



The First Church in Albany

April 12, 2026, 10am

Doubting Thomas?

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.

Prelude

"O filli et filiae"

Jean-François Dandrieu (1648?-1740)

Tolling of Bell

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

Call to Worship

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

People: Amen

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Jesus is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Our celebration of Easter life continues,

All: Let us worship and give praise to God.

*Opening Hymn

"Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosanna! #248

HYMN TO JOY

See p. 6

Call to Confession

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

We come before you, O God, confessing the ways we have failed to live as Easter people this week. You know our hearts; you know our good intentions and our struggles to live as faithful people. We try; sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail. Help us to be as gentle with ourselves as you are, and may we realize the true depth of your gracious love. Amen.

Time of silence and reflection

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Leader: We have an advocate with God - Jesus Christ, the righteous one - who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

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 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 rehearsal mark '9' at the beginning of the piano part.

*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
worshiping from home!)*

Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

Sermon Text

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven then; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon title

"Doubting Thomas?"



A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response *"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"* #255

O FILLI ET FILIAE

See p. 7

Profession of Faith

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Offertory

“Puer nobis nascitur” (Trio and Musette)”

Jean-François Dandrieu

*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.

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 Prayer

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and—
above all—the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who
breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to
bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.
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 *"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" #254*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

See p. 8

***Charge**

Go to celebrate all that God has done as Christ breathes new life into you sending you out with the Spirit of forgiveness and faith for the life of the world.

***Benediction**

May you be filled with the grace and peace of the God who is and was and is to come, and with the Spirit of Jesus Christ, God's faithful witness, who loves us and sets us free.

Postlude

"O Sons and Daughters"

Alfred V. Fedak (b.1953)

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

Preacher: Peter Pagerey, Preaching
Elder

Organist: Alfred Fedak

Worship Tech: Joshua Bliss and
Stephen Reohr

*CCLI License #463379;
One License #A-700689*

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing 255

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al -

le - lu - ia!

1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing with
 2 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; a -
 3 When Thom - as first the ti - dings heard, how
 4 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see; and

heaven - ly hosts to Christ our King; to - day the grave has
 mong them came their Lord most dear, and said, "My peace be
 they had seen the ris - en Lord, he doubt - ed the dis -
 look up - on my hands, my feet; not faith - less, but be -

lost its sting!
 with you here."
 ci - ples' word.
 liev - ing be."

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Fine

- 5 No longer Thomas then denied;
 he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
- 6 How blest are they who have not seen,
 and yet whose faith has constant been,
 for they eternal life shall win.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

These stanzas from a 19th-century translation of a longer 15th-century Latin text are the continuation of hymn no. 235 and are based on the traditional gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter. They are sung to a 15th-century French tune adapted for church use.

254 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the sun shone
 2 He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the
 3 From ev - ery weap - on death can wield, your own re -

out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 glo - rious wounds a - bide, the to - kens true which
 deemed for - ev - er shield; O Lord of all, with

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord.
 made it plain their Lord in - deed was risen a - gain.
 us a - bide in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide.

These Eastertide stanzas are derived from a longer Latin text that was one of the earliest hymns written especially for a season of the church year. They are set here to a tune with Christmas associations, a means of linking the two great festivals of the Christian year.

TEXT: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1852, alt.
 MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
 LM
 (alternate harmonization, 67)



A profound Thank You to all who participated in the preparations throughout Lent and Holy Week. For the Liturgists, Musicians and Vocalists, the Organist, the Techs, the Preachers, and those who shared their artistic and aesthetic gifts in our worship — we are thankful and blessed!

Let us not forget to share our gratitude to each of you who attended these services. It was our honor to invite you and share the Glory of our Savior!

Prayer LIST

as of 4.6.26



Indicates a new request

Current Joys & Concerns

- For Jill Persons and family. Her mother in England may be nearing the end of her life. Also Jill's sister with a recent medical diagnosis.
- 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 those impacted by the ongoing war in Iran and multiple skirmishes across the globe, may we seek peace.

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.





BROOKS' BBQ

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



THURSDAY
APRIL
16

3:00 – 6:00 PM



INCLUDES:

1/2 CHICKEN
BAKED POTATO
COLESLAW
ROLL
DESSERT



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APRIL

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 2026</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOLY WEEK <small>We Believe</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BIBLE 1pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA 12pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOLY Thursday Service 7pm in Chapel</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Good Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*Service noon at Mater Christi Roman Catholic Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CACC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Capital District KEYS 2pm Recital</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">**Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Easter</i> Service 10am in Sanctuary followed by</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Easter Egg Maze</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Shawl Mtg 11:30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA 12pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Indoor Worship 10am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KIDS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Consistory 5:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weathervanes 12:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Overflow Shelter Appreciation Dinner 4pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Indoor Worship 10am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KIDS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA 12pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Indoor Worship 10am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Coffee Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KIDS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pantry 9am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leadership Meeting 5:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOCUS Mtg 6:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soup & Sandwiches 11:30am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Last One of the Season</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA 12pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Overflow Shelter Final Night for the season</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;">JESUS HAS RISEN</p>	

Key:

Indoor Worship 10am	Communion Sunday	Coffee Hour	Pantry 9am	Centering Prayer 12pm	Soup & Sandwiches	AA 12pm	First KIDS
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Information as of 3.19.26 Calendar subject to updates.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY



TUE
14

PANTRY



CONSISTORY IN THE PARLOR

9AM
5:30PM



WED
15

SOUP & SANDWICHES

IN CLEE PARK

11:30AM

CENTERING PRAYER

IN THE POWELL ROOM

NOON

AA MEETING

IN THE PARLOR

NOON



WEATHERVANES

12:30PM

IN ZIMMERMAN HALL



THU
16

PANTRY



9AM

CACC OVERFLOW SHELTER

4PM

APPRECIATION DINNER

IN ZIMMERMAN HALL



SUN
19

WORSHIP

IN THE SANCTUARY

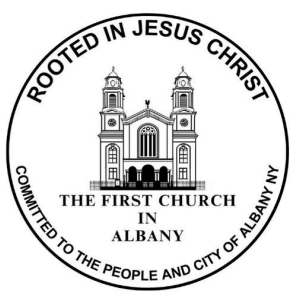
10AM

COFFEE HOUR

IN ZIMMERMAN HALL

10:45AM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



The First Church in Albany

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www.firstchurchinalbany.org