

Sunday, March 24, 2024

**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 Reflection *A haiku for today's worship*

Palm fronds waving high,
Hosannas fill the air and sky,
This king comes to die.

Prelude *"Thy Goodness Is Our Salvation"* J.S. Bach
"Intonation on St. Theodolph" A. Fedak
Joshua Bliss, Baritone Saxophone.

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord!

Hosanna in the highest

Processional Hymn

"All Glory, Laud, & Honor" (see insert)

(Children and an accompanying adult, please go to the back of the sanctuary where you will be given instruction on processing in with palm branches.)

Call to Worship *Based on Zechariah 9 & Psalm 118*

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

People: Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Leader: Lo, your king comes to you;

People: triumphant and victorious is he,

Leader: humble and riding on a donkey

People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

***Opening Hymn**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna "

(see insert)

Prayer of Confession *Based on the Worship Sourcebook of the Christian Reformed Church in North America*

Jesus our King, with our mouths, we shout hosannas to praise you. With our hands, we wave and place palms before. Yet, we confess today that our mouths that praise you often deny and defy you; our hands that seek to serve you often become fists made of selfish and unjust rage. Send your Holy Spirit upon us in a special way this Holy Week, so we might be transformed to praise and serve you aright. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon

Unlike other kings who would ride into a conquered city on a horse accompanied by an army seeking to oppress and exploit its citizens, Jesus humbly enters Jerusalem on a lowly donkey seeking the reconciliation of humanity with one another and with God. This is our king! He forgives and frees you to live a life of grateful praise and genuine, life-giving service. Go and live in the peace of his kingdom.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a wave of a palm branch.



Choir Anthem

"How Blest Is He Who Comes "

Text Fred Pratt, Green Alfred V. Fedak

Let us rejoice in Christ, whose Kingdom is at hand! He comes to be the Lord of Life in ev'ry life and land. Hosanna in the highest! How blest is he who comes! When, lowly born, he came, for us condemned to die, they brought him to Jerusalem with this triumphant cry. Hosanna in the highest! How blessed is he who comes!

Rejoice that now he comes to us in those who walk his way, to make this stricken world his own, and ev'ry day his day. Then let us yield to him the loyalty he claims, and never cease to celebrate the Name above all Names. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! How blest is he who comes!

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty. Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us today. Amen.

First Lesson

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "The Lord's steadfast love endures forever."

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Text

Mark: 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

A King No One Wants

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"*

(see insert)

Tithes & Offerings: *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*

Offertory

"Christ Thou Art Our Day and Night"

G. Böhm

***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.**

***Sending Hymn**

"Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"

(see insert)

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

"There Is a Green Hill Far Away"

arr. H. Coleman

Note: All congregants and guests, please make your way down to Zimmerman Hall for a special event “Get to Know The People of First” where we’ll hear from and greet those who are joining First. Let’s get to know one another better!

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalist and/or Specialist: Joshua Bliss, baritone saxophone, & Choir

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- Rob Van Dyke, friend of Doug and Jill Persons with medical concerns.
- Jill Persons and Jill’s mother in England who is transitioning to nursing care.
- Ned Monthie, continuing his recovering from surgery
- Michelle Williams, for recovery
- Matt, cousin of Barb Andrews with health issues
- Rev. Dr. Mashona as she continues her health journey
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Requests for the Tirpak Family
 - Trey’s uncle, with cancer, family friend, with cancer, and a family friend who is caring for a terminally ill child
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health concerns
- Charnelle Jones
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany as they plan Holy Week Events.
- For those dealing with climate disasters like wildfires.
- 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.

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

== HAPPY == *Retirement*

Kim Reohr has retired from her position as Account Manager, and as a token of appreciation for 12+ years of dedication and diligent management of the church's financial operation, the church would like to take up a collection up for Kim, all contributions will be taken up to March 24th
-The Joint Boards

Welcome to our new part-time accountant, David Hallenbeck.



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Easter
Sunrise
Service



March 31 at 6:30 am

Swan Street Stairs of West Capitol Park

Holy Week Services

**FCIA
2024**

PALM SUNDAY 3.24.24

- 10am, We process with Palms like those in Jerusalem to begin Holy Week.

MAUNDAY THURSDAY, TENEBRAE: A SERVICE OF SHADOWS 3.28.24

- 7pm, A time of meditation and song around Christ's suffering.

GOOD FRIDAY, CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES 3.29.24

- 12pm @ St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 16 Elsmere Ave., Delmar NY

HOLY SATURDAY 3.30.24

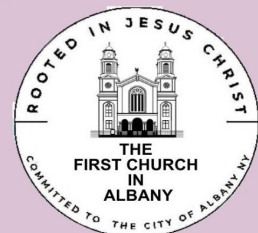
- 12pm, We remember the dead as we remember Christ's death.

FOCUS EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 3.31.24

- 6:30am, West Capitol Park on the Swan Street Stairs

EASTER SUNDAY 3.31.24

- 10am, We celebrate Christ's resurrection and the new life it gives us.



Easter Flowers

Order while quantities last. First come, first serve.

Lilies and Mums are
a suggested donation of \$15 each.
Please use the envelope available from the usher at the door
with check enclosed and place it in the offering,
or mail it to
First Church in Albany
110 N. Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

Make checks payable to First Church in Albany with "Easter
Flowers" on the memo line.

You may also call the office during the week at
518-463-4449



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Albany NY 12207
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www.firstchurchinalbany.org

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

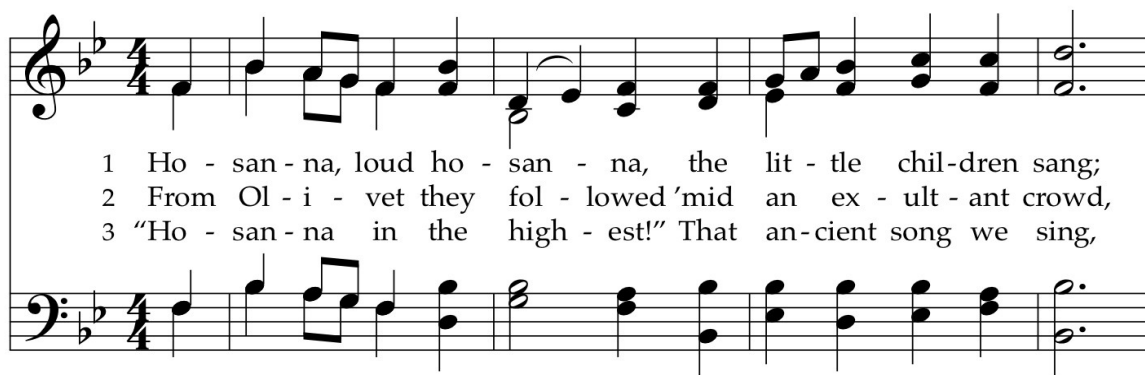
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;

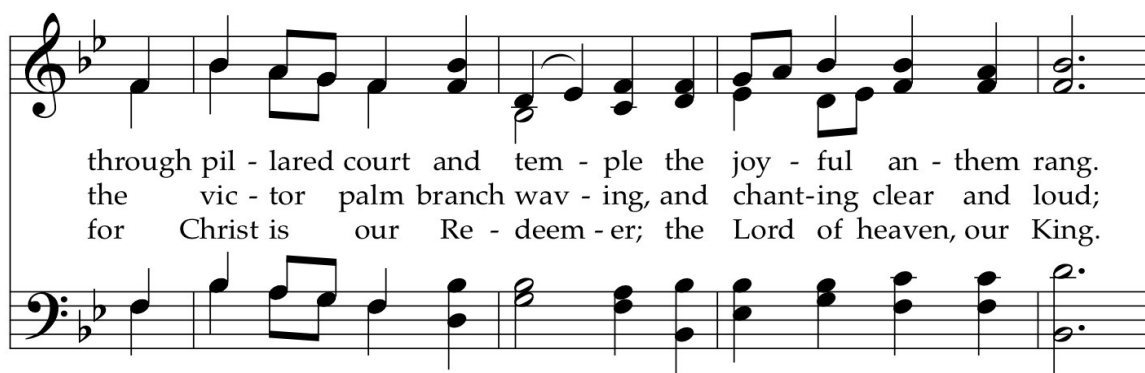
to Refrain
who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

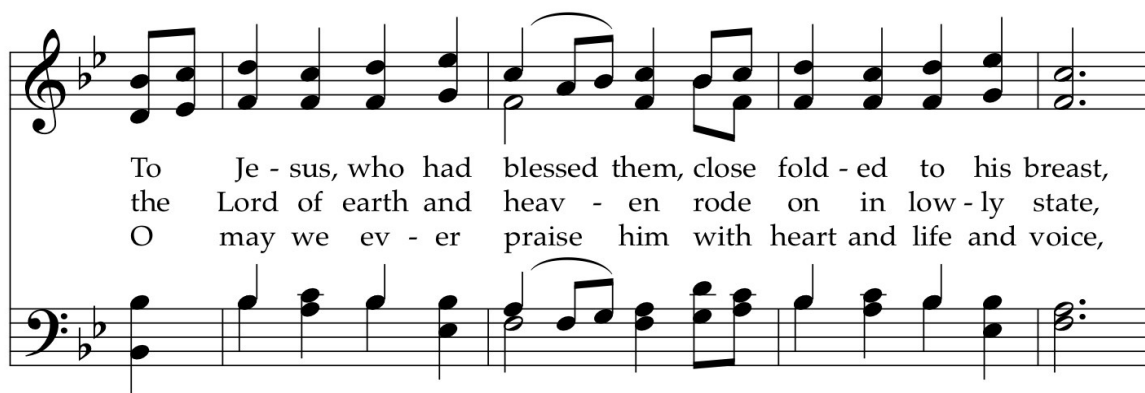
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



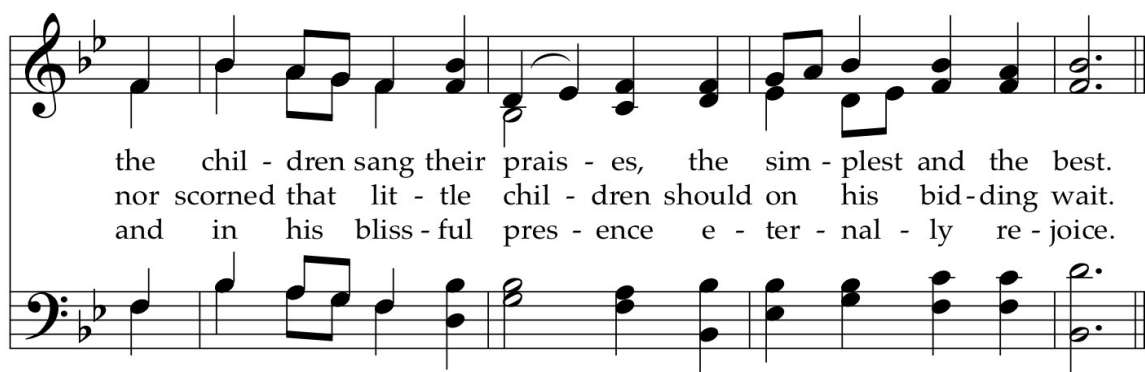
1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.



To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

F B \flat F Dm B \flat C F

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art, my on - ly
2 Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace, reign - ing om -

B \flat C Gm Gm/B \flat C F C F

trust and Sav - ior of my heart, who pain didst un - der - go for
nip - o - tent in ev - ery place: so come, O King, and our whole

G C F Dm A Gm F/A C_{sus} C F

my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
be - ing sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

5 Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

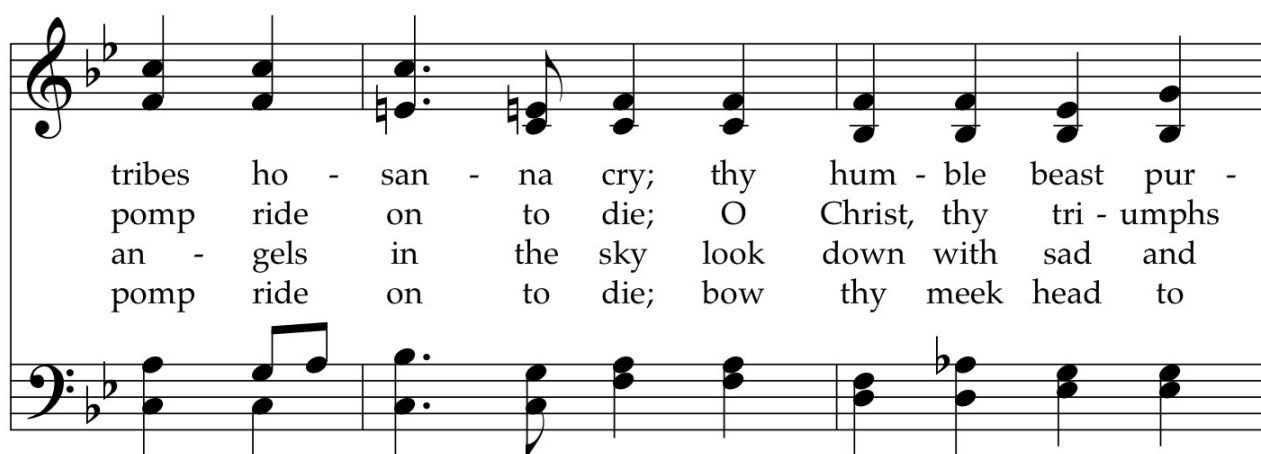
Words: anonymous, French, 1545; tr. Elizabeth Lee Smith 1868, P.D.

Music (TOULON 10.10.10.10): *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; adapt. from GENEVAN 124, P.D.

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!



1 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the
 2 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly
 3 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; thy hum - ble beast pur -
 pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy tri - umphs
 an - gels in the sky look down with sad and
 pomp ride on to die; bow thy meek head to



sues its road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strowed.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

This 19th-century Palm Sunday text is better understood as the reflections of someone standing outside the event rather than as coming from those participating in the actual procession. This poignant text is set to a tune written especially for it later in the same century.