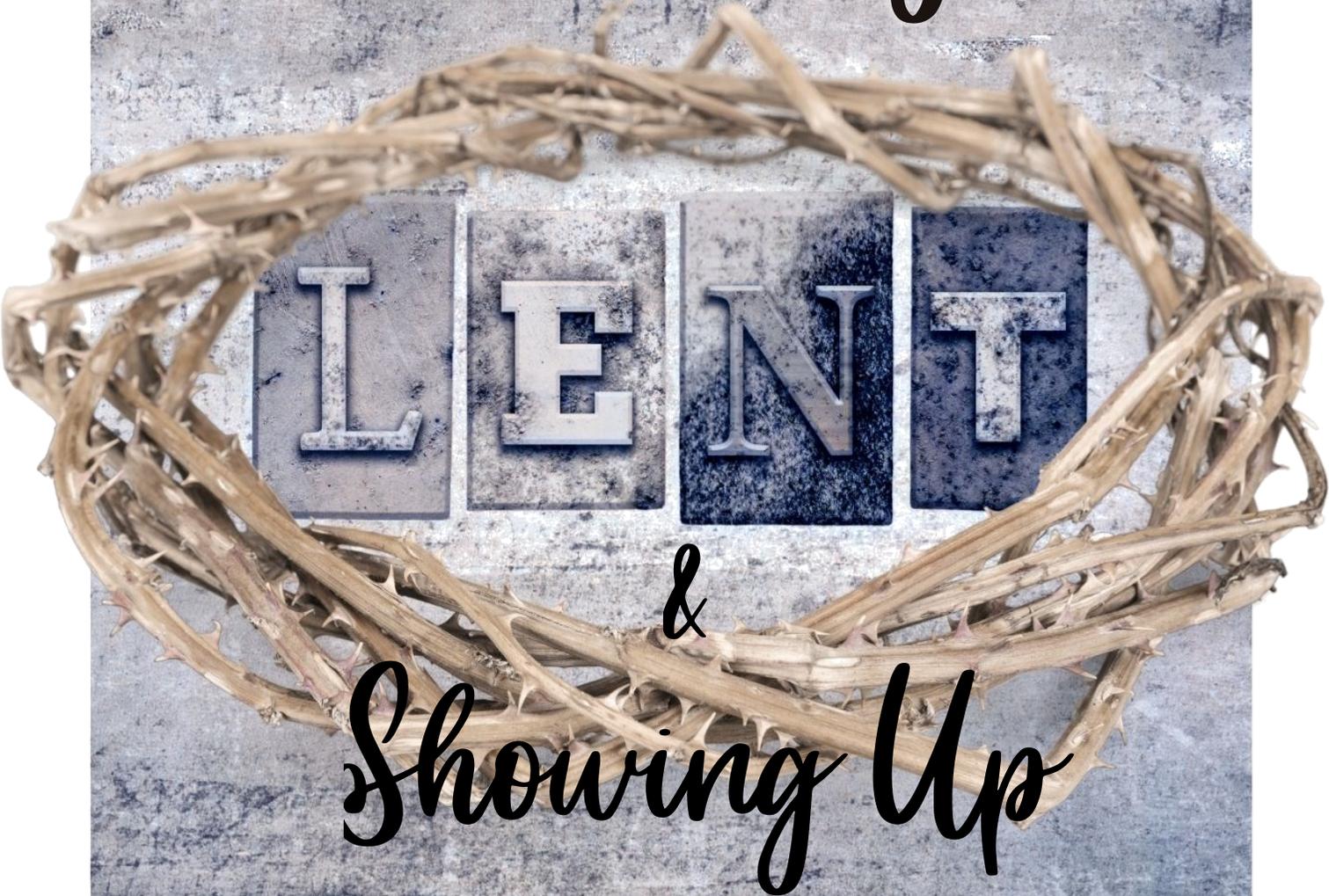


The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you



LENT

*&
Showing Up*

First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 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.

First Sunday of Lent March 6, 2022

Prelude

"Hearken, Merciful Creator"
Margaret Randall, organist

M. Dupre

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

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

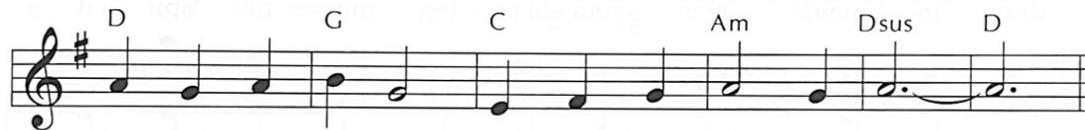
Christ, Be Our Light



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 91:1-2, 9-16

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD,

All: "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

Leader: Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

All: You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

(Psalm 100)

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good; his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make; we are his folk; he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

In a pairing that began in 1561, this paraphrase of Psalm 100 by a Scot is set to a tune that a French composer originally created for Psalm 134 in the Genevan Psalter of 1551. They have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since then.

TEXT: William Kethe, 1560
MUSIC: Attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD HUNDRETH
LM

Prayer of Confession *Based on Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

Lord, we confess that You brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, provided for them in the wilderness. You Lord delivered them into the land of milk and honey. In remembrance of your generosity and love a covenant was established and in keeping with that relationship we are to bring you our first fruits. We confess that we often fail to give you our first and our best. We fail to greet you in the morning or the cool of the day. We fail to honor you in how we treat each other.

Lord, forgive us. Lord, in this season of Lent, we commit to giving you our first fruit. We commit to spending more time with you. We commit to acts of mercy. Help us walk this season remembering that you give good and perfect gifts.

Assurance of Pardon *Romans 10:8b-13*

The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

***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 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon Text

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Lent & Showing Up

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Sermon Notes

Trouble in the text:

Trouble in our world:

God in the text:

God in our world:

Ways that God is moving in me:

***Hymn of Response**

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

v. 1-3

Capo 1: D
E^b

Dmaj⁷ D⁶ G D A D
E^bmaj⁷ E^{b6} A^b E^b B^b E^b

1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man-kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3. O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, O calm of hills a -
 4. Drop thy still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings
 5. Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy

A D G Em⁷ A⁷ F^{#m}⁷
B^b E^b A^b Fm⁷ B^{b7} Gm⁷

ways; re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
 above, where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
 cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and
 balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak

Bm G A A⁷ D
Cm A^b B^b B^{b7} E^b

pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence,
 us, like them, with - out a word, rise up and fol - low
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of

2

Em⁷ D^{#dim} Em A⁷ D
Fm⁷ Edim Fm B^{b7} E^b

praise; in deep - er rev - erence praise.
 thee; rise up and fol - low thee.
 love; in - ter - pret - ed by love!
 peace; the beau - ty of thy peace.
 calm; O still, small voice of calm.

WORDS: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872
 MUSIC: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918).

REPTON
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Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203. Website www.gbod.org/worship

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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 power and might. 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!

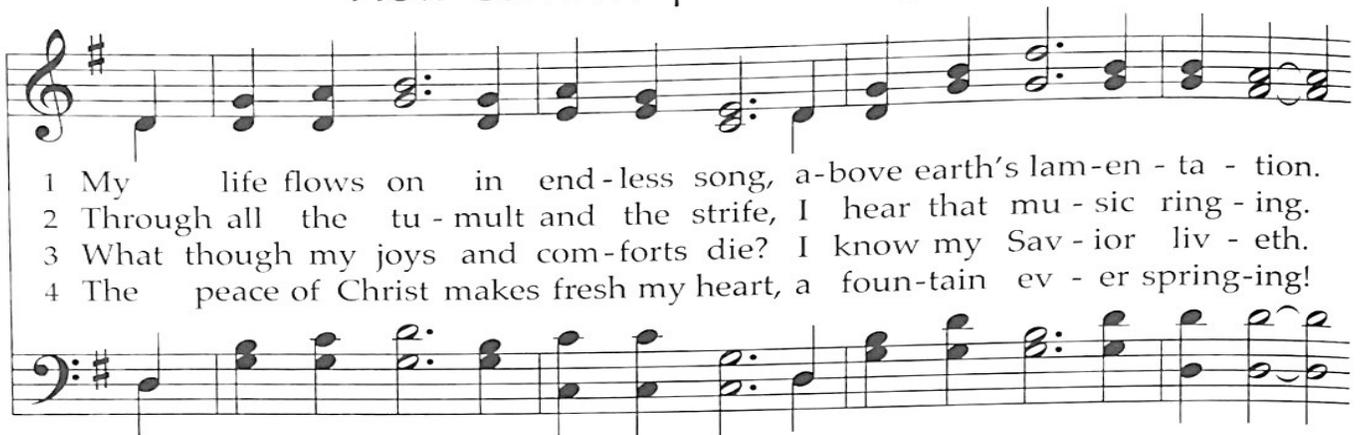
Christ will come again!

Celebration of Communion

Sending Hymn

My Life Flows On How Can I Keep from Singing?

v. 1-3



1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 27, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.

TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING
8.7.8.7 with refrain

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

"Chromatic Fugue"
Margaret Randall, organist

J. Pachelbel

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Margaret Randall

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
- 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"

First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.,
Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org