

Sunday, November 7, 2021, 10am

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you



All Saints' 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.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost **All Saints Sunday—November 7, 2021**

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

“Sine Nomine”

V. Williams

Iteke Prins, organist and Doug Persons, trumpet

Welcome, Announcements & Blessing

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Call to Worship *Based on Revelation 7:9-12, where John sees all those who have gone before us and will come behind us gathered to worship Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.*

Leader: I looked up, and there was a great crowd that no one could number.

People: They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Leader: They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

People: They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

Leader: And they cried out with a loud voice:

People: Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Leader: Let us worship this Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has conquered death by his resurrection, and has promised to raise from the dead all those who abide in Love!

*Opening Hymn

For All the Saints (v. 1 & 3)

Unison G C D7 G

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
 3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!

A D2 G A7 D

who thee by faith before the world confessed,
 thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
 We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;

G C G D

thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
 thou in the darkness 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!

4 And when the strife is fierce,
 the warfare long,
 steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
 and hearts are brave again,
 and arms are strong.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

5 From earth's wide bounds,
 from ocean's farthest coast,
 through gates of pearl
 streams in the countless host,
 singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
 Alleluia, alleluia!

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

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

Prayer of Confession *(a prayer inspired by Rev. Lucus Keppel)*

God who is known by all the saints who have gone before us, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us to love, nor do we allow ourselves to receive love when we need to receive love. In our anguish and grief, we turn from you when we need to turn towards you. Send your Holy Spirit to embrace us. Comfort us as we mourn the passing of the saints that we know, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence, embraced in your abiding love.

Assurance of Pardon *(Based on John 20)*

Friends of Jesus, the good news is this: When Mary Magdalene, a follower of Jesus, went to the tomb where Jesus was laid to rest, she did not find him there. And so, in her anguish and grief, when she turned around and saw a man standing there, she thought he was the gardener. But, it was Jesus, and recognizing her emotional state he calls her by her name and gives her a hug. That very same Jesus, when you are in a state like Mary's, calls you by your name, and finds a way to embrace you with his love. Live in that peace.

Prayer of Blessing & Message for the Children

Prayer of Illumination

God who has spoken to generation after generation, speak to us now. Open our ears so we may hear what you have to say, and empower us to “go and do as you have said.” Amen.

Scripture

1 Kings 17:8-16

“⁸Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.

¹⁴For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

More Than Enough

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Sermon Notes

Trouble in the text:

Trouble in our world:

God in the text:

God in our world:

Ways that God is moving in me:

***Hymn of Response (v. 1 & 4)**

May God Support You All Your Days

(Psalm 20)

1 May God sup - port you all your days, in times of
2 May God con - firm your heart's de - sire and bring to
3 May God be near you when you pray, to help you
4 Our hope is in the Ho - ly One. The swift and

glad - ness and in need. May God re - mem - ber you with
full - ness all your plans. May God's sus - tain - ing love in -
with a gen - tle hand. May God for - ev - er guide your
strong will sure - ly fall, but you will stand with God a -

grace and bless your ev - ery word and deed.
spire your shouts of praise and joy - ful dance.
way and lead you to the prom - ised land.
lone, who hears and an - swers when you call.

This text is loosely based on Psalm 20, the first of the psalms for the welfare of the king in battle. This royal psalm is here adapted as a sung blessing and prayer for those setting out on any new venture, making it appropriate for ordinations, weddings, or other such services.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: Lee Hastings Bristol Jr., 1962
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)
Music © 1962 Theodore Presser Co. (admin. Carl Fischer, Inc.)

DICKINSON COLLEGE
LM

***Hymn of Response (v. 1 & 4)**

May God Support You All Your Days

(Psalm 20)

1 May God sup - port you all your days, in times of
2 May God con - firm your heart's de - sire and bring to
3 May God be near you when you pray, to help you
4 Our hope is in the Ho - ly One. The swift and

glad - ness and in need. May God re - mem - ber you with
full - ness all your plans. May God's sus - tain - ing love in -
with a gen - tle hand. May God for - ev - er guide your
strong will sure - ly fall, but you will stand with God a -

grace and bless your ev - ery word and deed.
spire your shouts of praise and joy - ful dance.
way and lead you to the prom - ised land.
lone, who hears and an - swers when you call.

This text is loosely based on Psalm 20, the first of the psalms for the welfare of the king in battle. This royal psalm is here adapted as a sung blessing and prayer for those setting out on any new venture, making it appropriate for ordinations, weddings, or other such services.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: Lee Hastings Bristol Jr., 1962
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)
Music © 1962 Theodore Presser Co. (admin. Carl Fischer, Inc.)

DICKINSON COLLEGE
LM

¹⁴For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.” ¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

More Than Enough

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Sermon Notes

Trouble in the text:

Trouble in our world:

God in the text:

God in our world:

Ways that God is moving in me:

Prayer of Confession *(a prayer inspired by Rev. Lucus Keppel)*

God who is known by all the saints who have gone before us, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us to love, nor do we allow ourselves to receive love when we need to receive love. In our anguish and grief, we turn from you when we need to turn towards you. Send your Holy Spirit to embrace us. Comfort us as we mourn the passing of the saints that we know, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence, embraced in your abiding love.

Assurance of Pardon *(Based on John 20)*

Friends of Jesus, the good news is this: When Mary Magdalene, a follower of Jesus, went to the tomb where Jesus was laid to rest, she did not find him there. And so, in her anguish and grief, when she turned around and saw a man standing there, she thought he was the gardener. But, it was Jesus, and recognizing her emotional state he calls her by her name and gives her a hug. That very same Jesus, when you are in a state like Mary's, calls you by your name, and finds a way to embrace you with his love. Live in that peace.

Prayer of Blessing & Message for the Children

Prayer of Illumination

God who has spoken to generation after generation, speak to us now. Open our ears so we may hear what you have to say, and empower us to “go and do as you have said.” Amen.

Scripture

1 Kings 17:8-16

“⁸Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ⁹Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

“Celebrate Life”

Buryl Red

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Iteke Prins

Musician: Doug Persons, trumpet

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689



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
- Charlene Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- 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
- Our government officials, first responders and health care workers as we continue to manage the Covid-19 pandemic
- Countries like Haiti, recovering from natural disasters, and Afghanistan, dealing with political upheaval. For these and others, we pray for the humanitarian crises that accompany uncertainty and strife.
- Staff and Leaders of The First Church in Albany

*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*

