

The First Church in Albany



Sunday, May 11, 2025, 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.

Prelude *Fantasy on "Holy, Holy, Holy"* Piet Post

Tolling of the Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Opening Sentences

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Praise God in God's sanctuary!

People: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Leader: Praise God for God's mighty deeds! Praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!

People: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Leader: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Hallelujah!

People: Let us worship God!

Call to Worship Based on Revelation 5

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

*Opening Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" See p. 6

Prayer of Confession *based on prayer from © Presbyterian Outlook, 2025*
Liturgy written by Andy Greenhow

O Lord our God, we know that your throne is surrounded by the voices of many angels and that you are worshiped by the multitudes of the heavenly host, but we so often fail to join in their "amen." We do not fall down and worship you as we know we should. We are distracted by the temptation to assimilate with worldly values and worship worldly gods. Strengthen us to worship you alone as the one on the throne and the Lamb slaughtered for all.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

We are an Easter people, forgiven and freed, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. **Amen.**

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Blessing of Hands Margriet Wilson

The Sacrament of Baptism Maizie Van Derwerker (see insert)

Baptismal Hymn "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Prayer for Illumination

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of all of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

Psalm Psalm 23

My head anointed with oil 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 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 shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson John 10:22-30

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all else, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon Text Revelation 5:1-14

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals, and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for you were slaughtered and

by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Who Are You Talking To?

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” See p. 8

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 “Jesus Loves Me This I Know” arr. Robert Hobby

***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**

Lamb of God, in baptism you claim us; in prayer you hear us. Receive, now, our offerings as expressions of our love and our longing to follow you more fully. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hal-
lowed 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 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" See p. 9

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude *TRURO and DUKE STREET* arr. I. Prins

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston
Liturgists:
Organist: Iteke Prins
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and
Stephen Reohr

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One License #A-700689*



Notes:

- **2025 FCIA Officer Nominations**
Our Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 18 after worship (followed by a potluck lunch). The following names have been offered up for consideration:

Elders—Zak Morton, Pete Pagerey
Deacon—Jean Lamere

- Join us after worship in Zimmerman Hall for Coffee, Refreshments, & Fellowship

THE TRIUNE GOD

1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Descant

4 Ho - - - ly,

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

ho - - - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Much of the imagery of this hymn comes from Revelation 4:2–11, which its author, an Anglican bishop, knew as a reading appointed for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written specifically for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme by strong dependence on the D-major triad.

TEXT: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt.;

Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea; Spanish trans. Juan B. Cabrera

MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861; desc. David McKinley Williams, 1948

Korean Trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea

Music Desc. © 1948, ren. H. W. Gray Co., Inc. (a div. of Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.)

NICAEA

11.12.12.10

465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

죄짐맡은 우리구주



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so-lace there.



This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.

265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun


1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron'g to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5-19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

Prayer LIST as of 5.7.25

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

Current Concerns

- ♥ David Allen, for his continued recovery.
- ♥ Eric Witt Nebel's health, friend of Michelle Williams
- ♥ Phyllis Dean, friend of Michelle Williams
 - The family of Margaret "Peggy" Dickinson McMahon who has passed. Her funeral was held on Friday, May 2 at First Church.
 - Starlene Haviland, recovering well from recent eye surgery. Awaiting date for second surgery.
 - The family and friends of Eula Lang.
 - Charnelle (Jones) Musser and Brian Miller with health concerns

Give Thanks

- ♥ We welcome home Deacon Becky Hudak and fellow pilgrim Faye after their two-month long adventure on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. We look forward to all the stories of faith and friendship and growth.
- ♥ For the staff and guests of the CACC Overflow Shelter that ended their first season in April. May they enjoy their summer of respite and prepare well for the fall when the shelter returns to First Church. We give thanks for their hearts and their efforts.

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- Wilma Sheffer
- Mia Westman
- Ministers, staff, and leaders of First Church as they move forward into our everchanging World
- For areas recovering from natural disasters like fires, earthquakes, etc.
- For war-torn places and area of conflict throughout the world
- For those in our immediate area dealing with gun violence and its aftermath

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.

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Let's Get Growing!!!

We are hosting a Garden Day
Saturday, May 17 at 9am.

Join us in Clee Park and the Gardens outside
the doors to plant flowers and add some soil
and such to beautify our church property
just in time for Mother's Day!

Please bring your tools, work gloves and
anything else you think you might need.

See you there!!!



The First Church in Albany

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 18 @ 11am

**FOLLOWED BY A
POTLUCK LUNCH**

Topic of
Discussion to
include:
Office Bearer
Nominations


Everyone is invited to attend the meeting & lunch

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



MAY 2025

TUE 13	PANTRY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	9AM 1PM
WED 14	CENTERING PRAYER POWELL RM AA MEETING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	NOON NOON 7:30PM
THU 15	PANTRY	9AM
SAT 17	GARDENING DAY 	9AM
SUN 18	LECTIO DIVINA IN CHAPEL WORSHIP [AT] FCIA CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK	9AM 10AM 11AM 11:30AM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



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www.firstchurchinalbany.org



Maizie Lou Van Derwerker

Born December 3, 2024

PREPARATION

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord;**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day, he rose again from the
dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father almighty.**

**From thence, he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
The holy catholic Church*,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen**

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

RECEIVING

Joyfully we receive you into the body of Christ. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *from the Capital Area Council of Churches, Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism Program*

BAPTISMAL HYMN

See back

BAPTISMAL HYMN

486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our
are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

TEXT: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980
MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1959
Text © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner

KINGDOM
8.7.8.7
(alternate tune: STUTT GART)

Maizie Lou Van Derwerker was born December 3rd, 2024 at Albany Medical Center in Albany NY. Her father Cuyler, grew up attending First Church with his family as a child for about 5 years and has fond memories attending prior to the family moving to Minnesota in 2004. Cuyler and Eden (Hunter) met in Eden's hometown of Minneapolis. Multiple family lines of the Van Derwerker family were members of First Church over the past three centuries, which makes this occasion all the more meaningful. We pray that their family journey continues to be blessed and fruitful in the name of Jesus Christ!