

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of all history and eternity, whom we call upon even now, you are eternal, unchangeable, infinite, and almighty. You are completely wise, just, and good—and the overflowing source of all goodness. We thank you for your covenant, which is never broken, and your love, which is never measurable. Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God. Put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and do not take away your Holy Spirit, restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit.

Time of silence and reflection

Assurance of Pardon

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
-Psalm 130: 3-4, 7

Gloria Patri

The image shows a musical score for the Gloria Patri. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, and the bottom two are for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men." The score includes a measure rest marked with a '9' at the beginning of the piano accompaniment on the second staff.

*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with Christ's peace

(Don't forget to wave to those worshipping from home!)

Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon Text

John 11:1-45
Lazarus

p. 873 in the pew bible

Sermon title

“Alternative Lifestyle: Only If”

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”* #834 PRECIOUS LORD
See p. 6

Tithes & Offerings

If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.

Offertory

Sinfonia on the “Passion Chorale”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Karen Klevanosky, flutist

***Doxology** #592 in pew hymnal

**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.**

*Offertory Prayer

God, we trust in your provision. As we give today, we do so with the confidence that you will meet all our needs. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

Sending Hymn

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" #353

SOLID ROCK

See p. 7

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

"Toccata Giocosa"
Karen Klevanosky, flutist

Alfred V. Fedak

Note: Join us in Zimmerman Hall after worship for Coffee Hour!

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mark Mast	Worship Techs: Joshua Bliss,
Liturgist: Katherine Monthie	
Organist: Alfred Fedak	
Musician: Karen Klevanosky, flutist	CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
 8.7.8.7.D

834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righteous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24–27 / Luke 6:47–49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.



We are well into the Lenten season and that means Holy Week is around the corner. Among the many events during that week, of course, is Easter Sunday. After worship, we enjoy some fellowship time and that is when the kiddos get to seek out all the hidden, candy-filled eggs that is sprinkled throughout the maze designed by Josh Bliss.

We DO NOT NEED plastic eggs. We have plenty.

We do however, need candy. The preference is definitely small, individually wrapped candy items (i.e. kisses, foil-wrapped chocolate eggs, etc.). Josh also requested that we avoid candy with peanut butter or nuts, so as to avoid any allergy issues. Candy donations may be left on the table in the workroom for Josh to retrieve. Thank you all in advance!

Prayer LIST

as of 3.11.26



Indicates a new request

Current Joys & Concerns

- For Peter Crasto-Donnelly (exec. dir of CACC), his wife and son on the birth of baby boy Antonio. Mother and son are home and doing well.
- For the family and friends of Donna Schultz, who passed on March 3.
- For Carolyn Allen, as she continues in her recovery from a recent illness.
- For Jim Gallagher, son-in-law of Joyce Recene
- For Jill Busman, continuing medical treatment, and for her husband, Kent, as he supports her

(To add an item to the prayer chain, contact the minister, the office or a member of consistory.)

Note: Prayer concerns will be kept on the list for 4 Sundays. Please let the office or a member of Consistory know if a concern needs to be kept on after that.



Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- Mia Westman
- For our broken world, may the example of Jesus Christ lead us all to choose our words and actions from hearts of love and justice
- For the food insecure wrestling with loss of benefits, and for pantries and food banks as they try to fill the needs
- For all those impacted by mass-shooting incidents, for peace and comfort

GiveThanks

- For the work of the NYS Council of Churches and their work to inform congregations about how to respond to immigration issues in their community.
- For our coming together in worship, and the to praise God
- The Church of today, and the Church of the future.



HOLY WEEK 2026

- Palm Sunday - March 29, 10am
- Holy Thursday - April 2, 7pm
 - in the Chapel
- Good Friday - April 3, noon at Mater Christi Roman Catholic Church
- Holy Saturday - April 4
 - Keys for Kids Recital 2 pm
 - Zimmerman Hall
- Easter Sunrise Service - April 5, 6:30am
 - West Capital Park
- **Easter Sunday - April 5**
 - FCIA Sanctuary 10am
 - Followed by Coffee & the Easter Egg Maze in Zimmerman Hall



CELEBRATION OF LIFE
IAN DAVID LEET

April 11, 2026

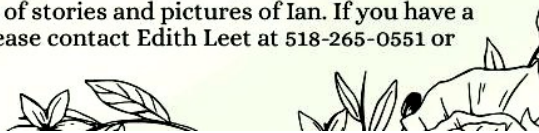
at

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Visit with the family at 10am
Service begins at 11am
Luncheon to follow



Ian was an active member of First Church for almost six decades. He was also active in the ministries of Emmanuel, where his wife, Edith, is a member. The service will be conducted by Reverend Trey Tirpak, former pastor at First Church, and Reverend Kathy Donley, pastor of Emmanuel. Visiting with the family will begin at 10 am. The worship service will begin at 11 am, and a luncheon at the church will follow. Since Ian willed his body to the Albany Medical Center Anatomical Gift Program, there will be no interment.

Singers are invited to join the Emmanuel choir to sing "Greater Love Hath No One" by John Ireland and "I Will Not Leave You Comfortless" by Everett Titcomb. Please contact Michael Clement at 518-377-0930 if you are interested. Help is also needed for the luncheon, including set up, clean up, preparation of food, and serving. If you would like to work on that, please contact Ellen Corcoran at 518-527-9569 or Edith Leet at 518-265-0551 or eleet100@gmail.com. Also, the family is asking for contributions to a memory book of stories and pictures of Ian. If you have a remembrance of Ian that you would like to share, please contact Edith Leet at 518-265-0551 or eleet100@gmail.com.



A LINK TO SIGN UP WITH FOR THE CHOIR CAN BE FOUND IN YOUR EBLAST, OR YOU CAN CONTACT THE OFFICE.

Edith Leet phoned the office to ask if anyone is looking to help out with the luncheon following Ian's memorial service on April 11 at Emmanuel Baptist Church. She is going to contact a couple of folks directly, having worked with you them before on First Church Events.

The needs that she mentioned at this point are **soups** and **pies** for dessert. If you can provide either of these items or have a favorite family recipe you would like to offer, please contact Edie at 518-265-0551. Thank you.



March 2026



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

 Indoor Worship 10am Communion Sunday Coffee Hour	1	2	 Pantry 9am Prayer Shawl Mtg 11:30am	3	 Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am BIBLE 1pm & 7pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm	4	 Pantry 9am	5	6	 Capital District Keys Kids 10am	7
 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Daylight Savings KIDS ART MUSEUM	8	9	 Pantry 9am	10	 Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am BIBLE 1pm & 7pm Centering Prayer 12pm AA 12pm	11	 Pantry 9am	12	13	 Capital District Keys Kids 10am	14
 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour KIDS ART MUSEUM	15	16	 Pantry 9am St. Patrick's Day	17	 Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am Weather vanes 12:30pm AA 12pm BIBLE 1pm & 7pm Centering Prayer 12pm	18	 Pantry 9am	19	20	 Capital District Keys Kids 10am	21
 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour KIDS ART MUSEUM Crop Walk Rally 2pm	22	23	 Pantry 9am FOCUS Mtg 6:30pm	24	 Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am BIBLE 1pm & 7pm AA 12pm	25	 Pantry 9am	26	27	 Capital District Keys Kids 10am	28
 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Palm Sunday KIDS ART MUSEUM	29	30	 Pantry 9am	31	APRIL 2026 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		 HOLY WEEK • Palm Sunday March 29, 10am • Holy Thursday April 2, 7pm • Good Friday April 3, noon, at Mater Christi RC Church • Easter Sunrise Service April 5, 6:30am at West Capital Park • Easter Sunday April 5, 10am				

Key:



Indoor Worship 10am



Communion Sunday



Coffee Hour



Pantry 9am



Centering Prayer 12pm



Soup & Sandwiches



AA 12pm



First KIDS

Information as of 2.19.26 Calendar subject to updates.



**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**
THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

2026
MARCH



PANTRY 
LEADERSHIP

9AM
5:30PM



SOUP & SANDWICHES

11:30AM

IN CLEE PARK

CENTERING PRAYER

NOON

POWELL ROOM

AA MEETING

IN THE PARLOR

NOON

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

1PM

POWELL ROOM



PANTRY 

9AM



KEYS FOR KIDS



10AM



Palm Sunday



WORSHIP

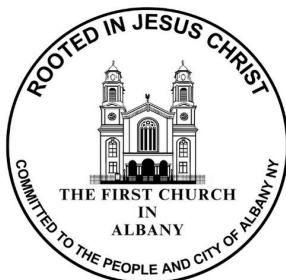
SANCTUARY

10AM

COFFEE HOUR IN ZIMMERMAN HALL

10:45AM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



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