

The First Church in Albany

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 10am

Hymnsing

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 "Reflections on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM" I. Prins

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing 1 John 4:7-10

God who gives birth to the new heaven and the new earth, midwife in me your love made flesh for others as I live in your world today. Amen.

Call to Worship

Votum: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. **Amen.**

Praise the Lord!

Praise God from the heavens.

Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.

Alleluia!

Hymn

Call to Confession

**Jesus our Lord came into an indifferent world,
Yet his life revealed the inner thoughts of many.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another
That we may receive release from our sin.**

Pause for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Children of God,
It is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners. Jesus is Savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that will save us. Declare with me the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***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.**

Prayers of the People

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.**

Hymn

Charge & Blessing

Postlude

Note: Join us in Zimmerman Hall after the service for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Have a blessed week!

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist:

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: The team is taking a much
deserved holiday.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

DEC. & JAN.
2024

TUE **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
31 **PANTRY** **9AM**
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

JANUARY 2025

WED **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
1 **OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**
SOUP & SANDWICHES IN **11:30AM**
THE PARK

THU **PANTRY** **9AM**
2

SUN **WORSHIP - IN THE CHAPEL** **10AM**
5 **COMMUNION SUNDAY**

BEGINNINGS AT 9AM IS ON HIATUS FOR JANUARY

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org



PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For Kathleen Claydon, recovering from a broken leg after a fall.
- For the families of the two children who tragically passed after falling through the ice at Washington Park. For the first responders who worked valiantly to save them.
- 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, home with her family, as she grows stronger. For Kaitlyn Bliss and Victor, Stella's parents as they settle in with their new baby.
- For the Johnson family, mother of three who passed. Prayers for children and grandchildren.
- 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 or call the office at 518-463-4449

Our prayer for a new year: As a church community, our family that is First Church, we pray for the realization of God's plans for this congregation as we enter a new year. For our leaders, staff, volunteers and all members and attendees, may 2025 bring spiritual growth, new faces, baptisms, new methods of outreach and the strengthening of all our ministries. May we be of good use to the city of Albany, the world and to one another as we proclaim the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

