

The First Church in Albany

*Welcomes you*

They are like  
trees planted by  
streams of water,  
which yield their  
fruit in its season,  
and their leaves  
do not wither. In  
all that they do,  
they prosper.

Psalm 1:3

**The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 13, 2022, 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.*

## **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

February 13, 2022

### **We Gather in the Presence of God**

#### **Prelude**

*"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"*  
*Martha Deyo, pianist*

A. Williams

### **Welcome, Announcements & Blessing**

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

### **Call to Worship** *Based on today's Lectionary: Psalm 1*

**Leader:** Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

**People:** They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

**Leader:** The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it?

**I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.**

# \*Opening Hymn Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine

D G D A

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance: Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore - taste of  
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of \*rap - ture now  
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion: all is at rest, I in my Sav - ior am

E7 A D G D

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his  
 burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove echo - es of  
 hap - py and blest; watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his

G Em A7 D Refrain G

Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry, this is my  
 good - ness, lost in his love.

D G A/E A A7

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my

D G D G Em A7 D

sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

\*Used here in the sense of glory, ecstatic joy

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873, P.D.

## Prayer of Confession

Leader: The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed.

Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness:

the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily;

the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom;  
the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it;

the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters;

Let us make our confession together,

**Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are creatures who either through foolishness or pride often choose darkness instead of light.**

**Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.**

**Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: “Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.”  
Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!**

—Prayers by Bruce Prewer

*(If you would like to offer a prayer of confession,  
please submit to one of the pastors)*

## Assurance of Pardon

My friends, Epiphany is good news!

The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us.

Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.

In his name I declare to you: Yours sins are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving,  
and live without shame or anxiety.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ enables us. 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**

**Spirit of the Living God, light our path today and everyday.**

### **Sermon Text**

Psalm 1

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.  
They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

*Why People Don't Heal and How They Can*

### **A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

# \*Song of Response Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

A7 D A D G A7 D

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my \*Eb-en - e - zer; hith-er by thy help I've come;  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

A7 D A D G A7 D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let that grace now like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee:

A7 D G D A7 D G D

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

A7 D A D G A7 D

Praise the mount—I'm fixed up - on it—mount of God's un-chang-ing love.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre - cious blood.  
 here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

\* "Then Samuel took a stone . . . called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us'" (1 Sam. 7:12)

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt., P.D.

Music (NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D): J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813, P.D.

**Offering & Offertory**

*“Yours Is the Kingdom”  
Martha Deyo, pianist*

C. Berry

*You may also mail your offering to the church at First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207.*

**\*Doxology #592**

**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**

Leader: O Lord,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

THE WORDS HE TAUGHT US

# *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 Song

God of Grace and God of Glory

v. 1,3, & 4

F C F B<sup>b</sup> F C7 F

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple pour your power;  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as - sail his ways!  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to your con - trol;  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

C F Gm7/B<sup>b</sup> F/C C F

crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry, bring its bud to glo - rious flower.  
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.  
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
 let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

C7 F

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age for the fac - ing of this  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age for the liv - ing of these  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss your king - dom's  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing you whom we a -

C7 F Gm7/B<sup>b</sup> F/C C F

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

For an alternate arrangement see 43

Words: Harry E. Fosdick (1930), alt., P.D.

Music (CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7): John Hughes, 1907; harm. Henry V. Gerike (b. 1948) © 1969

Concordia Publishing House

## \*Charge & Blessing

### Postlude

*“Almighty, Unchangeable God”  
Martha Deyo, pianist*

C. Berry

### Worship Leadership:

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Liturgist:** Ian Leet

**Guest Pianist:** Martha Deyo

**Vocalist:** Members of the First Church Choir

**Technical Team:** Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

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- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, friends of the Andrews
- For Katherine’s grandmother
- For the friends and family of Nat Phipps (of the Nat Phipps Jazz Trio) at his passing
- Carol LaBatte
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger’s parents
- Peter, Karen Van Epps’ brother
- Charnelle Jones
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Samuel, Barb Andrew’s son
- Brian, the Andrew’s son-in-law
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Fran Carr Morton
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Gwen, friend of Becky Gardner
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- The city officials and police in Albany and surrounding areas as they work on ways to curb gun violence.

*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](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org)*



**SOUP IN**  
*Glee Park*  
**THURSDAY**  
**11:30AM-12:30PM**  
**FREE SOUP**  
**LUNCH**

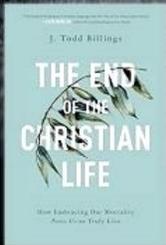
***Volunteers needed!** On Sunday, there will be a volunteer sign up sheet in the work room, near the copier. We need help setting up, serving, welcoming our guests and cleaning up. Soup has been planned and will be prepared for Soup Thursday, but we could use dessert items (i.e. cookies, brownies, etc.).*



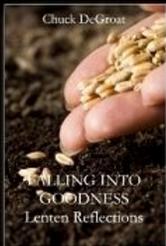
**Lent is a time of contemplation**

Rev. Trey has chosen two book options to help guide us as we walk from Ash Wednesday, to the meal in the upper room, to the Cross, and gloriously, to the empty tomb. A time will be provided to gather for coffee and conversation to discuss what was learned from the book study and from our Lenten journey.

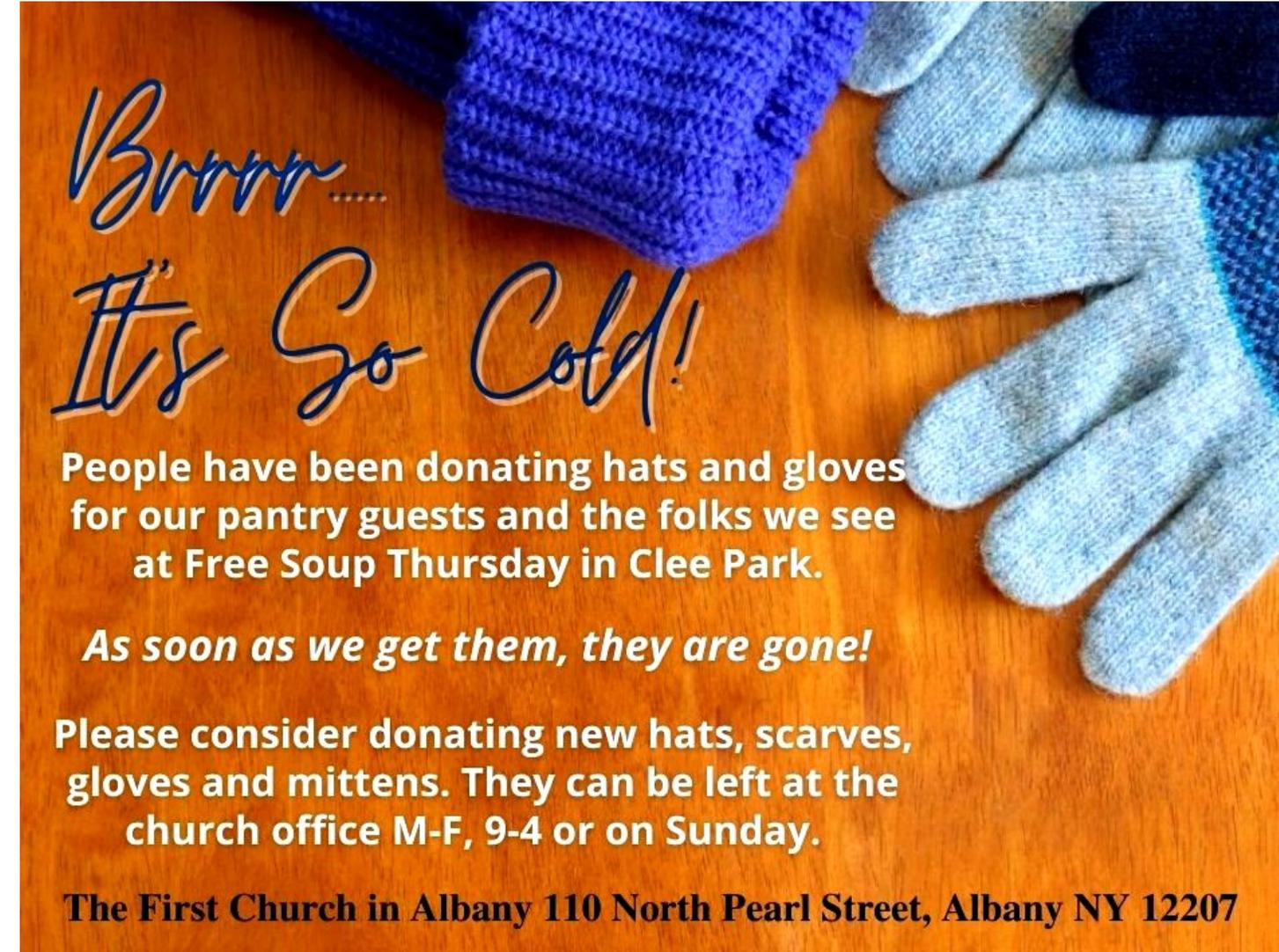
Let Rev. Trey know what book you would like and we will make it available to you. You can email him at [treytirpak@gmail.com](mailto:treytirpak@gmail.com).



**The End of the Christian Life**



**Falling into Goodness: Daily Readings for Lent**



*Brrrrr.....  
It's So Cold!*

People have been donating hats and gloves for our pantry guests and the folks we see at Free Soup Thursday in Clee Park.

*As soon as we get them, they are gone!*

Please consider donating new hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. They can be left at the church office M-F, 9-4 or on Sunday.

**The First Church in Albany 110 North Pearl Street, Albany NY 12207**

## **Drive In Worship Resumes on Mother's Day, May 8th along with Lemonade Lull.**

**Lemonade Lull takes place in Clee Park  
after the Drive-In service.**

**We serve water, lemonade, iced tea,  
cookies etc.**

**Host and get to know your fellow worshipers!**

Sign up to host Lemonade Lull on a Sunday afternoon  
between May 8th and September 19th! Lawn chairs  
and umbrellas are welcome!

Come and stretch out.



