

#### Radio Station: 87.9

**Prelude** Variation on "PROSPECT" Trad.

Joshua Bliss, Baritone Sax

## Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

I was glad when they said to me, "let's go into the courts of our God." One day in God's house is better than a thousand elsewhere.

#### Call to Worship

Psalm 136:1-3

L: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

P: for his steadfast love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the God of gods,

P: for his steadfast love endures forever. All: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.

# \*Opening Hymn (see insert) "When We Must Bear Persistent Pain"

### \*Prayer of Confession & New Living

Guide me O thou great Redeemer. Lead me through this barren land. Bread of heaven. Bread of heaven. Feed me till I need no more.

#### Words of Assurance & Encouragement

God opens now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow; God is your Strong Deliverer.

\*Adapted from the hymn Guide Me by William Williams

#### \*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a honk of

the horn and hand-sign of peace.

beep beep beep



#### Children's Message & Blessing

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light for my path.

Sermon Text Psalm 23

Leader: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God** 

**Sermon** The Lord is a Leader

#### A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

\*Hymn of Response & Offering (see insert)
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

**Prayers of the People** (With a mic, the liturgist will walk to those with their hand raised.)

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 "How Great Thou Art" J.Carter

Note: Next Sunday, Sept. 3 is the FOCUS Worship Service at Emmanual Baptist Church in Albany.
\*\* There will be no worship at First Church \*\* Monday, Sept. 4 is Labor Day. The office and the pantry will be closed to observe the holiday.

If you would like to donate towards the wildfire catastrophe on Maui, ask the usher today for an envelope and be sure to mark "Maui Strong" on the memo line if you write a check. First Church will be donating to the Hawaii Community Foundation, which is recommended by the State of Hawaii and federal agencies.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Keyboard:** Iteke Prins

Vocalist/Specialist: Joshua Bliss bari-sax Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

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# The First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl Street, Albany NY 12207 518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

# When We Must Bear Persistent Pain



Reflecting the author's own experience of debilitating migraine headaches, this sung prayer speaks for many people whose lives involve constant pain, often without hope of lasting relief. This text is effectively set to a shape note tune using only five tones of the scale.

# The King of Love My Shepherd Is



