

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

The background of the lower half of the poster features several green palm fronds with reddish-brown stems, arching across the frame. On the right side, there is a dark silhouette of a person, likely Jesus, riding a donkey. The overall background is a light beige color.

PALM SUNDAY

April 2, 2023
10:00 a.m.

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.



Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023



Prelude Reflection A Palm Sunday Poem

Not with chariots of gold or white horses of valor.
No, on a donkey our king makes his way to his darkest hour.
Not what we wanted and shouted for, but what we needed him to be.
The savior of the world, on an old wooden cross they'll lift he.
Yet, on the third day, death itself won't hold him down.
He'll rise from the grave and give hope to all in town.

Prelude

ST. THEODULPH

A. Fedak

Processional Hymn (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.)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

The musical notation is for the refrain of the hymn 'All Glory, Laud, and Honor'. It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the Soprano part. The lyrics are: 'All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,'.

Fine

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.

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

Grace and peace to you, in the name of the Triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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;

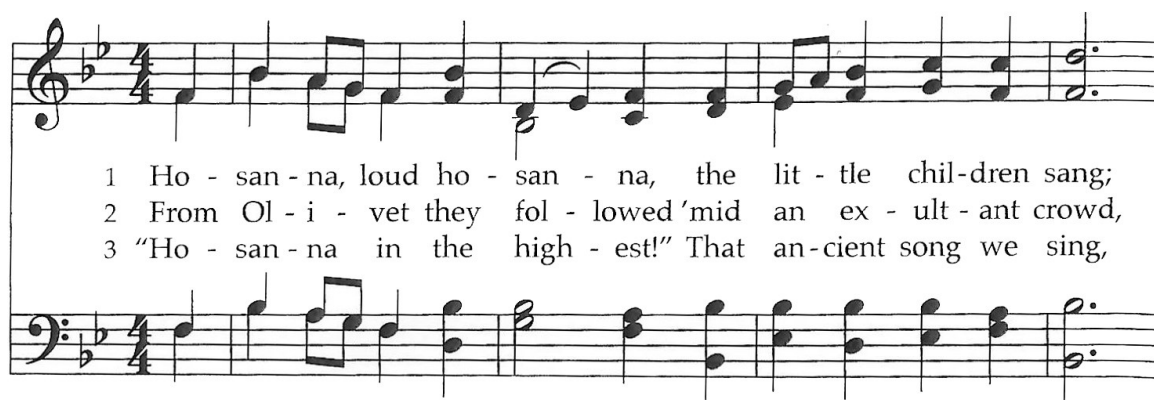
People: triumphant and victorious is he,

Leader: humble and riding on a donkey,

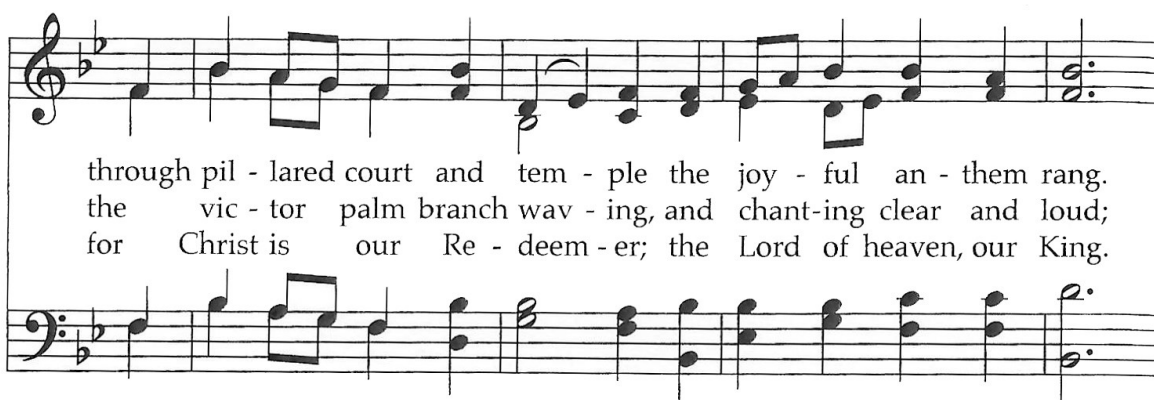
People: on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Hosanna in the highest!

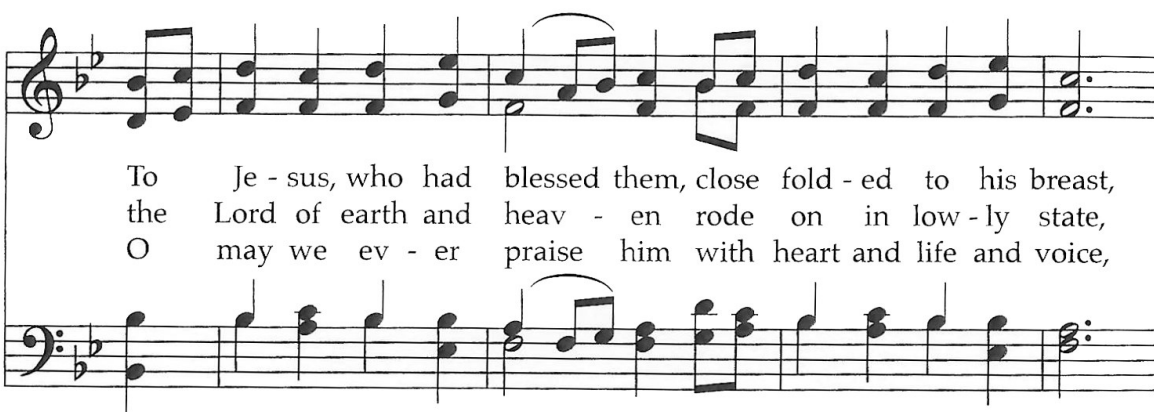
*Opening Hymn Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



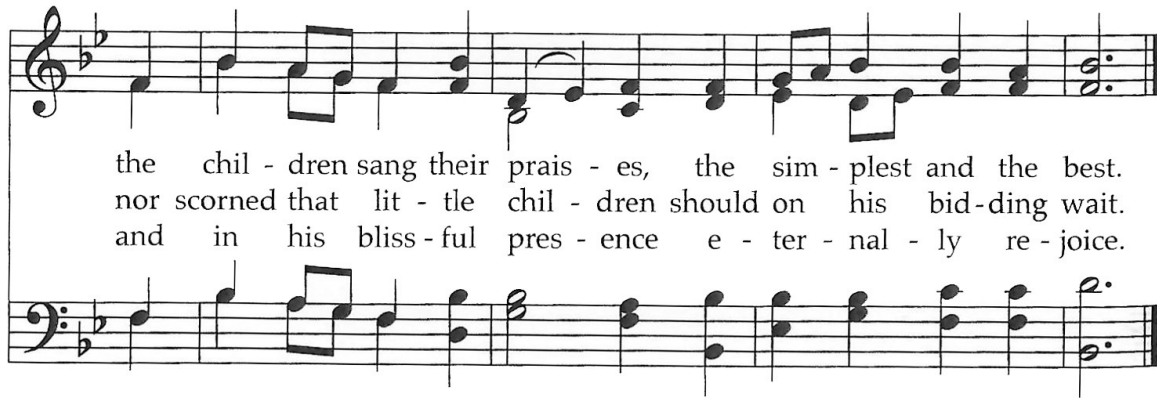
1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil-dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an-cient song we sing,



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 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.

TEXT: Jennette Threlfall, 1873, alt.

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Württembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt.

ELLACOMBE

7.6.7.6.D

Prayer of Confession

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and later shouted “Crucify him,” we confess that we, too, are fickle people who often try to make Christ who we want him to be. Holy Spirit, as we continue through this Holy Week, help us realize that we truly do need a Savior.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news: “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” Jesus comes to save us on God’s terms and in God’s name. Hallelujah! Jesus saves us despite our efforts to conform him to our wants.

*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

Prayer for Illumination

As these ancient words are read, as these stories reach our ears, prepare our hearts for change; confirm, disrupt, disturb. Surprise us!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Lord Save Us

*Hymn of Response

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts. The lyrics are as follows:

Part	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Soprano	1	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	maj	-	es	-	ty!	Hark!	all	the						
Alto	2	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	maj	-	es	-	ty!	In	low	-	ly					
Tenor	3	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	maj	-	es	-	ty!	The	hosts	of						
Bass	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.

TEXT: Henry Hart Milman, 1827, alt.
 MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1862

ST. DROSTANE
 LM

Offering & Offertory Intonation on ELLACOMBE

A. Fedak

*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.**

Eucharistic Anthem

"Hail and Hosanna!"

Brumm/Fedak

Hail and Hosanna!
 Blest is he who comes in God's own
 name to make our world God's home
 Pilgrim parading through the
 cheering horde: Invade and reclaim
 the city for its Lord.

Teacher, transforming gifts of bread
 and wine: sustain and feed; our lives
 and yours combine
 Hail and hosanna! Blest is he who
 comes in God's own name to make
 our world God's home

Celebration 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

Intercession

We, indeed, praise and thank you, O Lord, that you have fed us at your Table. Grateful for this gift and mindful of the communion of your saints, here and in all places, we offer to you our prayers for all people:

Prayers of the People offered

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**

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re-joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a-dore!
 2 Our Sav-ior, Je-sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri-umph ev-er-more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a-bove.
 and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. "Lord" is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) captures the mood well.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1746, alt.
 MUSIC: John Darvall, 1770; desc. Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 20th cent.
 Music Desc. © 1985 Hymns Ancient & Modern (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

DARVALL'S 148TH
 6.6.6.6.8.8

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude

“The Palms”

J. Favre

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Organist: Itkeke Prins

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, as she and her sister care for their mother in hospice
 - 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.*

The First Church in Albany

APRIL 2023

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1
Holy Week EASTER	 2  AW 	 3 Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11am	Zoom Study noon 4	 5  AA	 6 	7 	8
	 9 	 10	Zoom Study noon 11	 12  AA 	 13	14	15
	 16  AW	 17	Zoom Study noon 18	 19  AA	 20	21 Castle Island Spanish Fair 10am	22
	 23  AW	 24	Zoom Study noon 25	 26  AA	 27	28	29
	 30  AW						

Key:



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Soup &
Sandwiches
the Park
11:30am



Weathervanes
12:30pm



Choir
Rehearsal

AW

After
Worship



This Week at the First Church in Albany

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----|---------------------|---|
| • Sunday | 4.2 | 10am
AW | Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom
All Members' Class —
Zimmerman |
| • Monday | 4.3 | 9am
11:30am | Food Pantry
Prayer Shawl Meeting |
| • Tuesday | 4.4 | noon | Zoom Book Study |
| • Wednesday | 4.5 | 9am
noon
noon | Food Pantry
AA Meeting
Centering Prayer in the Chapel |
| • Thursday | 4.6 | 11:30am
6pm | Soup & Sandwiches in Clee Park
Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows |

AW = After Worship

Upcoming Events

- See Insert for additional Holy Week offerings
- Easter Sunday April 9
- FOCUS Brook Bar B Q April 18 (See Insert)
- 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

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Holy Week Services

**FCIA
2023**

PALM SUNDAY 4.2.23

- Youth process with palm fronds; gather at back of Sanctuary before service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF SHADOWS 4.6.23

- First Church Sanctuary 6pm

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE LAST SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST 4.6.23

- Sweet Pilgrim Baptist Church 7pm (after service at First)

ECOLOGICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WITH REV. MARK CHAFFIN 4.7.23

- Visit the Stations of the Trees in Clee Park next to our church building. Guided prayer at 10am & 5pm

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ECUMENICAL SERVICE 4.7.23

- First Lutheran Church in Albany, noon

HOLY SATURDAY LITURGY & EUCHARIST 4.8.23

- Cathedral of All Saints, Albany 9am

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 4.8.23

- Cathedral of All Saints, Albany 7pm

FOCUS EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 4.9.23

- Swan Street Stairs, west side of Capital Park, 6:30am

EASTER SUNDAY 4.9.23

- New members join First Church during the Easter Worship service, 10am

Updated as of 3.28.23

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

DELMAR REFORMED
CHURCH

386 DELAWARE AVE, DELMAR



www.focuschurches.net info@focuschurches.net