



# FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Winter  
Combined  
Worship  
February 6, 2022  
at 10am

**"When they had brought their boats  
to shore, they left everything  
and followed him." Luke 5:11**

**The First Church in Albany**

*Welcomes you*

on behalf of our

FOCUS Churches of Albany Partners

# **Your Host Church Today is 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.*



## **Delmar Reformed Church**

386 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY  
drchurch.org

## **First Church in Albany**

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY  
firstchurchinalbany.org

## **Trinity United Methodist Church**

235 Lark Street, Albany, NY  
trinityalbany.org

## **Emmanuel Baptist Church**

275 State Street, Albany, NY  
emmanuelalbany.net

## **First Presbyterian Church**

362 State Street, Albany, NY  
firstpresalbany.org

## **Unity of Albany**

21 King Avenue, Albany 12206  
unityalbany.org

## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

262 State Street, Albany, NY  
wpcalbany.org

## **Focus Churches of Albany Staff**

### **Fred Boehrer**

Executive Director

### **Lorraine Houk**

Assistant Executive Director

### **James Blount**

Breakfast Program Coordinator

### **Belinda Quaye**

Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

### **Noah Tubbs**

Program Development Coordinator

### **Yolandue Sturdivant**

Breakfast and Pantry Associate

### **Karen Kendall**

Food Pantry Associate

Learn more at [www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net)

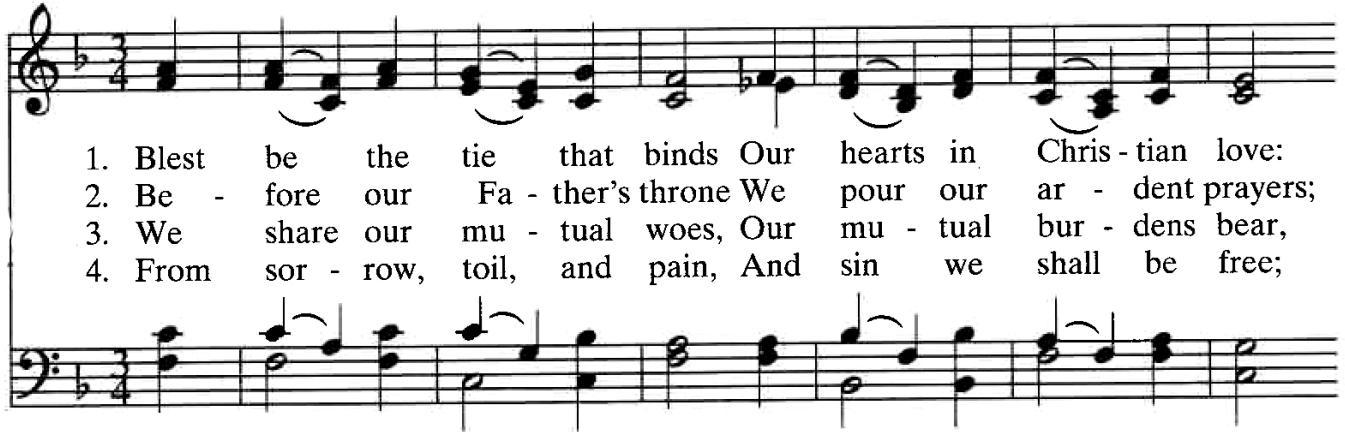


# \*Opening Hymn **Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

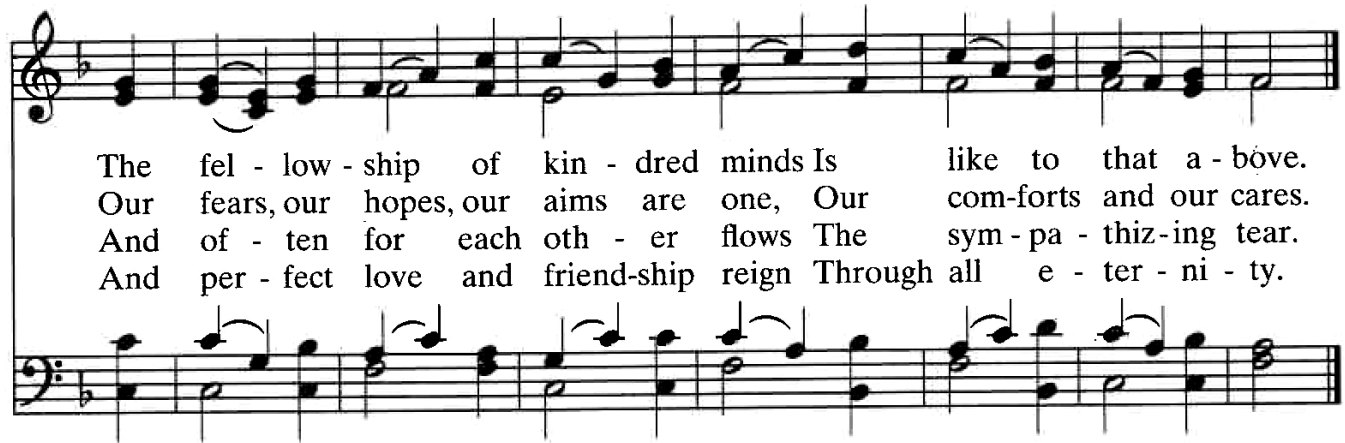
DENNIS SM

Johann Georg Nägeli (1773–1836)  
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

John Fawcett, 1782



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love:  
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free;



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.



## \***Passing the Peace**

Rev. Trey Tirpak, Synod Fellow  
The First Church in Albany

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.*

**Affirmation of the FOCUS Covenant**

Rev. Kathy Donley, Board President  
FOCUS Churches of Albany

**Words of Appreciation/FOCUS Vision**

Fred Boehrer, Executive Director  
FOCUS Churches of Albany

**Solo**

*"Come Sunday"*  
*Noreen Fargione, soloist*

D. Ellington

**Poem**

Noah Tubbs, Program Development Coordinator  
FOCUS Churches of Albany

**Children's Message & Blessing**

Children are invited forward for the message and blessing, and will return to their pews after.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Brigid Beckman, Sr. Minister  
Unity of Albany

**Sermon Text**

**Luke 5:1-11**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon**

*The Power is in the Pivot*

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, Sr. Minister  
The First Church in Albany

\*Hymn of Response

Will You Come and Follow Me

v. 1, 2, & 5

Chords: F, C7, Dm, Gm7, Csus, C

1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
2 Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?  
3 Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?  
4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

Chords: F, C7, Dm, Gm7, C11, F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

Chords: Gm7, Bb, Am7, Bb6, Csus, C

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

Chords: F, C7, Dm, Gm7, C11, F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?  
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?  
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Text: The Iona Community  
Music: Scottish traditional; arr. John L. Bell (b. 1949)

76 76 77 76  
KELVINGROVE

Text and arr. © 1987, WGRG the Iona Community (Scotland), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

THE WORDS HE TAUGHT US

# The Lord's Prayer

Belinda Quaye, Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator  
FOCUS Churches of Albany

**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.**

## Offering

Fred Boehrer, Executive Director  
FOCUS Churches of Albany

Our offerings this morning support FOCUS ministries. You can make a donation through the FOCUS website ([www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net)) or by sending a check made out to FOCUS to your home congregation or directly to the FOCUS office (275 State Street, Albany NY 12210). All donations are fully tax deductible. Your gifts make it possible for us to “do together what we cannot do alone!”

## Offertory

*“Sons of Thunder James and John”*  
*Brian Axford, organist*

C. W. Gillette

## \*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.**

# Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## \*Communion Hymn Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD 10.10 with refrain African-American spiritual  
Arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988

African-American spiritual

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)  
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)  
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees.)

The second system continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,

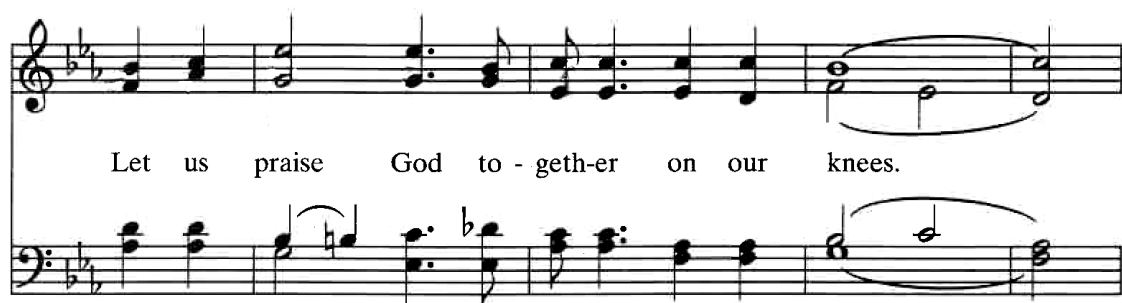
The refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)

The final system concludes the piece with a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.



3. Let us praise God - geth-er on our knees; (on our knees;)



Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, With my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. (on me.)

## Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

## Mystery of the Faith

Christ has died!  
Christ has risen!  
Christ will come again!

## Celebration of Communion

### \*Sending Hymn      Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD 6.6.9 D

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

George N. Allen, 1844  
Arr. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand; I am  
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near; When my

tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, Lead me  
life is al - most gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my

on to the light; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.  
hand lest I fall; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

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**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude**

*“I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free”*  
*Brian Axford, organist*

Dr. B Taylor

**Worship Leadership:**

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

**Liturgist:** Various

**Organist:** Brian Axford, Delmar Reformed Church

**Vocalist:** Noreen Fargione

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

*CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689*

In Participation with the Capital Area Council of Churches...

## The First Church Pantry Pacers

**Come walk with us!!  
Raise money to fight Hunger!**

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Albany*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

MAY 1, 2022

ALBANY, NEW YORK

On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> there will be an in-person walk that will begin and end at First Lutheran Church in Albany. (Details to follow)

There will also be a virtual option for those who prefer to walk in their own neighborhoods or simply raise funds on-line to support the Walk.

Sign up with Lorraine @ the Food Pantry  
on Monday's & Wednesday's  
Or Email: [Lorraineh@focuschurches.net](mailto:Lorraineh@focuschurches.net)



FOUNDED IN 1642  
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

### First Church in Albany

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[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)