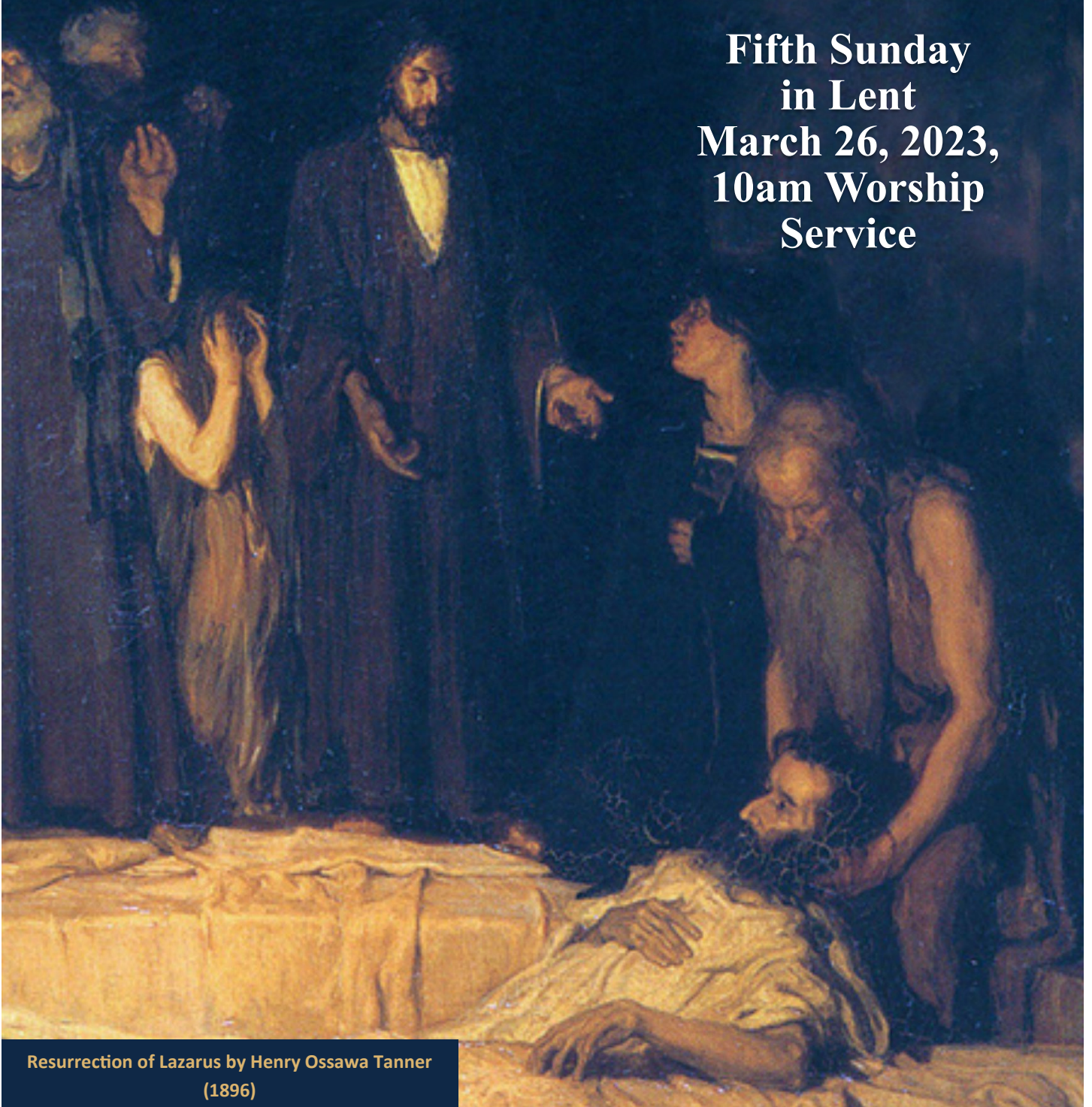


Welcomes you

The First Church in Albany

**Fifth Sunday
in Lent
March 26, 2023,
10am Worship
Service**



Resurrection of Lazarus by Henry Ossawa Tanner
(1896)

The First Church in Albany **(Reformed Church in America)**

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.

Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today.

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 2023

Prelude Reflection An excerpt from John O'Donohue's *On the Death of the Beloved*

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,
Where no storm or night or pain can reach you...

May you continue to inspire us:

To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love
Until we see your beautiful face again
In that land where there is no more separation,
Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,
And where we will never lose you again.

Prelude "*Andante Cantabile*" from *Piano Sonata No. 13 in B-flat, K333*

W.A. Mozart

Eugene Sit, piano

Tolling of Bell: *bell tolled by children of First Church*

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing John 11:25b-26a

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Lenten Introit & Draping of the Cross (Taizé) X3

Wait for the Lord

Lento (♩ = 48)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé Community is a meditative form of common prayer. Gathered in the presence of Christ we sing uncomplicated, repetitive songs, uncluttered by too many words, allowing the mystery of God to become tangible through the beauty of simplicity. A few words sung over and over again reinforce the meditative quality of prayer. They express a basic reality of faith that can quickly be grasped by the intellect and that gradually penetrates the whole being. Silence is observed by all prior to the service for prayer and reflection.

Call to Worship Adapted from Rev. John Indermark

Leader: Coming from places that have seen better days,

People God bids us to honor this day as a day with new possibilities.

Leader: Coming with our breath taken away by grief,

People: the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us, renewing our connection with God and with one another.

Leader: Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

People: Christ the Resurrection and the Life unbinds the grip death has on us!

Leader: Jesus as he called out to Lazarus in the tomb,

People: Jesus calls us to us:

Leader: Come out! And be unbound.

*Opening Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Calling

Refrain Dm Gm7 Dm Gm7 A

I heard the voice of Je - sus call-ing; here's what he said to me:

1 If you don't let me wash your feet,
2 All that you do for the least of these—
3 If you have ears to hear, then hear;

I can't your Sav - ior be; no, I can't your Sav - ior be.
that's what you do to me; yes, that's what you do to me.
if you have eyes, then see; oh, if you have eyes, then see.

5 I've come that you may know the truth—
that's what will set you free; yes,
that's what will set you free.

7 Believe in me and you will live
through all eternity; yes,
through all eternity.

Words: paraphrase (various Gospel texts) © 2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent
Music (LOUISE 8.6.8.6.6): melody © 2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that death causes us great angst. We are angry and sad that loved ones have passed, and we are also afraid of death for ourselves. Send your Holy Spirit today to breakthrough our grief and fear, so that we might have hope in the midst of death.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law John 11

Friends, believe these words of assurance from Jesus and receive hope like Martha:

Jesus said to Martha, “Your brother Lazarus will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. *Do you believe this?*” *She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”*

*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.

Children’s Message & Blessing

Choir Anthem “Love Uncreated, Ever Creating (Love Uncreated)” *I. Prins*

Love uncreated ever creating
Love so unlike us dwelling above
Reached out in mercy born as a
mortal
Simply to touch us simply for love

Touching our faith by giving us
promise
Lifting our spirits helping us cope
Love molds our pain and turns us
to healing
Aiding our vision showing us hope

Touching our futures opening
pathways
Setting the state for what we can be
Love calls us out for our
resurrection
Conquering death and setting us
free

Love uncreated active incarnate
Love lifted up to give us so much
Christ's arms stretch out to gather
creation
Making us new with simply a touch

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life! Help us now to hear and obey what you say to us today. Amen.

Sermon Text

John 11:1-45

Due to the length of the text, please use the bible in your pew (pg. 873).

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Beyond Shiva

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response

In Deepest Night

Sing v.3 twice

Susan Palo Cherwien 1995

St. Margaret 88 88 6

Albert L. Peace 1884

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the hymn with a final line of lyrics. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and a more melodic upper line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1. In deep - est night, in dark - est days, — when harps are hung, no songs we
2. When friend was lost, when love de - ceived, — dear Je - sus wept, God was be -
3. When through the wa - ters winds our path, — a - round us pain, a - round us

raise, — when si - lence must suf - fice as praise, — yet sound - ing in us qui - et -
reaved; — so with us in our grief God grieves, — and round a - bout us mourn - ful -
death, — deep calls to deep, a sav - ing breath, — and found in - side us faith - ful -

ly there is a song of praise.
ly there are the tears of God.
ly there is the love of God.

Profession of Faith *Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #1:*

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul,
in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.**

**He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.**

**Because I belong to him,
Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.**

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

*Theme and Variation 1,
from Piano Sonata No. 30, Op. 109
Eugene Sit, piano*

L. van Beethoven

***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.**

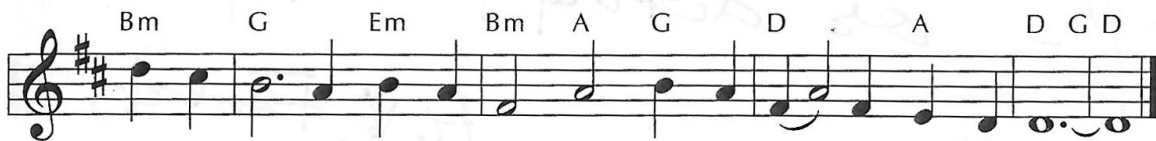
*Sending Hymn

v. 1-4

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.



come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me , and find your rest."
do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me , in fright."
Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

This paraphrase and expansion of Matthew 11:28–30 by a Canadian minister is structured so that the first three syllables of each stanza provide the hymn's skeleton and summary. The immediacy of the text is enhanced by the folk-song-like setting later composed for it.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991
MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

AUSTIN
8.7.8.7

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

"What Shall I Do without Eurydice?"
from Orpheus and Eurydice
Eugene Sit, piano

C. W. Gluck

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Pianist: Eugene Sit

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen
Reohr

Vocalists: Choir (*Norma Jean Ballou,
Jean Lamere, Becky Hudak, Erica Bliss,
and David Allen*)

Note: You are invited to coffee and refreshments down in Zimmerman Hall. Today will be the first of the All Members Series starting at 11:20. "Grab some joe and get in the know!" This Lent, we're encouraging all those who are a part of First Church in any way to participate in our All Members series, which will serve as a "refresher" course on being part of a church and a new member's class for those who would like to formally join First. Come learn about belonging!

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- Mia Westman and the Westman family, for the passing of Willem
- Zak Morton and family, for the passing of James Morton, Zak's father
- The late Thomasina Carse Hinman, for her daughter Sarah and her family who are missing her on the 10th anniversary of her passing.
- Kathleen Claydon, for a death in her family
- Sam, family of Barb and Dave Andrews
- Ian Leet
- Imani Brewer, for the passing of her grandfather
- Eula, friend of Joeanna Brown
- Patty Salisbury, for the passing of her niece Kimberly
- Marilyn Bonam, Sara's mother
- Sharnelle Jones
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- Janie Unright, friend of the Andrews family
- Carol LaBatte
- Norma McClement
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- David Bradley
- For Jason Shahid
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- The Reohr Family
- 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
- Ronald Stockhoff
- For Barbara W., dear friend of Barb & Dave Andrews and Donna Jones
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Mary Ann Selmer
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- For the survivors and rescue workers in Turkey and Syria after the recent earthquake. For all who lost loved ones.
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath
- An end to the war in Ukraine

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.



FOR ALL OF
APRIL

Every purchase of this \$2.50
Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford
location listed below will send us \$1.

**Drop by drop makes an ocean.
Dollar by dollar
makes a difference.**



BENEFITING ORGANIZATION

FCIA Food Pantry

AT THIS HANNAFORD LOCATION

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Focus Churches of Albany

BROOKS BBQ



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Fundraiser

TUESDAY
APRIL 18
3 - 6PM

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT FOCUS:
Breakfast Soup Kitchen
& Interfaith Food Pantry

TAKE - OUT ONLY
PRE-PAY BELOW



OR CALL:
518-443-0460 EXT. 2



INCLUDES 1/2 CHICKEN,
BAKED POTATO,
COLESLAW, ROLL &
DESSERT

PRE-PAY: \$15
AT THE DOOR: \$17

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www.focuschurches.net info@focuschurches.net

UPDATE TO
CHOIR
REHEARSAL
SCHEDULE

The First Church in Albany

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 AA	2 A Night of Worship	3	4
5 AW 	6 Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11am	Zoom Study noon Consistory Mtg. 6pm	8 AA	9 	10	11
12 AW 	13	Zoom Study noon	15 AA	16 	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18
19 AW	20	Zoom Study noon	22 AA	23 	24	25
26 AW	27	Zoom Study noon	29 AA	30 	31	
Celebrate WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH						

Key:



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Soup &
Sandwiches
the Park
11:30am



Weather vanes
12:30pm



Choir
Rehearsal

AW

After
Worship



This Week at the First Church in Albany

- | | | | |
|-------------|------|------------|---|
| • Sunday | 3.26 | 10am
AW | Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
All Members' Class —
Zimmerman |
| • Monday | 3.27 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| • Tuesday | 3.28 | noon | Zoom Book Study |
| • Wednesday | 3.29 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | | noon | AA Meeting |
| | | noon | Centering Prayer in the Chapel |
| • Thursday | 3.23 | 11:30am | Soup & Sandwiches in Clee Park |

AW = After Worship

Upcoming Events

- Palm Sunday April 2
- Easter Sunday April 9
- Congregational Meeting (Election Office Bearers), Sunday, May 14 AW

*Meeting Schedules are subject to change. Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.



First Church in Albany

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www.firstchurchinalbany.org