

The First Church in Albany

Welcomes you



*Whoever
welcomes
one such
child
in my
name
welcomes
me, and
whoever
welcomes
me,
welcomes
not me,
but the one
who sent me.*

Mark 9:37

Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 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.

Flowers

- Today's flowers are in loving memory of Joline Mondore, in this month of her birth, on September 22, from her Weathervane family.

All Saints Day is November 1st

- On Sunday, October 31, we will remember our loved ones lost in 2020. Please email or call the office with the names of church members and friends who have passed. We will include these in the bulletin and the names will be read in memory.

Office email: office@firstchurchinalbany.org

Office phone: 518-463-4449

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

We Gather in the Presence of God

Prelude

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
Margaret Randall, organist

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Blessing

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 1)*

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

People: Amen.

Leader: Miserable are those who follow the advice of the wicked;

People: of take the path of deceit; or sit and scoff at the innocent.

Leader: But happy are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord.

People: They are like trees planted by streams of living water.

Leader: They yield fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither.

People: And in all that they do, they prosper.

Leader: Let us worship this God who gives us life!

Opening Hymn

"You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"

Capo 5: (Am) (F) (C) (Em) (Am) (A7)
 Dm B^b F Am Dm D7

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

(Dm) (G) (C) (F) (Em) (Dm) (Am)
 Gm C F B^b Am Gm Dm

prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er and sword-bring - er
 on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory;

(B^b) (F) (E) (A/C#) (Dm)
 E^b B^b A D/F# Gm

of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 beg-gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing
 have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing

(Am) (G) (Am) (Dm) (Em) (Am)
 Dm C Dm Gm Am Dm

in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 in - stant; you who are both gift and cost.
 in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

When it was first published, the author called this text "Christus Paradox," because so many attributes of Christ stand in tension with each other. Mindful of the works of Søren Kierkegaard, she drafted it on a commuter bus after "a particularly bad day" of prison ministry.

***Prayer of Confession**

All: O Lord, for all the times we are not humble and scoff at others, we repent. For all the times we follow the advice of the wicked and take a path of deceit, we repent. For all the times we neglect your law and ways that lead to life, we repent.

Holy Spirit, replant us on the riverbanks of the Word of God. Make us delight again in the law of the Lord. With your living water, grow us to be trees of life who bear fruit in season and do not wither, and cause all that we do to prosper. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman looking for new life at a well: “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

Friends, God has sent us living water in Jesus, and Jesus has already promised to give us new life, saying, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.” And so, one day at a time, let us drink deeply the water Christ gives us, and know the peace that only he can give.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of the 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.

Prayer for Illumination

Teach us your ways, O Lord, so that we might delight in being humble and serving you and others. Amen.

Scripture

Mark 9:30-37

³⁰Jesus and the disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But the disciples did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But the disciples were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

³⁵Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶He then took a little child and brought the child among them; and taking the child in his arms, Jesus said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me, but the one who sent me.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

One Day at a Time

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Sermon Notes:

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

SAMARITAN

Irregular

John Thornburg (b. 1954)

Iteke Prins

Unison

Be ten - der with the ones you know who hold their sad - ness

deep in - side; be re - con-ciled for an - y mean - ness,

in - sult, rid - i - cule, or pride. Say and do the

things that strength-en; be the car - ri - ers of grace.

Let us be the ones in whom our neigh-bours see God's face.

Offering & Offertory *(based on Second Psalm from Lectionary)*

***Doxology #591**

**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

Leader: Oh Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, they 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

"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"

McFarland

DUNLAP'S CREEK CM

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

Samuel McFarland, c. 1816
Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

1. We walk by faith and not by sight; No
 2. We may not touch His hands and side, Nor
 3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
 4. That, when our life of faith is done, In

gra - cious words we hear From Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where He trod; But in His prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound To call on You when
 realms of clear - er light We may be - hold You

none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve Him near.
 we re - joice; And cry, "My Lord and God!"
 You are near And seek where You are found:
 as You are, With full and end - less sight.

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

“Psalm 19”
Margaret Randall, organist

Marcello

CCLI Licence #463379
One License #A-700689

Worship Leadership:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Guest Organist: Margaret Randall

Soloist: Rose Hunsberger

Technical Team: Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr



FIRST CHURCH PRAYER LIST

- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz.
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Myrica Cook, friend of the Persons family
- Ian Leet
- Lorraine Houk
- Barb Andrews
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Kenneth Carr (Fran's brother) and Angela Venable for the loss of their daughter
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Larry Underdue
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Students, as they begin the school year
- Staff and Leaders of First Church
- For Afghanistan, Haiti, the Caribbean and the Gulf Coast, for fires along the West Coast, Tennessee and New England, and the nations as they fight the Covid variants

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

This Week at the First Church in Albany

- Sunday 9.19 9am Drive-In Worship
10am Sanctuary Worship
- Monday 9.20 9am Food Pantry
- Wednesday 9.22 9am Food Pantry
12pm AA Meeting
12pm Centering Prayer
- Friday 9.24 1pm Art in the Park (weather permitting)

Other upcoming dates...

- Saturday 10.2 1pm Virtual Memorial Service for The Rev. Dr. Allan J. Janssen (information available from the office and will be listed in your Eblast)
- Sunday 10.10 10am Children and Worship Open House



FOUNDED IN 1642
"OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"

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