

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY &
FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY
WELCOME YOU TO

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 14th, 6:30pm



FOCUS Blue Christmas 2022

First Church in Albany
110 N Pearl St, Albany, NY 12207
Wednesday, December 14th, 6:30pm
(Parking is free in the lot off Sheridan Ave)



* Rise in body or in spirit

Prelude

*“Fantasia on Greensleeves”
“Schindler’s List”*

R. V. Williams
arr. I Prins

Erica Pickhardt, cellist, Itke Prins, piano

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Fred Boehrer

Call to Worship Psalm 130:1-2, 5-7, adapted for congregational setting

Rev. Brigid Beckman

Leader: Out of the depths we cry to you; O Lord, hear our cry!

People: Let your ears be attentive to our prayers!

Leader: We wait for the Lord; our souls wait,

People: and in God’s word, we hope; our souls wait for the Lord,

Leader: more than those who watch for the morning,

People: more than those who watch for the morning.

Leader: O people of God, hope in the Lord!

**People: For with the Lord there is steadfast love and the power to
redeem.**

Opening Song

*“Into the Winter’s Growing Darkness”
Susan Fedak, solo contralto, Itke Prins, piano*

In the winter’s growing darkness
in the chill of coming night,
Holy Spirit, you are with us
Working still, beyond our sight.
You are movement;
you bring freedom and release.

When the clouds of grief confound us,
when we drift through mental haze,
Holy Spirit, walk beside us
guide us through depression’s maze.
You are comfort, you are wholeness;
while we long for pain to cease,

In the darkness, guide our growing
In the darkness, grant us peace

In the darkness, guide our growing
In the darkness, grant us peace

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

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

Leader: The Lord leads me in the right paths for his name's sake.

People: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

Leader: You, Lord, prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

People: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Song by Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church Choir

Homily by Rev. Dr. Christopher A. Hill, Jr. of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

Candle Lighting Litany

Song

*“Different Kind of Christmas”
Glenn Claydon, vocals and guitar*

M. Schultz

Candle lighting for those who have died from or been hurt by gun violence

Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Candle lighting for those we are missing, and for the hardships of life

Becky Hudak

Candle lighting as an act of advent hope

Rev. Kathy Donley

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Heather Diddel

**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.

*Congregational Song God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



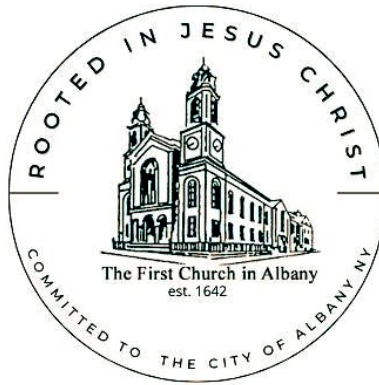
move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Closing Prayer & Blessing Ministers of the First Church in Albany

Note: You're invited for some refreshments and fellowship outside the sanctuary.



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.

www.firstchurchinalbany.org



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

www.focuschurches.net

**THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR**

Christmas Eve

A Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
(also on Zoom, see link on our website)

**Saturday
December 24
7pm**



The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St.
Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org



Pantry Hours

**Monday and
Wednesday
9am - 11:30am**

The pantry entrance is on Orange St.

518-463-4449

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SOUP IN Clee Park

**THURSDAY
11:30AM-12:30PM**

FREE SOUP LUNCH

Volunteers needed! We could use folks to join us
in the park to help serve and greet and converse
with our neighbors who stop by.
Arrive at 11:15am and join the team.

#firstchurchinmotion



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