

What if ?

Drive-In Worship

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Radio Station: 87.9

Prelude

"Thine Is the Glory"

R. Lau

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 23

The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.**

**He leads me in right paths
Or paths of righteousness
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.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.**

***Opening Hymn** (see insert)
“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

***Prayer of Confession & New Living**

**Lord, I confess that I try to see all and
know all. Forgive me for the times I
react poorly to uncertainty. Help me to
accept the times when I do not know
what will happen next. Help me not to
try to control the uncontrollable by
looking for security and
predictability. There are times
when I seek my own comfort and
security over the journey you have set
before me.**

Words of Assurance and Encouragement

**With God as the Good Shepherd, we can
walk through the darkest valleys. We can
expand the table in times of uncertainty.
With God as the Good Shepherd, we do not
need to fear evil.**

beep beep beep



***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.

Children's Message & Blessing *The Story of And*

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 *Times of Uncertainty: What if?*

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** (see insert) *"Build a Longer Table"*

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.**

Offertory (see insert)
"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

***Closing Hymn** (see insert)
"To God Be the Glory"

***Charge & Blessing**

***Postlude** "Grosser Gott" arr. E. Laridin

Note: September 16th: Joint Board Retreat

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Keyboard: Itke Prins

Vocalist/Specialist: Jean Lamere

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

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Join Us for This Week's Events

SUN 10

- 10am: Drive In Worship (also on Zoom). See our website for links to worship info.

MON 11

- 9am: Food Pantry in temporary location

TUE 12

- Noon: Adult Book Study is back!

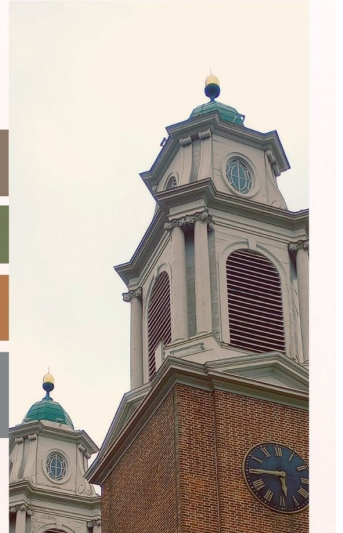


Scan for
full event
calendar

WED 13

- 9am: Food Pantry in temporary location
- Noon: Centering Prayer (Powell), AA Mtg (Parlor)

Our last Drive-In Worship Service will be Sunday, September 17. Indoor worship resumes on September 24.



The First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl Street, Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

Build a Longer Table

David Djorlin

broad - er door - way

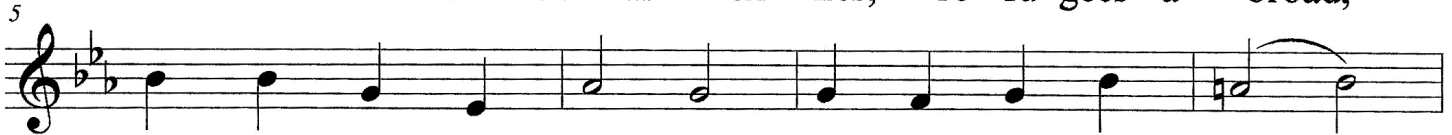


1. Build a lon - ger ta - ble. not a high - er wall, —

2. Build a sa - fer re - fuge, not a lar - ger jail; —

3. Build a broad - er door - way, not a lon - ger fence.

4. When we lived as ex - iles, re - fu - gees a - broad,

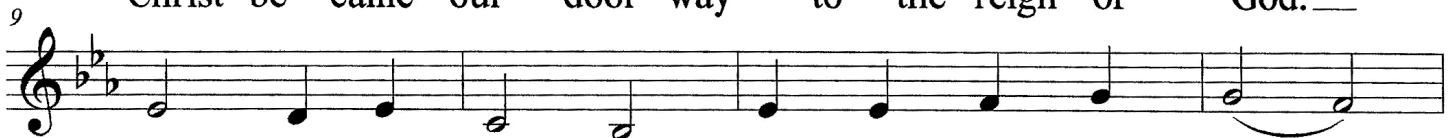


feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all. —

where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail. —

Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spa - ring no ex - pense.

Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God. —



Feas - ting to ge - ther, stran - ger turns to friend,

For a - ny place where jus - tice is de - nied, —

When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear, —

So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam. —



Christ breaks wall to pie - ces; false di - vi - sions end. —

Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side —

Christ tears down our fen - ces; all are wel - come here. —

None can be ex - clu - ded; all must find a home.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -

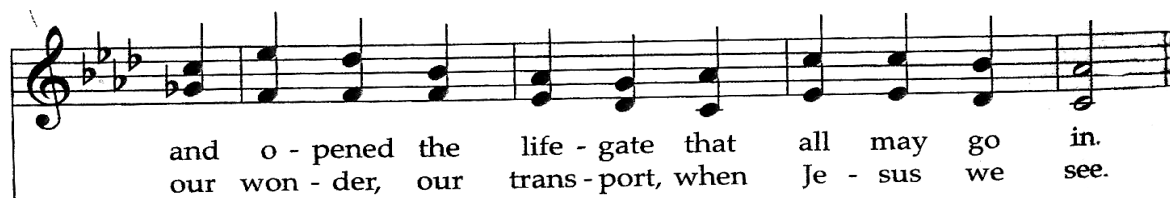
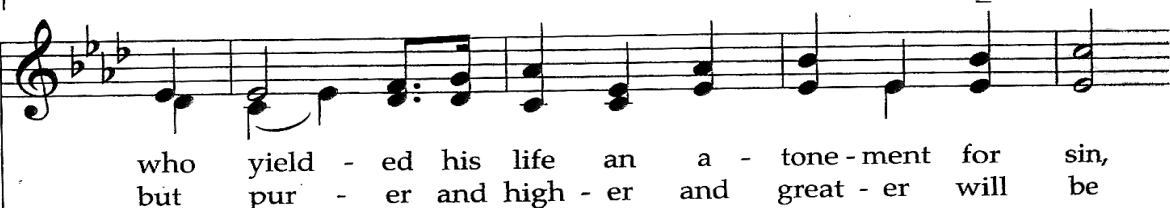
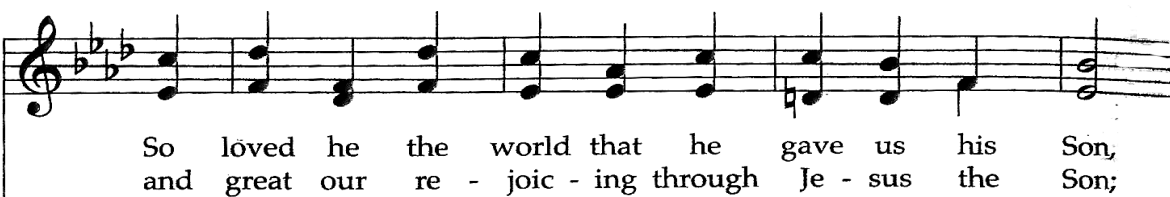
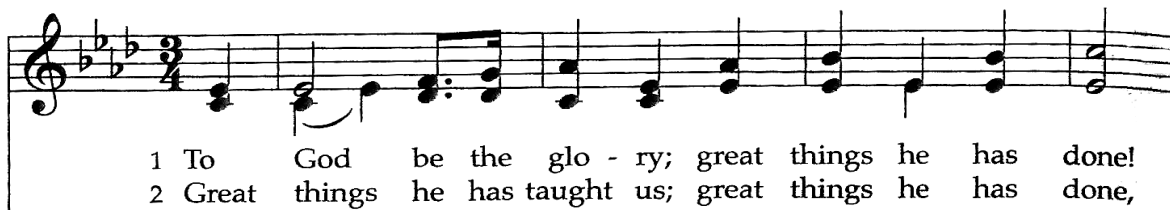
feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

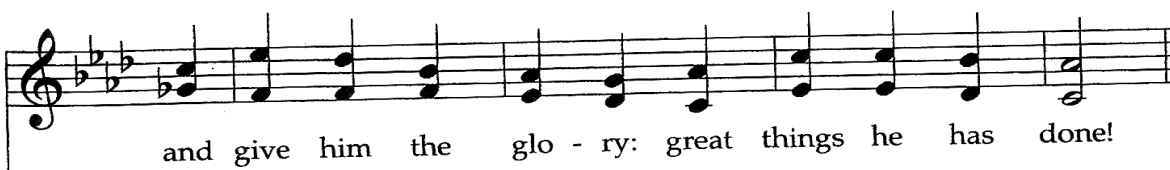
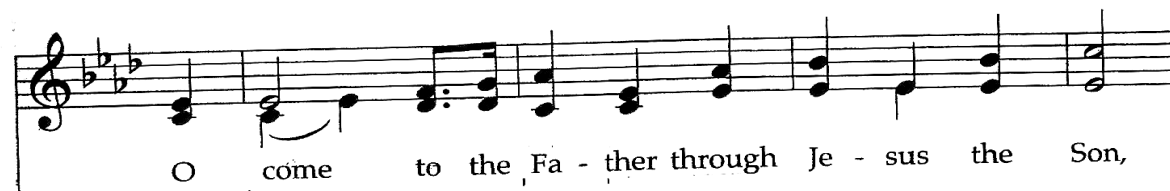
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

To God Be the Glory



Refrain



This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.