



The First Church in Albany (RCA)

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.

Palm Sunday

Prelude *Chorale and Five Variations on "Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bonds"*
Jan Bender (1909-1994)

Olivia Munson, violinist

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcement, & Blessing (based on Psalm 118:19-24)

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter, and give thanks to the Lord.

All: We will give You thanks, for You have answered us; You have become our salvation.

One: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**All: This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

***Processional Hymn** *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" #197*

ELLACOMBE
See p. 5

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Time of silence and reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:34-36

Gloria Patri

The image shows a musical score for the Gloria Patri, consisting of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal line, and the bottom two are for the piano accompaniment. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). 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 various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

*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 your palms to those
worshiping from home!)*



Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came in your name and turned the lonely way of rejection and death into triumph. Through your word, grant us the steadfast faith to enter the gates of righteousness, that we may receive grace to become worthy citizens of your holy realm. Amen.

Sermon Text

Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon title "Alternative Lifestyle: Peace"

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" #196

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

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

Canzone (from Suite in C Minor)

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Olivia Munson, violinist

***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, as we give today, let us do so with compassion. May our offerings be used to help those in need and to spread your love to all. 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

“O Christ, the Great Foundation” #361

AURELIA
See p. 7

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

Processional of Peace (from Sanahin)

Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

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

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mark Mast	Worship Tech: Joshua Bliss
Liturgist: Patti Lloyd	
Organist: Alfred Fedak	
Musician: Olivia Munson, violinist	<i>CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689</i>



197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,
 the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

The opening two stanzas narrate the first Palm Sunday in the past tense, but the third stanza shifts to the present tense to emphasize what current singers do and believe. The repeated elements in this anonymous German tune suggest the repetitive patterns in a crowd's chant.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

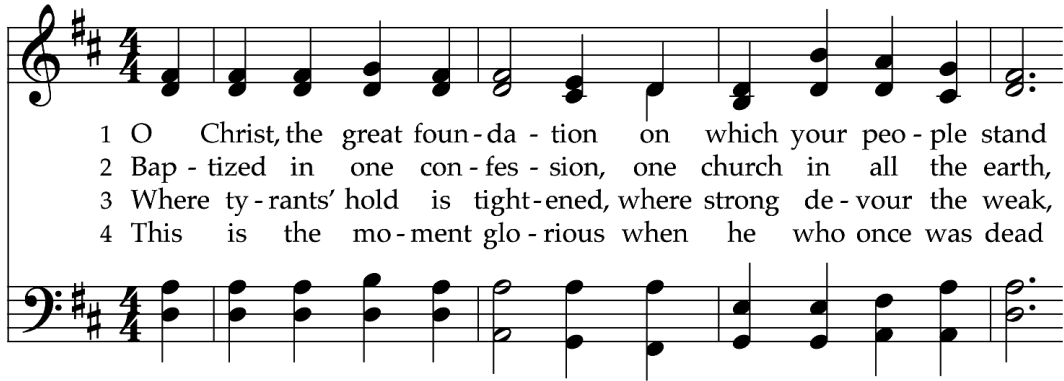
1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

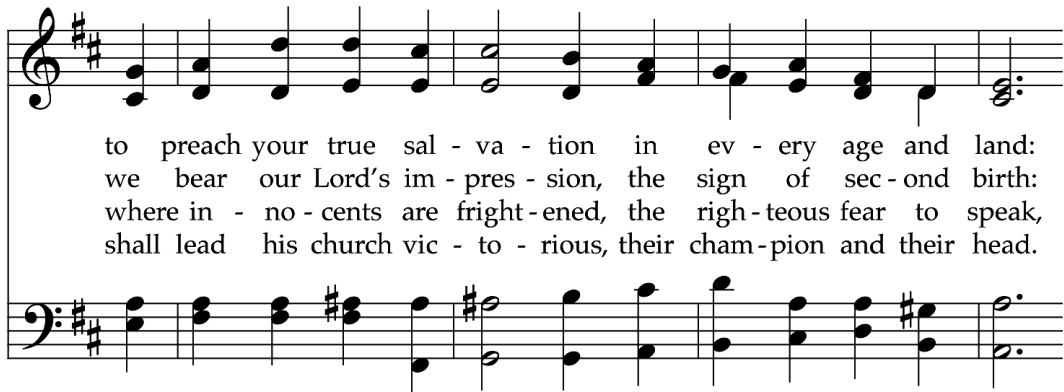
to Refrain

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

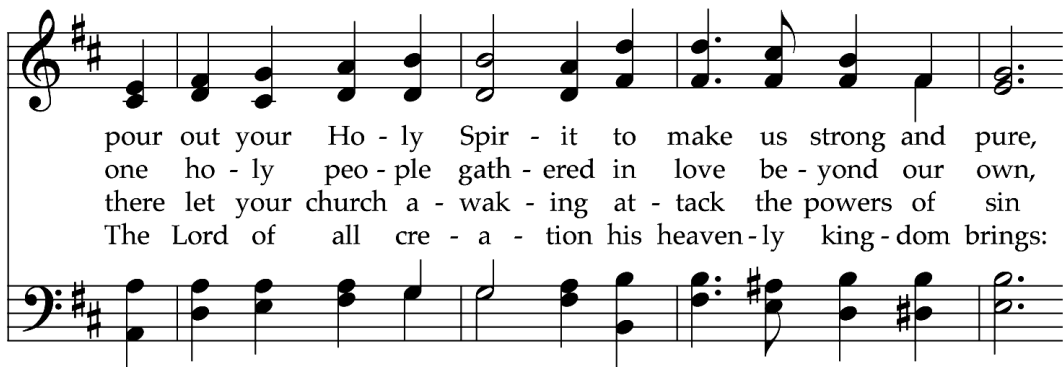
O Christ, the Great Foundation 361



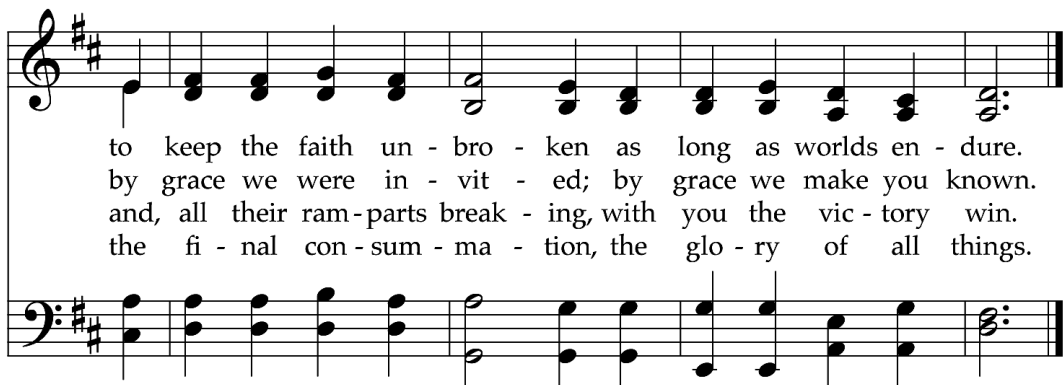
1 O Christ, the great foun - da - tion on which your peo - ple stand
 2 Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, one church in all the earth,
 3 Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, where strong de - vour the weak,
 4 This is the mo - ment glo - rious when he who once was dead



to preach your true sal - va - tion in ev - ery age and land:
 we bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, the sign of sec - ond birth:
 where in - no - cents are fright - ened, the righ - teous fear to speak,
 shall lead his church vic - to - rious, their cham - pion and their head.



pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it to make us strong and pure,
 one ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered in love be - yond our own,
 there let your church a - wak - ing at - tack the powers of sin
 The Lord of all cre - a - tion his heaven - ly king - dom brings:



to keep the faith un - bro - ken as long as worlds en - dure.
 by grace we were in - vit - ed; by grace we make you known.
 and, all their ram - parts break - ing, with you the vic - tory win.
 the fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, the glo - ry of all things.

The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).



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.



POCKET PRAYER SHAWLS (or prayer squares) are small, handmade, knitted tokens—typically under 5 inches—blessed during creation to provide portable comfort, spiritual protection, and a tangible reminder of God’s love and community prayers. Often gifted during times of illness, grief, or transition, they serve as a comforting reminder that the recipient is never alone, fitting easily into pockets, purses, or bags. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry creates these squares and they are made available to all. See the usher or stop by the table near the inside entrance to the Sanctuary.





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**
 - ★ ▪ Arrive by 9:40 to enjoy a special prelude musical offering with The Catskill Brass Quintet before worship
 - FCIA Sanctuary 10am
 - Followed by Coffee & the Easter Egg Maze in Zimmerman Hall



CELEBRATION OF LIFE
IAN DAVID LEET

April 11, 2026

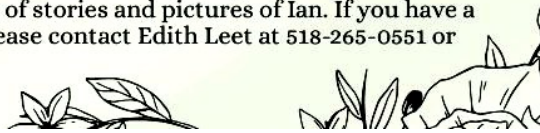
at

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.

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

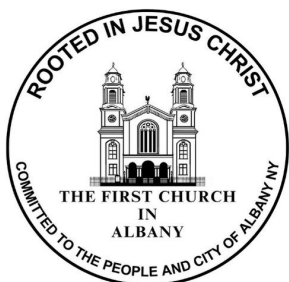
**HOLY
Week**
2026

- TUE 31** **PANTRY**  **9AM**
- WED 1** **SOUP & SANDWICHES** **11:30AM**
CENTERING PRAYER **NOON**
AA MEETING **NOON**
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY **1PM**

*IN CLEE PARK
POWELL ROOM
IN THE PARLOR
POWELL ROOM*
- THU 2** **PANTRY**  **9AM**
HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP **7PM**
IN THE CHAPEL
- FRI 3** **GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP ***** **NOON**
- SAT 4** **KEYS FOR KIDS RECITAL**  **2PM**
IN ZIMMERMAN HALL
- Easter Sunday*

SUN 5 **SUNRISE SERVICE ***** **6:30AM**
WORSHIP **SANCTUARY** **10AM**
MAZE & COFFEE **ZIMMERMAN HALL** **10:45AM**
***** SEE P. 9 FOR DETAILS**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



The First Church in Albany

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