

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you

April 9, 10am Service

EASTER

He Is Risen



Easter

EGG HUNT

With a maze designed by Joshua Bliss

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A BLESSED
AND MEMORABLE EASTER.

09 APRIL 2023

IMMEDIATELY AFTER
THE 10AM SERVICE

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



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.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

Prelude *"Pre-Improvisation - Toccata: The Strife Is O'er"*

Choir Introit *"An Empty Tomb at Early Dawn"* R. Leach

An empty tomb at early dawn, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus who died is living on, glory hallelujah!
Not less than life in flesh and bone, dawn, glory, hallelujah!
A greater life than this we own, glory, hallelujah!
(followed by earthquake)

***Processional Hymn & Christ Candle Processed In** *(Sing 2X)*
Celtic Alleluia

Refrain

The musical notation consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The first system has the following notes and lyrics: Treble: A4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Bass: A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). Lyrics: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Chords: A, E, D, E, A, D, E. The second system has the following notes and lyrics: Treble: A4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). Bass: A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). Lyrics: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Chords: A, E, Bm, E, A, D, A.

Welcome & Paschal Greeting (said twice)

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed!

Call to Worship *Psalms 46*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Leader: though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah

People: **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Leader: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

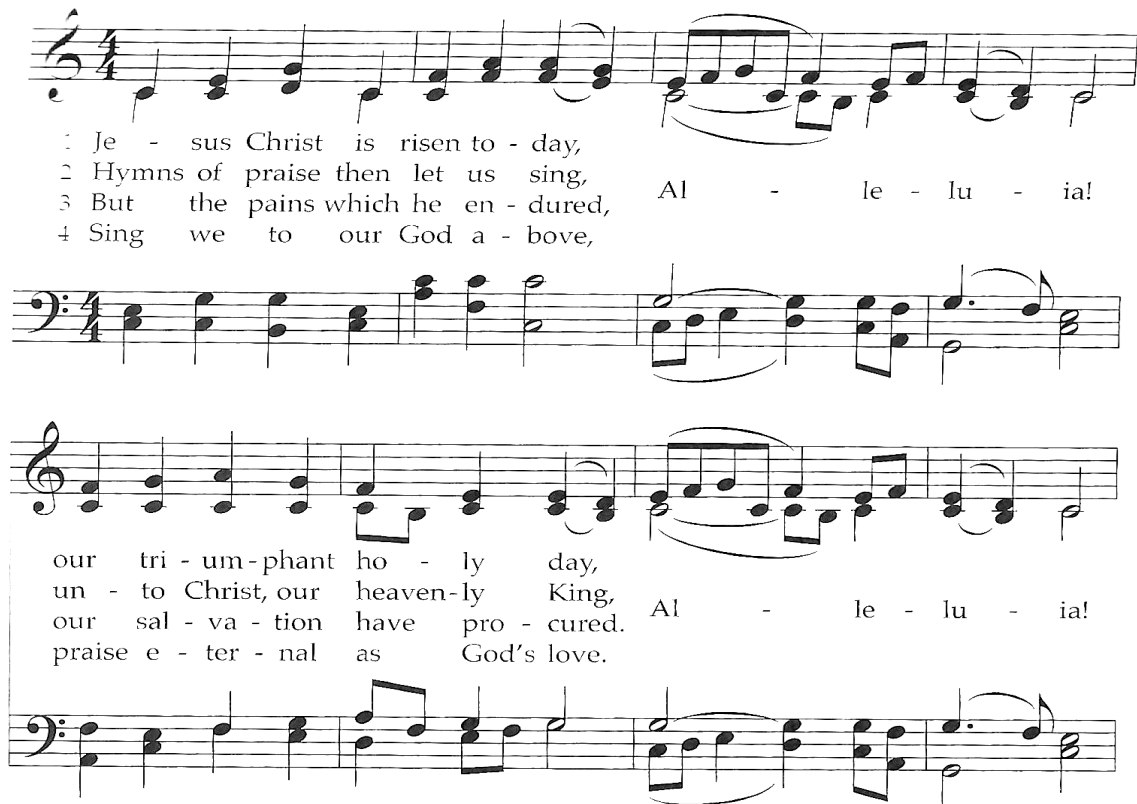
People: **The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

Leader: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah
Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

People: **"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."**

Leader: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Opening Hymn *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 heav - en - 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,
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heaven-ly host,
 Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Prayer of Confession *Based on prayer from Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia*

Risen Christ, the world despised and rejected you. You responded with grace, humility, and welcome. The proud questions your power and devised your death. You responded with peace, forgiveness, and new life. Forgive us, Merciful One. Forgive our arrogance, greed, selfishness, scheming, and our violence. Forgive us, Merciful One. We are like them. Make us like you.

Time of silent confession

Assurance of Pardon

First Church, the good news is this: The stone is rolled away, and the tomb was found empty! Mary proclaims to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" Know that in her joyous proclamation which announces Christ's death and resurrection, you are forgiven; accept your forgiveness, and know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life. Amen.

Confessional
Hymn

Christ Is Alive!

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995

MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
LM

*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We will have five minutes to greet one another, please return to your seats when the music begins to play.

Welcoming New Ministry Partners

(Sing 2X)

God Welcomes All

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

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and the second line of music corresponds to the second line of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

Prayer for Illumination *Please sing*

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

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival." I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Text

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Rock-n-Roll



A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response**

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What joy this
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to sil - ence all my fears; he lives to

blest as - sur - ance gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my

once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ing to im - part.

Offering & Offertory:

A note about today's offering: Every Easter, First Church gifts our offering to two organizations, one local and one international. This year, First Church is gifting our Easter offering to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH) in Albany, NY, and St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Budapest, Hungary, which is working with Ukrainian refugees.

Today's offering will be given to these organizations, unless otherwise specified. Simply place your gift in the offering plate as it passes.

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

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

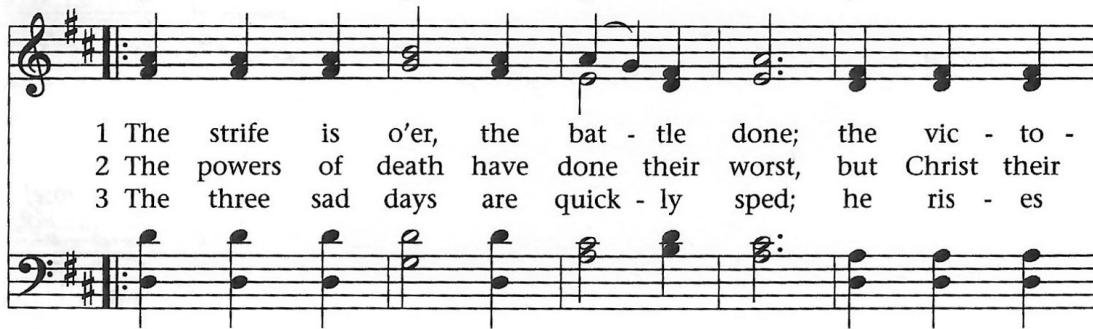
Alleluias to be sung at the beginning and conclusion of the hymn

D G D Bm F#m D A D Fine



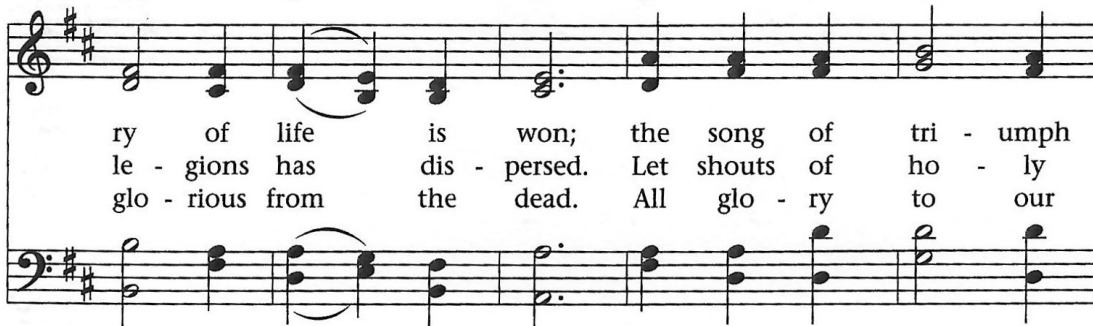
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

D G A D



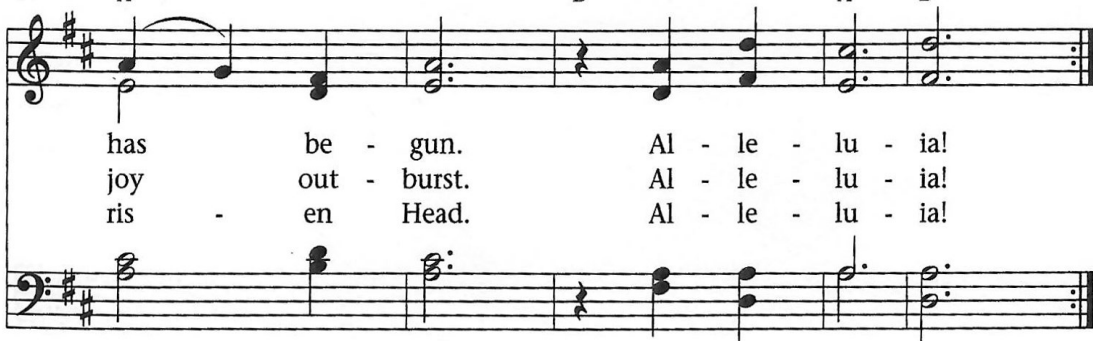
1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -
2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped; he ris - es

Bm D A D G



ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
le - gions has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly
glo - rious from the dead. All glo - ry to our

A D A D



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

***Charge & Blessing:** *Inspired by “The Way” found in The 12 Step Prayer Book, Third Edition*

Leader: The way is long;

People: Let us go together.

Leader: The way is difficult;

People: Let us help each other.

Leader: The way is joyful;

People: Let us share our joy.

Leader: The way is Christ;

People: Let us go with Christ.

Leader: The way grows before us;

People: Let us begin.

Postlude

“Allelujah from Mt. of Olives”

Beethoven

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Today’s Worship Team

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Organist: Itke Prins

Vocalist(s) and/or specialist(s): choir (*David Allen, Norma Jean Ballou, Erica Bliss, Glenn Claydon, Becky Hudak, and Jean Lamere*), Ben Fedak, Rebekah Timerman, and Joshua Bliss.

Tech Team: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

Note: If you have order an Easter lily, please take it now. If there are Easter lilies leftover, please take one or gift one to someone you would like to bless. Due to technical challenges this week, we apologize that the Memorial List for the Lilies is not available today. We will publish it in next week’s Eblast. Thank you for your understanding.

You are invited to coffee and refreshments down in
Zimmerman Hall!

Join us — It’s going to be **EGG**-CITING and A-
MAZE-ING!!!!



The First Church in Albany

APRIL 2023

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

Key:

								AW
Pantry 9am	Centering Prayer 12pm	Worship 10am	Communion Sunday	Coffee Hour	Soup & Sandwiches the Park 11:30am	Weather vanes 12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	After Worship



First Church in Albany

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