



**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 today's worship*

All saints we revere,
Their spirits, forever near,
In grace, we hold dear.

Prelude

"Dance of the Blessed Spirits"

H. von Bülow

Tolling of Bell: *Bell tolled by children of First Church*

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *John 6:40*

Jesus says: "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I myself will raise them up on the last day."

Call to Worship *Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1990, The House of Faith*

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

Leader: The house of faith has many rooms where we have never been;
there is more space within God's scope than we have ever seen.

**People: We dare not limit God's domain to what our creeds declare or
shrink from probing things unknown lest God should not be there.**

Leader: The way to God is not escape, though truth does make us free: the
life of chosen servanthood is perfect liberty.

**People: Yet still we seek at journey's end the last and sweetest grace:
the gift of room to turn around and know God face to face.**

***Opening Hymn** *"Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven"* (see insert)

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, we long for that day when our bodies are raised, and you wipe
away our tears—where there will be no more death or mourning or pain;
that day when we all will fully dwell in the light of your presence. On this
All Saints Sunday, help us to mourn and even mourn with intention: to
cry, to remember the good, to learn from mistakes, to be inspired, and
to do these things together. Send your Holy Spirit to grieve with us and
lead us into the comfort of your presence and the communion of all the
saints. Amen.**

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins.
Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we
have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. *But, in fact,*
Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.
For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also
come through a human, for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in
Christ."

Indeed, because he is risen, all will be made alive in Christ, so we proclaim
with Christians throughout the centuries the final stanza of the *Apostle's
Creed*:

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***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 words adapted from African American Spiritual

Steal away. Steal away to Jesus. Steal away home. My Lord calls me by the thunder. The trumpet sounds way down in my sanctified soul. It's time to steal away to Jesus. I don't have long to be here.

Scripture Reading 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *To Dream an Impossible Dream*

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** "Come, Let Us Dream " (see insert)

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 "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" arr. H. von Bülow

***Doxology**

**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.**

Hymn of Remembrance "For All The Saints" (see insert)

Necrology: Reading of the names of our saints by an elder; a bell will toll between each name....

Grace Baker	Karen Mickel	Barbara Walter
Ed Baskerville	Paul & Ella Miller	Wim Westman
Jerome F. Bone	Paul Jr. & Jason Miller	Jack Wilfore
Asunta "Sue" Brennan	Fred & Ruth Ming	Carol "Peggy" Carter (C)
Mildred A. Cooper	Jay Reohr	NoVel Carter (C)
Stephen Hoffman	Kimberly Rossi	(C) signifies community
Dennis Kernahan	Janice Rowell	persons that we adopted
Nathanael Marbel	Mary Ann Selmer	
Ronald Mickel	Harriet Stockhoff	

Then an elder will continue by leading the congregation in the prayer litany below.

Merciful God, we praise you for these departed family, friends, and loved ones. They were gifts from you, and through them you enriched our lives. Into your hands we have committed their spirits. Comfort us with the strong hope of the resurrection, and when our race is run, bring us to be with them in the light of your eternal presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

One: We remember you, God of Hope. We Remember...

All: The supreme love of Jesus,

One: the blessing of Christ's Spirit,

All: the sharing of Jesus' suffering: the glory of Christ's resurrection: the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.

One: Our sure and certain hope that nothing can separate those who love you from your Almighty and Everlasting Arms.

ALL: We give thanks for these your saints and their love. We give thanks for these good companions, our partners in the gospel. Give us grace to follow them as they followed Christ.

Passing the Peace Before Communion

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body." *Colossians 3:15*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Communion Hymn *"Come To The Table of Grace"* (see insert)

Celebration of the Lord's Supper (see communion insert)

***Sending Hymn** *Amazing Grace* (see insert)

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude *"Litany"* arr. F. Liszt

*We wish each of you a blessed
week, until we meet again.*

Minister: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston
Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak
Consistory Chaplain of the Day: TBD
Pianist: Eugene Sit
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

This week's chancel flowers
are given by Joeanna Brown,
in honor of all of her children.

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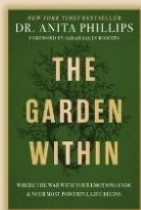
Opportunities for Christian Spiritual Practice and Soul Development

- Today: After coffee time, come to a discussion about the communion of saints in the Parlor with Rev. Trey.
- 1st Thursday Night Worship each month. 6pm potluck and fellowship. 7pm worship.

- 2nd and 3rd
Thursday night
Pastor Bible
Study (on Zoom
& Podcast). Link
is on the church
website. For the
month of
November we
delve into the NY
Times bestseller:
***The Garden
Within*** by Dr Anita
Phillips.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY 2ND & 3RD THURSDAYS AT 7PM

With Sr. Minister of First Church, Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston,
via zoom & podcast



"Join me in kicking this ministry off on Thursday, November 9th, and 16th on Zoom. **Red Alert:** This bible study is for the emotionally mature and adventurous. Many of your beliefs may be challenged. Some ideas presented may make you uncomfortable. To that, I say to God be the glory!!!

The overall structure is the braiding of three disciplines like three strands of hair. The three strands include theology, psychology, and science. My prayer is that this bible study nourishes you holistically. May better meet the world we live in today. At a minimum, I hope it gives you pause to reflect on your beliefs. Please note there will be times when we pause to examine branches of colonialism, sexism, racism, xenophobia, and whatever else may be rooted in the hate.

Please join me on November 9, 2024, at 7 p.m. by clicking on the Zoom link found on the www.firstchurchinalbany.org website.

- Wednesdays... Centering Prayer at 12noon in Powell room.
- Tuesdays... Online Bible Study please see Ian Leet
- 9Up: a ministry of Christian teaching for children through art. Every Sunday except 1st.

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

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

- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Yono Purnomo, chef at neighbor Yono's Restaurant, on Sheridan and Chapel, awaiting a kidney for transplant
- Dave and Barb Andrews and Donna Jones, for the passing of close friend Barbara Walter. For Ms. Walter's other friends and family, especially partner Sam Yang.
- Avery Bradley, granddaughter of Marilyn and David, an athlete recovering from a leg injury that required surgery
- Norma McClement
- From our pantry family, Maureen Jackson and her brother Maurice, both dealing with health issues
- Family of Gillian Persons and for her sister Sylvia
- For Shirley Mockel, good friend of Marilyn Bradley, with health concerns.
- Kathleen Claydon
- Doug Plummer, friend of the Bradley family, as he begins treatment for health concerns
- Becky Gardner
- Virginia Giguere and family as they mourn the passing of an uncle and a cousin
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering
- Carol LaBatte
- Sharnelle Jones
- Joeanna Brown
- Family of Norma Jean Ballou
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- 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
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- Prayers for the community of Lewiston, Maine following a shooting there this week. For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.

Join Us for This Week's Events

SUN NOV. 5

- 10am: All Saints Sunday Worship (also on Zoom and YouTube), See our website for links to worship info.

MON 6

- 9am: Food Pantry at Orange St. Door
- 11:30am: Prayer Shawl Mtg. in Powell Rm.

TUE 7

- Election Day - FCIA is a polling place
- Noon: Adult Book Study on Zoom



Scan for full event calendar

WED

8

- 9am: Food Pantry at Orange St. Door
- Noon: Centering Prayer (Powell), AA Mtg (Parlor)

THU

9

- 11:30am: Soup & Sammies in the Park
- 7pm: Zoom Bible Study (see website)

FRI

10

- Veterans' Day Observed
 - Office will be closed to observe holiday



Worship now streaming live on YouTube.

2023 NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 Nov. 5 @ 2am Clocks back 1 hr			1	2  Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship <i>G</i>	3	4
5  Communion Sunday All Saints Sunday <i>M</i>	6  Prayer Shawl Meeting	7  Polling Place	8  AA	9  Zoom Bible Study 7pm	10 Veteran's Day observed Office Closed	11 Veteran's Day
12  Pack Thanks- giving bags <i>T</i>	13 	14  Thanksgiving Bag Day	15  AA  Weathervanes	16  Zoom Bible Study 7pm	17	18 Advent Decoration TBD
19  Consecration Sunday Advent Decoration 1 <i>T</i>	20 	21 	22  AA	23  Thanksgiving Day, Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26  Advent Decoration 2 <i>M</i>	27 	28 	29  AA	30 		

Key:



Indoor
Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



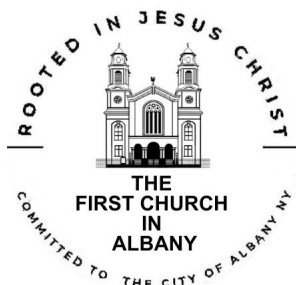
Book
Study



Soup &
PB&J
11:30am

Preacher: *M* Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

T Rev. Trey Tirpak *G* Guest



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.

Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be

feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

Come, Let Us Dream

(Harmonization may be found in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, no. 408.)

1. Come, let us dream _____ God's dream a - gain. _____
2. The lame shall walk, _____ the blind shall see, _____
3. When ha - tred ends _____ and war shall cease, _____

_____ Come, one and all, _____ let us as - cend _____
_____ the doors swing wide, _____ all pri - soners free, _____
_____ so all may dwell _____ in deep - est peace, _____

_____ the moun - tain - top _____ where those of _____ old _____
_____ the low - ly raised, _____ the proud brought low. _____
_____ then be as - sured _____ the time is _____ near _____

_____ saw God's new day _____ on earth un - fold. _____
_____ This is God's dream: _____ let jus - tice _____ flow. _____
_____ when per - fect love _____ casts out all _____ fear. _____

WORDS: John Middleton, 2004
MUSIC: Trad. English melody

GIFT OF LOVE
LM

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For All the Saints

Unison

G C D7 G

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!

A D2 G A7 D

who thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed,
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine;

G C G D

thy name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou in the dark - ness drear their one true light.
 yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

G7 C G Em Am Dsus D7 G

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: William W. How, 1864, alt., P.D.

Music (SINE NOMINE 10.10.10 with alleluias): Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, P.D.

Come to the Table of Grace

Capo 3: (D) (A) (Bm) (D7/A) (G)
F C Dm F7/C B \flat

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

(A) (D) (A) (D) (Em)
C F C F Gm

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) (G) (D/A) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
F/A B \flat F/C C7 F B \flat F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

The simple, formulaic nature of this song makes it especially suitable for use during the communion portion of the Lord's Supper. Because it can be learned readily and does not require reference to a printed source, it frees people to sing before and after receiving the elements.



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY &
FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY
WELCOME YOU TO

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 13th, 7:00pm

Keynote Speaker: Rev. William Lynn Hamilton
Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Schenectady



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



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