

He is not here

FOR HE IS RISEN



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 20, 2025, 10am

The First Church in Albany Welcomes You

Easter

EGG HUNT & MAZE

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A BLESSED
AND MEMORABLE EASTER.

20 APRIL, 2025
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE 10AM SERVICE



ZIMMERMAN HALL
THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG

MAZE DESIGNED BY JOSHUA BLISS



The First Church in Albany
(Reformed Church in America)
Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today.
Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Prelude

“My Lord What a Morning”
Jackie Wright, flute

arr. Truuke Ameigh

“CRUCIFER”
Brass & Organ

arr. S.K. Tucker

Welcome & Paschal Greeting

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Call to Worship Sherrie Dobbs Johnson, *The Africana Worship Book, For Year C*, Valerie Bridgeman Davis, PhD and Safiyah Fosua, eds. (*Discipleship Resources, 2008*), 67.

Leader: This is a new day! A day of marvels and miracles! A day to rejoice in what God has done! Yesterday was filled with too many worries and too little faith.

People: This Easter morning, we hear the old folks saying, “Mary don’t you weep!”

Leader: This is a new day! A day of marvels and miracles! A day to rejoice in what God has done! Yesterday was filled with too much criticism and too little affirmation.

People: Today, Martha, don’t you moan!

Leader: This is a new day! A day of marvels and miracles! A day to rejoice in what God has done! Yesterday was filled with too many questions and too few answers.

People: This is Easter morning: dry your tears and shout for joy! Jesus is not dead. He is Alive! God has conquered death and Jesus has canceled sin. This is, indeed, a new day! Leap for joy!

***Opening Hymn**

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

See p.9

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

Lord, we confess that we have not lived as we ought. May we pray these words together in hopes that we can live them together: We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit have conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity. We also believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience that can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

Time of silent confession

Assurance of Pardon Karen Pidcock-Lester, in *The Abingdon Women's Preaching Annual, Series 2, Year A, compiled and edited by Lenora Tubbs Tisdale, (Abingdon, 2000), 102-103.*

In the empty tomb, God declares that nothing can separate us from the love of God; nothing we have done, or left undone; no one whom we have been or failed to be. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Litany for New Ministry Partners (Members) Susan & Patricia Lloyd

PROFESSION: *Apostles' Creed (contemporary translation) The Senior Elder leads the congregation*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church*,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace & Welcome Song

“God Welcomes All”

See p. 10

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please greet one another, sharing Christ’s peace, after we sing *God Welcomes All three times through.*

Children’s Presentation



First Kids welcomes children of all ages to engage with the stories and seasons of the Christian faith through art and fellowship. To learn more about First Kids, please contact the office.

Prayer for Illumination by Andy James, First Presbyterian Church of Whitestone, Queens, NY

**O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you.
Amen.**

First Reading 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Text: Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again."

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Easter Homily

Witness of the Resurrection

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response**

"The Strife is O'er"

See p.11

Confession of Faith:(from Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 45)

Question: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

Answer:

First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death.

Second by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.

Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection. This is our faith and hope. Alleluia, amen.

Offering & Offertory

"Begin the Song of Glory Now"

J.J. Vajda/A. Fedak

Begin the song of glory now: the Son has risen from his grave!

The night of mourning long is past: life has a purpose after all.

Our Samson smashed the gates of hell, and we are free at last, at last!

Begin the song of glory now: the Son has risen from our grave!

Prepare the song of glory now: the Son has risen from his grave!

Composers, players, find new sounds for ev'ry instrument and voice:

A note, a chord, an aria, a Kyrie, a gloria.

Prepare the song of glory now: the Son has risen from our grave!

Repeat the song of glory now: the Son has risen from his grave!

Complete the Easter overture, and join the Alleluia choir.

"In Jesus name" the song begin, and end: "All praise to God alone!"

Repeat the song of glory: the Son has risen from our grave!

Every Easter, First Church gives our offering to two organizations, one local and one international. The offering is divided equally between the two organizations.

*Today's Easter offering will be going to the **Capital Area Council of Churches' Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter**, which is now housed here at First Church and operates from November through April. The second organization today's Easter offering will be going to is **Church World Service**, which works closely with refugees as they settle into communities within the United States.*

***An Easter Prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer**

Mighty God with all power to resurrect. We ask that you bless this offering - all who gave and wished to give. May these we all and everything we offer serve as a witness to your resurrection.

**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** "When All Is Ended" SINE NOMINE See p. 8

***Charge & Blessing** *congregation will sing the alleluia refrain from "When All Is Ended"*

Congregation of Jesus Christ, let us praise His name with thanksgiving.

Congregation sings: "Alleluia, alleluia!"

Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord!

Congregation sings: "Alleluia, alleluia!"

Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to the Three-in-One: To God our Creator and Our Savior, who the victory has won; glory to the Holy Spirit, fount of love and sanctity.

Congregation sings: "Alleluia, alleluia!"

Postlude Improvisation-Toccata: "The Strive Is O'er" A. Fedak

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak, Ian Leet

Organist: Iteke Prins

Vocalists: Ned Monthie, Roger Monthie, Dave Bradley, Glenn Claydon, Zak Morton, Ian Leet, Jean Lamere, Norma Jean Ballou, Kathie Monthie, and Wendy Hughs - First Church Choir

Instrumentalists: Jackie Wright - flute, Noah Sott and Eric Achzet - trumpets, Dante Malagrida – Euphonium, and Spencer Dodge - Tuba

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

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Note: If you have ordered an Easter lily, please take it now. If there are Easter lilies left over, please take one for your home or give one to someone you would like to bless.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt and Maze in Zimmerman Hall. Joshua Bliss will give instructions to the children.

When All Is Ended

10 10 10 w alleluia

Brian Wren

R. Vaughan Williams

1. When all is end - ed, time and troub - les past,
2. A - gainst all hope, our wear - y times have known
5 3. With all cre - a - tion, pain and an - ger past,
shall all be men - ded, sin and death out - cast? In hope we
wars end - ed, peace de - clared, com - pas - sion shown, great days of
10 e - vil ex - haus - ted, love su - preme at last, a - live in
sing, and hope to sing at last, Al - le - lu - ia! Al -
free - dom, ty - rants o - ver thrown. Al - le - lu - ia! Al -
15 God, we'll sing an un - sur - passed Al - le - lu - ia! Al -
- le - lu - ia!
- le - lu - ia!
- le - lu - ia!

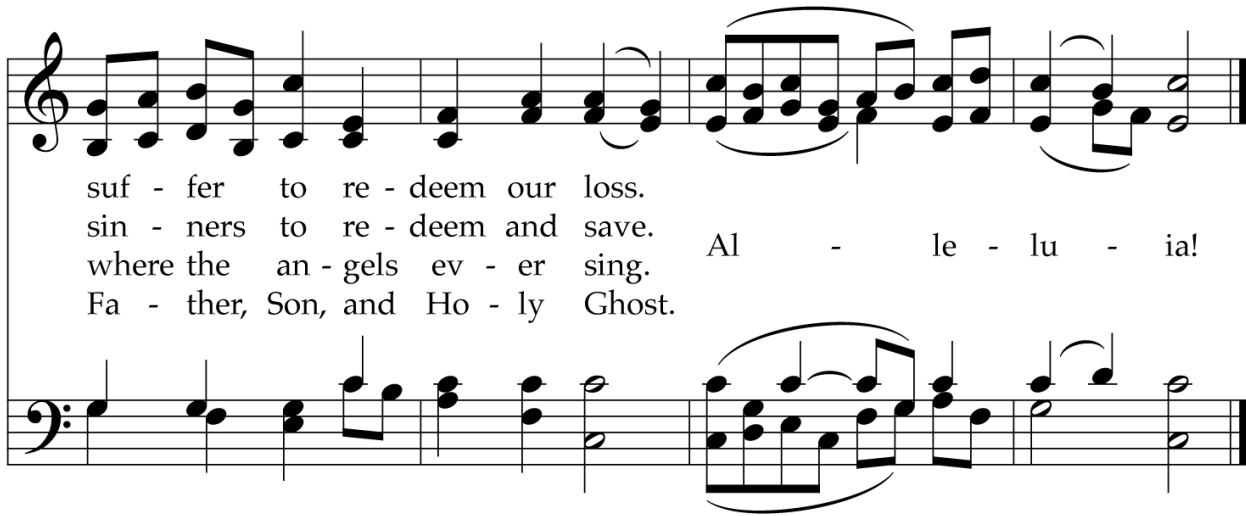
232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured,
4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um-phant ho - ly day,
un - to Christ, our heaven-ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky he's King,
Praise our God, ye heaven-ly host,

continued



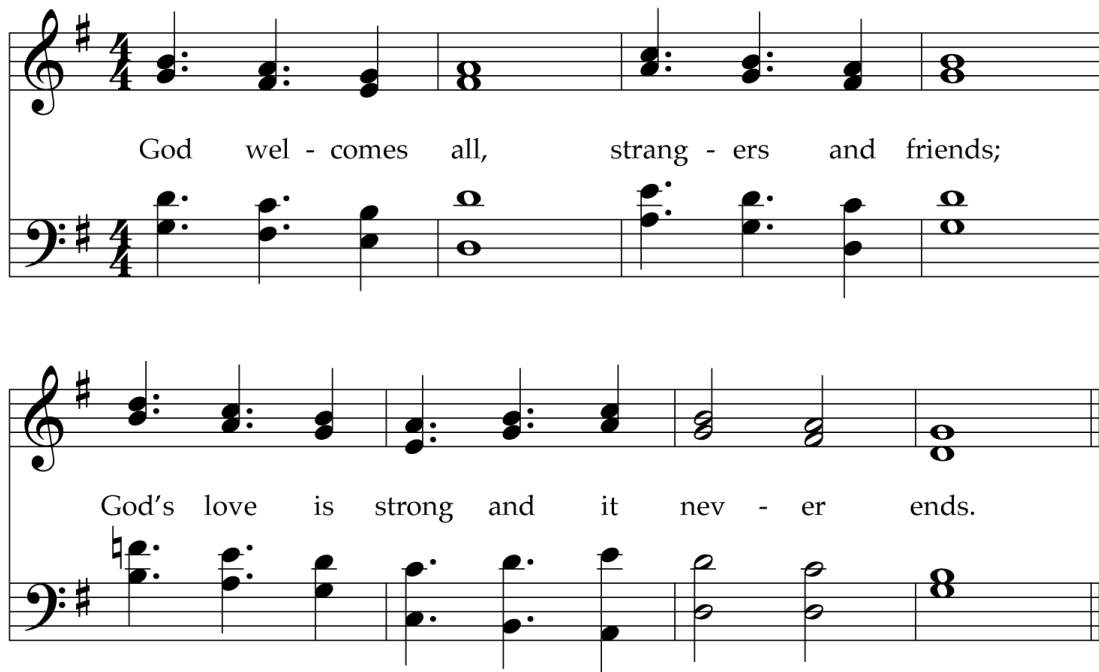
suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-3, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740
 Spanish trans. Juan Bautista Cabrera, alt.; Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

EASTER HYMN
 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

God Welcomes All 399



God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
 God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008
 MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008
 Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN
 4.4.9

The Strife Is O'er

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Refrain (before stanza 1 and after stanza 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped; Christ ris - es
 4 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 sting thy ser - vants free, that we may live, and

has be - gun.
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head!
 sing to thee:

The Latin text from which this hymn has been translated may well be older than its earliest printing in a 17th-century collection published in Cologne. It is set to an adaptation of a portion of the Gloria Patri section from a 16th-century choral version of the Magnificat.

The First Church in Albany

firstchurchinalbany.org

*We are a downtown Albany NY church
that is rooted in Christ and committed
to the people and the city of Albany.*

Worship

**Every Sunday at 10am
In-Person or via our Live Stream on
YouTube**

Please visit our
website and follow us
on Facebook.

Learn more about
our family ministries,
bible studies,
outreach volunteer
opportunities and
other ways to
connect.

*Thank you for joining
us today and have a
blessed Easter!*



First Church in Albany

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