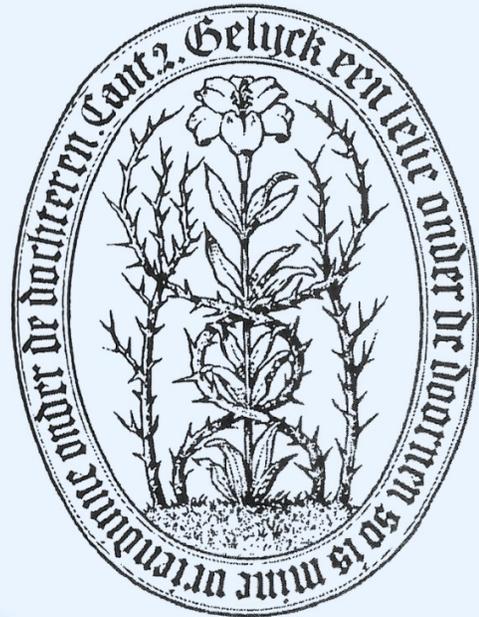


**The First Church in Albany**

*Welcomes you*

**Heritage Sunday  
May 8, 2022, 10am**



# **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.*

## **Heritage Sunday**

May 8, 2022

**Tune in to 87.9FM on your car radio**

**Prelude**

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

Doug Persons, trumpet

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing**

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

**Votum:** This Latin word, votum, means something like "vow" or even "wish." It is uniquely used by congregations within the Calvinist Reformed Tradition. The most common votum is Psalm 124:8

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**People: Amen.**

**Call to Worship Psalm 23**

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

**People: He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.**

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

1. I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his won-drous love to me;  
 2. I will tell the won-drous sto-ry, how my lost es-tate to save,  
 3. I will praise my dear Re-deem-er, his tri-um-phant pow'r I'll tell,  
 4. I will sing of my Re-deem-er and his heav'n-ly love to me;

on the cru-el cross he suf-fered, from the curse to set me free.  
 in his bound-less love and mer-cy he the ran-som free-ly gave.  
 how the vic-to-ry he giv-eth o-ver sin and death and hell.  
 he from death to life has brought me, Son of God, with him to be.

Refrain

Sing, O sing of my Re-deem-er! With his blood he pur-chased me;

on the cross he sealed my par-don, paid the debt, and made me free.

Philip P. Bliss, 1878

MY REDEEMER 8.7.8.7.ref.  
James McGranahan, 1840-1907; rev. 1956  
Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

**Prayer of Confession** written by Nancy Townley, and posted on the Worship Connection page of the Ministry Matters website.

**Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our (lives). You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of your Resurrection, let us remember that we are to become “Easter People”, people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

In and through Christ, all things are possible!



#### **\*Passing the Peace**

**Leader:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Let us greet one another by honking our car horns!

### **Sermon Text**

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Get Up

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

\*Hymn of Response & Offering

v. 1-3

Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-quer-ing Son; end-less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov-ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - tory thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness,  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-querors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes where thy  
 hymns of tri-umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth; death hath  
 through thy death-less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy

Refrain  
 bod - y lay.  
 lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en con-quer-ing Son;  
 home a - bove.

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won!

Chord markings: Eb, Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb, Fm, Bbsus, Bb7, Eb, B°7, Cm, Fm, G, Cm, F7, Gm, F7, Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb, Fm, Bbsus, Bb7, Eb.

*“Bag-on-a-stick”  
 Our offering this  
 morning will be  
 received using the  
 “Bag-on-a-stick”.  
 These unique devices  
 were utilized each  
 Sunday in the 17th and  
 18th centuries.*

Words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932); tr. R. Birch Hoyle (1875-1939), P.D.  
 Music (JUDAS MACCABAEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5 refrain 5.5.6.5): George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), P.D.

## Prayers of the People

**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.**

## \*Charge & Blessing

### \*Postlude

*“Thine Is The Glory” reprise  
Doug Persons, trumpet*

## Worship Leadership:

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Keyboardist:** Margaret Randall

**Instrumentalist:** Doug Persons, trumpet

**Technical Team:** Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

---

## Heritage Sunday at The First Church in Albany

The First Church in Albany is part of the Reformed Church in America, one of the oldest active denominations in North America with a continuous ministry since 1628. First Church was established in 1642.

The name Reformed comes from the Protestant Reformation which swept across Europe in the 1500s under the leadership of such people as Martin Luther and John Calvin. These Reformers insisted that the church was and is continually in need of being "reformed according to the Word of God."

The Reformers, and especially Calvin, emphasized the centrality of the Word of God in worship. The Word not only directs worship but is also very largely the content of worship. The Word is read and preached, and the Word is also sung and seen (in the Lord's Supper). The worshiper meets God through the Word.

The Psalms, in Calvin's view, were therefore the best songs for the Christian community to sing: "We shall not find better songs nor more fitting for the purpose, than the Psalms of David, which the Holy Spirit spoke and made through him," wrote Calvin. "When we sing them, we are certain that God puts in our mouths these, as if he himself were singing in us to exalt his glory. . . . There is no other book in which we are more perfectly taught the right manner of praising God."



As you leave, please pick up Mother's Day Flowers! To all those who are mothers or motherly figures, we honor, bless, and celebrate you today. Please gift these flowers or use them to remember someone.

You are invited to the Lemonade Lull in Clee Park where Dutch cookies will be served in celebration of First Church Heritage Day. You can also take a special brochure and walk the sanctuary to learn more about the history of First Church.



## Prayers how can we be praying for you?

- Beverly, a friend of Clarice Milliken
- For the passing of Shirley Nash, mother of Kathy Vitas.
- Marian, mother of Colleen Lais
- Jean Lamere
- Harold Bushnell
- Cheri Jones
- Frank Jeffries (son of Norma McClement)
- Rev. Susan Vincent Cox for the passing of her mother Barbara
- Norma McClement
- Becky Gardner
- 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, for her children (Melvin, Traekwon, Antonio, Julius, Brandon, and Christopher)
- For Katherine's grandmother
- 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
- 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
- For the end to gun violence in Albany and surrounding area, nationwide and globally.
- 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](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org)*

# This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 5.8  
10am Drive-in Worship, also on Zoom
- Monday 5.9  
9am Food Pantry  
12:30pm Endowment Team Meeting
- Tuesday 5.10  
12pm Adult Scripture Study  
6:30pm Consistory Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday 5.11  
9am Food Pantry  
12pm AA Meeting  
12pm Centering Prayer

## Happy Mother's Day

### Upcoming Events

- Wednesday 5.18 12:30pm May Weathervanes Luncheon
- Saturday 5.21 9:30am FCIA Garden Flower Planting Day
- Sunday 5.22 11:30pm After worship, First Church walks Albany Skyway  
Elder, Deacon, Trustee nominations due.

*Meeting Schedules are subject to change.  
Watch your email for updates if you are a part of these gatherings.*

GROUP & MINISTRY LEADERS, SEND US YOUR

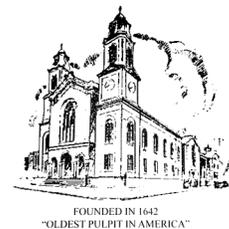
## CALENDAR UPDATES

ONE-TIME EVENTS  
OR RECURRING MEETINGS

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH YOUR SCHEDULED GATHERINGS SO THAT WE CAN PUT THEM ON THE CHURCH EVENT AND OPERATIONAL CALENDARS.



EMAIL  
OFFICE@FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG  
OR CALL  
518-463-4449



## First Church in Albany

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

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)