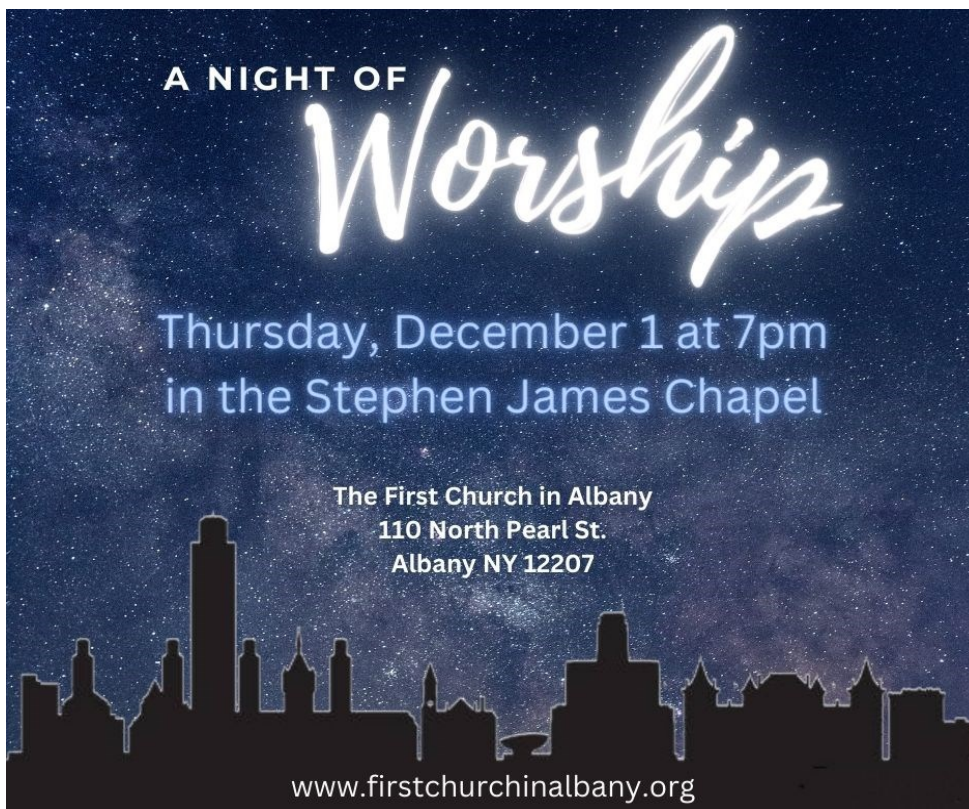
- The Reohr Family
- Jason Shahid
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Becky Hudak
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley - Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Brian Brooks, Gayle W's brother
- Lloyd, father 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.

A NIGHT OF
Worships
Thursday, December 1 at 7pm
in the Stephen James Chapel

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

www.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.





Children & Worship

Upcoming Stories

- 11/27 **The Ten Best Ways to Live** *Miss Kathie*
- 12/4 **Advent: The Prophets** *Miss Sara*
 Show the Way; Mary and
 Joseph Show the Way
- 12/11 **Advent: The Shepherds** *Miss Sara*
 Show the Way; The Magi
 Show the Way
- 12/18 **Christmas: Meeting the** *Miss Sara*
 Christ Child



2022 Fall Schedule

9up is our ministry to First Church Kids who are 9years and older.

- Nov.** 20, 10am
- 27
- Dec.** 4, 10am
- 11, 10am
- 18, 11am
- 25, 10am

Art & Worship, with Miss Kathleen, 2nd floor classroom, and be prepared to help set up the Sanctuary for Advent (after worship).

Off for Thanksgiving weekend

Advent creation presentation in worship

Art & Worship, with Miss Kathleen, 2nd floor classroom

Art & Worship, with Miss Kathleen, 2nd floor classroom

Pajamas & Worship

This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 11.27 10am Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
- Monday 11.28 9am Food Pantry
- Tuesday 11.29 10 am Funeral for Jay Reohr
12pm Adult Scripture Study canceled for this date
- Wednesday 11.30 9am No Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
- Thursday 12.1 11:30am Free Soup in the Park
7pm A Night of Worship

Upcoming Events

- 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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