

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

Lent
and
THE CROSS

Second Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2022, 10am



Join us at the First Church in Albany
for our Special Lenten Taizé service

Sunday, March 13 & Sunday, March 27
at 4pm in the Stephen James Chapel

Come for a time of contemplation, prayer, music, and scripture readings.

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.

Second Sunday of Lent March 13, 2022

Prelude

"I Call to Thee Lord Jesus Christ"
Iteke Prins, organist

J.S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

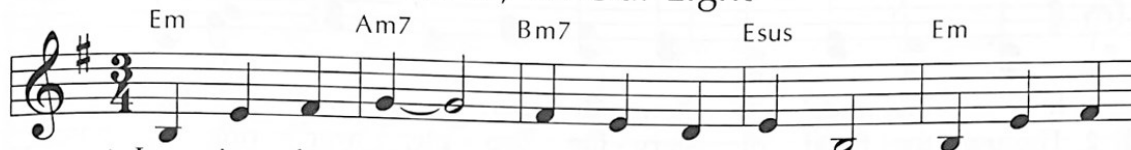
"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Lenten Introit & Draping of the Cross

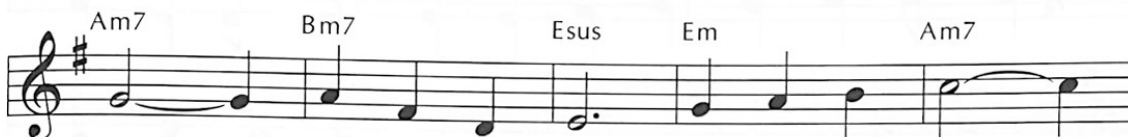
repeat v. 1 & 2

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

TEXT and MUSIC: Bernadette Farrell, 1993
Text and Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell (Published by OCP)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
9.8.9.6 with refrain

Call to Worship Based on Psalm 27

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-- my adversaries and foes-- they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

All: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Leader: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.
 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you
 who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of
 my salvation!

**All: If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.
 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of
 my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false
 witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I
 believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the
 living.**

Leader: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for
 the LORD!

***Opening Hymn**

Come, Worship God

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line and below the bass line.

System 1:

Chord symbols: F, Bb, C7, F

Vocal line: 1 Come, wor-ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;
 3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;
 4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;

System 2:

Chord symbols: Gm, F, Dm, F, G, C

Vocal line: en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
 you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.
 o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.

F B \flat C F F/C C

You are the rock of your people's sal - va - tion,
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
 Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;
 Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,

Am Dm Gm C F B \flat C7 F

to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.
 God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
 great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!
 trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

Words: Michael Perry © 1980 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company
 Music (O QUANTA QUALIA 11.10.11.10): *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681; harm. John B. Dykes (1823-1876), P.D.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that too often we do not wait for you. Instead, like Abram we make plans because we get anxious and lack faith. Please forgive us for not trusting you and holding on to your promises. Please forgive us our prejudices against people of certain status. Abram, grieved the idea of his legacy being left with a slave. Yet, you revealed to Abram that his multitude of dependents would all one day know the bitter chastening rod of slavery. Forgive us for our small mindedness. Free us from our phobias and social constructs that teach us to devalue others.

Assurance of Pardon

Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage and the Lord shall strengthen your heart!

*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 (*sung*)

Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Use me. Oh' Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Short Musical Interlude

Sermon Text

Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ⁴ ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Sermon

Lent & the Cross

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response**

Faith Begins by Letting Go

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,
roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;
larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both
prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it
bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

Offering & Offertory

Teach Us to Laugh

1 Teach us to laugh a - mid our tears, teach us to
2 Teach us to share with rich and poor, teach us to
3 Teach us to run when we would crawl, teach us to
4 Then we'll not fail through lame ex - cuse, but put each

hope in spite of fears; teach us to trust when faith is
give, though want - ing more; teach us to love where hate is
rise each time we fall; teach us to risk and take a
tal - ent to good use; and through your teach - ings grow more

weak; though tongues lack words, teach us to speak.
king; though hearts are sad, teach us to sing.
chance; though feet re - sist, teach us to dance.
wise till all is seen through Christ - like eyes.

Text: Rae E. Whitney, 1991. © 1991 Selah Publishing Co., Inc., Kingston, N.Y. 12401.

LM

Music: Darcy Hill and Rusty Edwards, 1996. © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc., Kingston, N.Y. 12401. EYES OF THE HEART

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.
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

**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 Hymn**

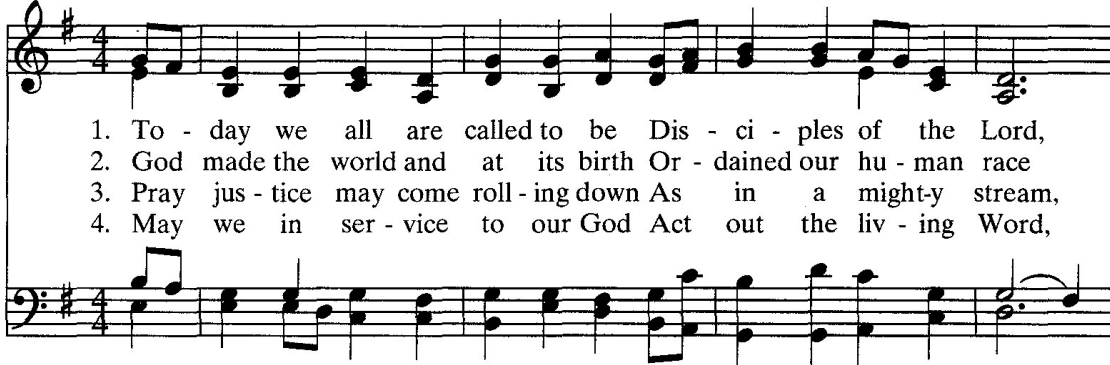
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD CMD

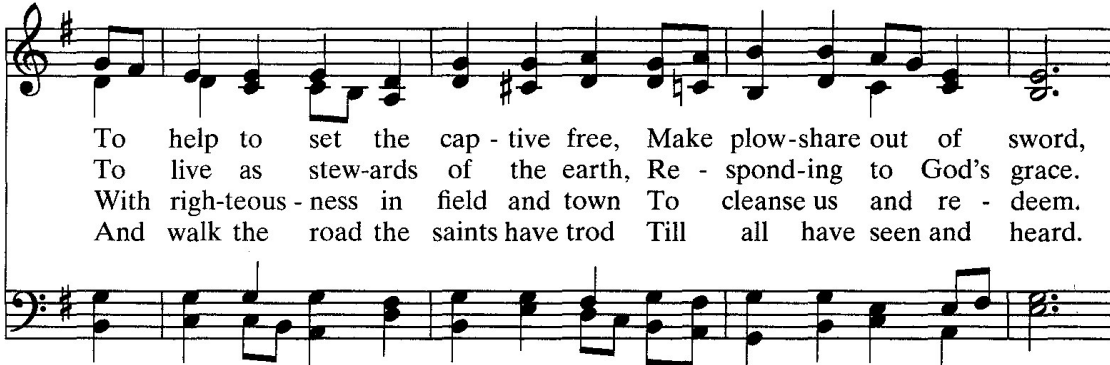
English Country Songs, 1893

H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985

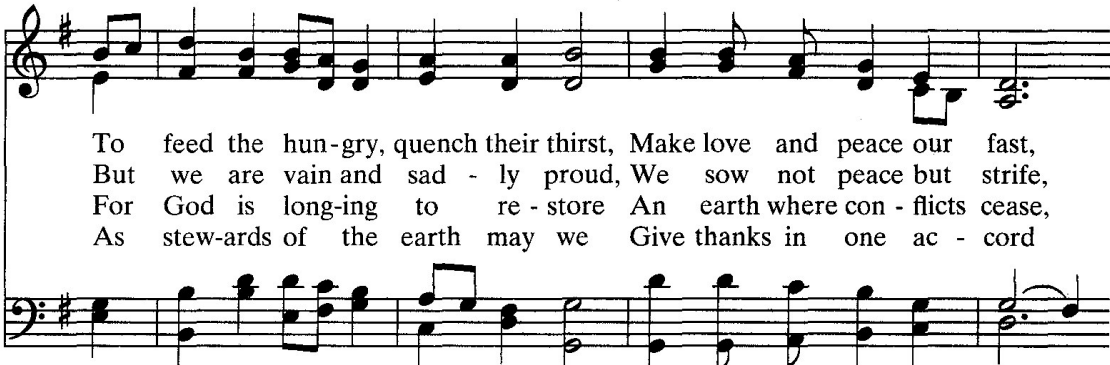
Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



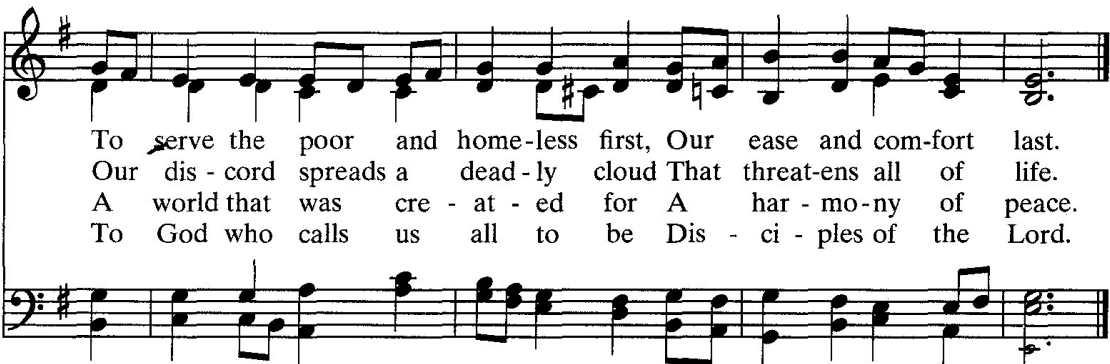
1. To - day we all are called to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord,
2. God made the world and at its birth Or - dained our hu - man race
3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down As in a might - y stream,
4. May we in ser - vice to our God Act out the liv - ing Word,



To help to set the cap - tive free, Make plow - share out of sword,
To live as stew - ards of the earth, Re - spond - ing to God's grace.
With righ - teous - ness in field and town To cleanse us and re - deem.
And walk the road the saints have trod Till all have seen and heard.



To feed the hun - gry, quench their thirst, Make love and peace our fast,
But we are vain and sad - ly proud, We sow not peace but strife,
For God is long - ing to re - store An earth where con - flicts cease,
As stew - ards of the earth may we Give thanks in one ac - cord



To serve the poor and home - less first, Our ease and com - fort last.
Our dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud That threat - ens all of life.
A world that was cre - at - ed for A har - mo - ny of peace.
To God who calls us all to be Dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

Text: © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael.

Music: Arrangement and harmonization from the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

***Charge & Blessing**

Benediction (from the **Franciscan** Billabong Comm)

May God bless you with Discomfort...
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with Anger...
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with Tears...to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation, and war
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness...
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

Postlude

“The Glory of These Forty Days”
Iteke Prins, organist

M. McDonald

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalist: Members of the First Church Choir

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



- Norma and Leo, neighbors of Audrey Ming
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Joe Vasta, friend of the Persons
- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, friends of the Andrews; Especially her children Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher (with permission).
- For Katherine's grandmother
- 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
- Prayers for the people and leaders of Ukraine. For the countries accepting those fleeing the violence. For thoughtful and productive resolution immediately.

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



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"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

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