



The First Church in Albany MAY 2023



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| The | 7 | 111 | HAPPY Day | er's | 4 | the state of the s |
| Albany Tulip Fest May 13 & 14 | Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11am | Zoom 2 Study noon | 3 AA | A Night of Worship | Cinco de Mayo | 6 |
| Teritage Sunday | 8 | Zoom 9 Study noon | 10 AA | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Mother's Day & Congrega tional Mtg. | * 15 | Zoom Study noon | 17 12 14 AA | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | * 22 | Zoom 23 Study noon Women's Network Event | * 24 * AA | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Pentecost | Memorial Day Office Closed | Zoom 30 Study noon | | | Sunday May 7 | the First Church in Albany |

Key:

First Drive-In Service



















Worship 10am

Choir Rehearsal Worship

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 30, 2023

Prelude Reflection Psalm 16: 9-11

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,

or let your faithful see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy,
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Prelude

"If You but Trust in God to Guide You"

M. Sedio

Tolling of Bell: bell tolled by children of First Church

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come... Rev.1:4.

Call to Worship Psalm 68

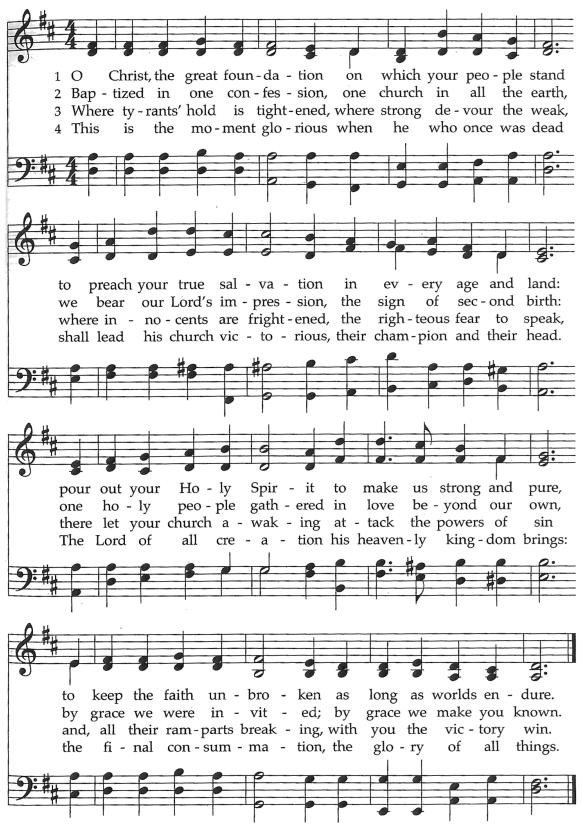
Leader: Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds - his name is the Lord - be exultant before him.

People: Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

Leader: Bless God in the great congregation, the Lord, O you who are of Israel's fountain!

ALL: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord. Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

*Opening Hymn O Christ, the Great Foundation



The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that we are a people in need of saving. I am in need of your magnificent grace. Reign in my heart and my mind today.

Time of silent confession

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law Ephesian 4:7-8.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. That is why it says:

"When he ascended on high He took many captives And gave gifts to his people."

*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 Psalm 119:105

May your word be a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

Sermon Text

Ephesians 4:7-13

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response

The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail



Profession of Faith Apostles' Creed Traditional Version

Written about 300 years after the birth of Christ, the Apostles' Creed summarizes foundational Christian beliefs. It has been used both as a statement of faith and in worship by many denominations, including the RCA.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 "Church Sonata" G. Young

*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.

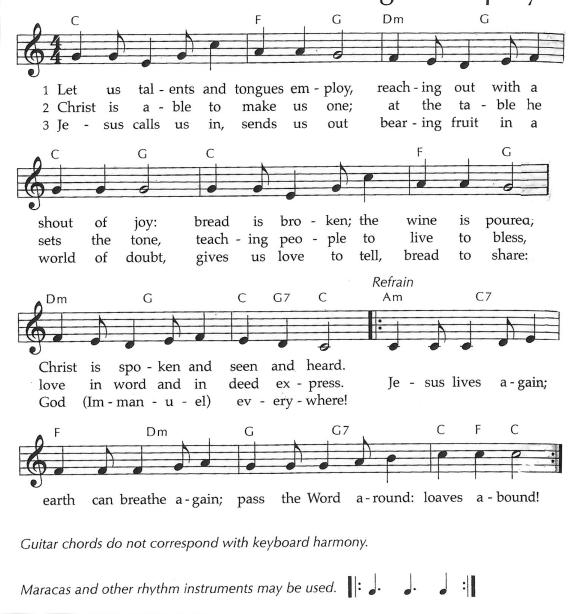
Give us this day our daily bread.

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 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

"Let Us Talents Tongues Employ"

M. Sedio

CCLI License #463379; *One License* #A-700689

Today's Worship Team:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist:

Organist: Iteke Prins

Tech Team: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

Note: You are invited to coffee and refreshments in Zimmerman Hall.

Consistory, please stay to practice Communion.

Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- · Rev. Mashona, for the passing of her paternal aunt.
- Family and friends of Mary Ann Selmer as they mourn her passing.
- · Family and friends of Miranda Rand of the Schenectady Classis
- Mia Westman and the Westman family,
- for the passing of Willem

 Zak Morton and family, for the passing of James Morton, Zak's father
- · Kathleen Claydon and family, for the passing of her mother Asunta.
- Joe Vasta and Albie, friends of the
- Sam, family of Barb and Dave Andrews
- Imani Brewer, for the passing of her grandfather
- Eula, friend of Joeanna Brown
- · Patty Salsbury, 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
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-
- · 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
- Prayers for this burden of gun violence and its aftermath
- An end to the war in Ukraine

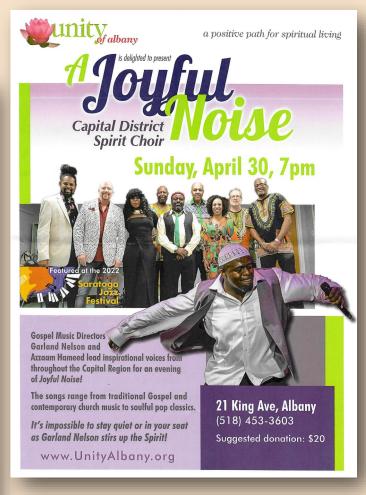
Prayer Concerns? If you would like your church family to join you in prayer, please share your concerns and joys with us. Call the office at 518-463-4449 or email office@firstchurchinalbany.org.

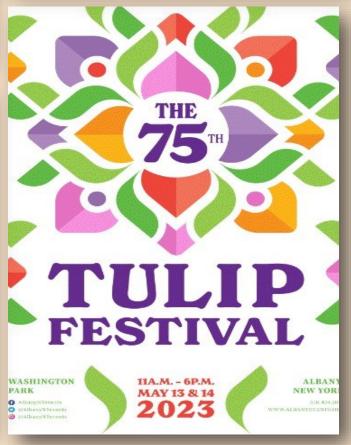


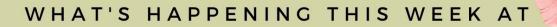
Upcoming events...











THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

| • | Sunday | 4.30 | 10am | Indoor Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom |
|---|-----------|------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| | - | | AW | Fellowship and Coffee in Zimmerman, |
| | | | | Communion Practice for Consistory |
| • | Monday | 5.1 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | | | 11:30am | Prayer Shawl Meeting |
| • | Tuesday | 5.2 | noon | Zoom Book Study |
| • | Wednesday | 5.3 | 9am | Food Pantry |
| | • | | noon | AA Meeting |
| | | | noon | Centering Prayer in the Chapel |
| • | Thursday | 5.4 | 7pm | A Night of Worship (Potluck at 6pm) |
| | | | | |

AW = After Worship

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, May 7—Heritage Sunday, Crop Walk
- Sunday, May 14—Mother's Day, Congregational Meeting (Election Office Bearers) AW
- Sunday, May 21—First Drive In of 2023
- Sunday, May 28—Pentecost
- Monday, May 29—Memorial Day, Office and Pantry Closed

^{*}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