

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

Communion Sunday
Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 3, 2022, 10am

*"...for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people..."*

Isaiah 43:20b

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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent April 3, 2022

Prelude

“O God, Be Merciful to Me”
Margaret Randall, organist

J.S.. Bach

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

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

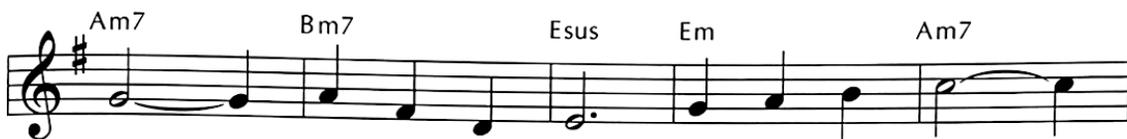
Lenten Introit & Draping of the Cross

v. 1 & 5

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 126*

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

People: We were like those who dream.

Leader: Our mouth was filled with laughter,

People: And our tongues with shouts of joy!

Leader: For the LORD had done great things for us, and we rejoiced. And so,

People: May those who sow in tears, reap with shouts of joy.

Leader: For those who go out weeping, bearing the seeds for sowing,

People: Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying bundles of laughter.

Leader: Let us worship this God who turns our sorrows into joy and peace!

***Opening Hymn (In recognition of our Muslim neighbors beginning Ramadan)**

Salaam/Peace

Instrumental introduction, interlude, and ending

Am Em/A Dm/A E7 Fine
(last time molto rit.)

Unison Am A/C#

1 Your peace with - in us, Lord, will stand, sur - pass - ing all we
 2 When walk - ing we are led a - stray, your Spir - it in us
 3 God's peace you of - fered us to live, a peace the world can

Dm F

un - der - stand. E - ven when fears sur - round our land you
 lights the way to bring us back and guard our days. You
 nev - er give, and while your Spir - it in us lives, you

Bm7(b5) E7 Refrain Am Em7

fill our lives with peace. Sa - laam, sa - laam, the
 laam, sa - laam, the

Dm 1 E7 2 E7 D.C.

peace of God to ev - ery race. Sa -
 peace of God in ev - ery place.

Words: Manal Samir, Egypt © 2002 *Songs of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt*, Synod of the Nile, Council of Pastoral Work and Evangelism, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources; tr. Anne Emile Zaki, adapt. Emily Brink © 2008 Faith Alive Christian Resources
 Music (SALAAM 8.8.8.6 refrain 4.8 D): Manal Samir, Egypt © 2002 *Songs of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt*, Synod of the Nile, Council of Pastoral Work and Evangelism, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources; arr. Greg Scheer © 2008 Greg Scheer

Prayer of Confession *Based on Philippians 3*

O Lord, in a world where so many have lavish privileges, it is hard for many of us to say with Paul, “Whatever gains I have, I have come to regard them as loss because of Christ.” Teach us that you are our greatest treasure, and all good things come from you. Move us to acts of selflessness — time, talent, and financial.

Assurance of Pardon

First Church, if you find knowing Christ as your greatest treasure difficult to accomplish, do not worry, so did Paul. He finishes this section of his letter by saying: “Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Live in the peace that Christ has made you his own.



***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

Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

First Reading

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Short Musical Interlude

Second Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

It's Been a Long Time Coming

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response**

Be Thou My Vision

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is E-flat major (three flats) and the time signature is 3/4. Chord markings are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

System 1: Chords: E^b, A^b, Cm, B^b, E^b.
 1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

System 2: Chords: B^b, A^b, B^b.
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

System 3: Chords: A^b, E^b, Cm, A^b, B^b.
 thou my best thought, — by day or by night;
 Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be,
 thou and thou on - ly first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

System 4: Chords: E^b, Cm, A^b, Fm, E^b.
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931); vers. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), P.D.
 Music (SLANE 10.10.10.10): Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader (b. 1942) © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

*Doxology #592

**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 **You Satisfy the Hungry Heart** **v. 1 & 4**

Refrain D Bm G F#m D/F# Em A D

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat;

Bm F#m Em A D *Fine*

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Bm G F#m G A7 Bm

1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
2 With joy-ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat-i-tude
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4 The mys-tery of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor-tal tongue can tell:
5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self-less let us be,

Em A Em Em7 *to Refrain* A

so when you call your fam-ily, Lord, we fol-low and re-joice.
that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav-en-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can-not con-tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth-er in your name in truth and char-i-ty.

Submitted together, this text and tune were chosen from about two hundred entries to be the official hymn for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress held at Philadelphia in 1976. At the center of its many biblical images, the third stanza draws on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

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!



***Sending Hymn**

Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

TEXT: Münster *Gesangbuch*, 1677; stanzas 1-3, trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt.; stanza 4, trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873, alt.

MUSIC: Silesian folk melody; *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

CRUSADERS' HYMN
 5.6.8.5.5.8

***Charge & Benediction (from the Franciscan Billabong Comm)**

May God bless you with Discomfort...

at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with Anger...

at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
o that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with Tears...

to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war so
that you may
reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness...

to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

Postlude

“Postlude”

F. Peters

Margaret Randall, organist

After Service: Come to the Parlor for a time to reflect together on the Lenten devotional book *Falling Into Goodness* by Chuck DeGroat. Come even if you haven't read it — all are welcome!

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Margaret Randall

Vocalist: Members of the First Church Choir

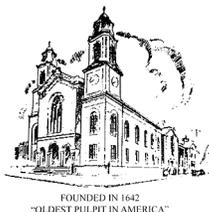
Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

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First Church in Albany Prayer Requests

- Cheri Jones
- Kathleen and Glenn Claydon, as they support friends who are grieving
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement), in hospital
- Rev. Susan Vincent Cox for the passing of her mother Barbara
- Norma McClement
- Becky Gardner
- Joan, friend of Karen Van Epps who was injured in a fire
- Norma and Leo, neighbors of Audrey Ming
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Joe Vasta, friend of the Persons family
- Family of Nathaniel Marable
- Mary Ann Selmer
- For the family of Danielle as they mourn her passing, friends of the Andrews kids
- For Katherine's grandmother
- For the friends and family of Nat Phipps (of the Nat Phipps Jazz Trio) at his passing
- 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
- 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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