

# The First Church in Albany

## Earth Smiles

Sunday, April 27, 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 Reflection** From his 2020 Encyclical Letter to all people of goodwill, "Fratelli Tutti," Pope Francis implores humanity to dream of a world full of friendship, full of fraternity:

"It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women. "Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together". Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."

**Prelude** "Partita on LOBE DEN HERREN D. Freudenberg

### Tolling of the Bell

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing** 1 Corinthians  
15:20-22 (CEB)

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. He's the first crop of the harvest of those who have died. Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came through one too. In the same way that everyone dies in Adam, so also everyone will be given life in Christ." **Amen!**

## **Call to Worship** *Based on Romans 8 and a litany from Creation Justice Ministries*

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

**Amen.**

Leader: All creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed.

**People: Creation is waiting for us,**

Leader: To let Christ's resurrection change our behaviors and policies.

**People: Creation is waiting for us,**

Leader: To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

**People: Creation is waiting for us,**

Leader: To remove our pollution from that spoils all life and flourishing.

**People: Creation is waiting for us,**

Leader: To choose one another and our world over only ourselves.

**People: Let us worship the One who chooses us and our world over himself!**

**Opening Hymn**      *"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

See p. 6

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Creator God, forgive us for so often shrinking your salvation to ourselves alone. You long not only to save humanity but to restore the whole cosmos. Yet we treat your creation as something to use and discard. Renew our minds and hearts. Widen our appreciation for all things, and give us the strength to do what is right, that we may live as part of your great redemption. Amen.**

*Time of silence*

### **Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law**

Hear the good news of scripture: In Christ, all things are being made new. Through the cross and resurrection, God has begun the restoration of all of creation. In Jesus, we are forgiven, and we are invited into the hope of a renewed world.

So walk as people of the resurrection. Care for the earth, love what God loves, and live as God's signs of the new creation already breaking in. For when we do so, we and all of creation will know God's shalom—God's peace.

## **\*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 the peace of Christ.  
*(Don't forget to wave to those worshiping from home!)*



## **Children's Moment**

Today, in honor of Christ's resurrection and Earth Day, the youth will be planting flowers and other greenery in the flower pots on the portico. *(Note: If you're up for some gardening, there will be a gardening day on Saturday, May 17th from 9-11 AM.)*

## **Prayer for Illumination** *Partly based on a traditional Jewish blessing*

**Blessed are you, O Lord, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us your Word of truth, and planted the seed of eternal life within our hearts. As we read your Word and hear it proclaimed, water it within us, so that it takes root and blooms, that we might be blessed and become a blessing for others; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## **Sermon Text** Luke 23:10-25

### **Scripture Reading** John 3:16-21 (CEB translation)

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

"This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sermon Text:** Romans 8:18-25 (CEB translation)

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's children. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. We know that the

whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Heaven or Hell? God chooses the World.

### **A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

**\*Hymn of Response** "All Who Live Upon the Earth" see p. 8  
Glenn Claydon, vocalist

**Profession of Faith** §51 of Our World Belongs to God of the Christian Reformed Church in North America

**We lament that our abuse of creation has brought lasting damage to the world we have been given: polluting streams and soil, poisoning the air, altering the climate, and damaging the earth. We commit ourselves to honor all God's creatures and to protect them from abuse and extinction, for our world belongs to God.**

**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** "All Nature Sings" (TERRA BEATA) arr. A. Fedak

**\*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**

As the Psalmist says, O God, "The earth is yours and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." May these gifts be used for the salvation of the world. **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**

*"God of the Sparrow"*

See p. 9

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude**

*"Celebration"*

C. Callahan

### **Note:**

- If you are a serving member of the Consistory, please stay in the sanctuary after worship so we can have a short practice of traditional communion
- There will be a Trustees Meeting in the Parlor following worship.

**Preacher:** Rev. Trey Tirpak

**Liturgists:** Fran Carr

**Organist:** Iteke Prins

**Vocalist and/or Specialist:** Glenn

Claydon

**Audio/Visual:** Joshua Bliss and

Stephen Reohr

*CCLI License #463379;*

*One License #A-700689*

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## 2025 FCIA Officer Nominations

Today is the last day to offer names for nominations for our next class of Consistory at the First Church. Our Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 18 after worship (followed by a potluck lunch). The following names have been offered up til today:

**Elders**—Zak Morton, Pete Pagerey

**Deacon**—Jean Lamere

# 15 All Creatures of Our God and King

*Unison*

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice  
 2 O broth - er wind with clouds and rain, you nur - ture gifts  
 3 O broth - er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad -  
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain

*Harmony*

and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 of fruit and grain. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ous of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*

O broth - er sun with gold - en beam, O sis - ter moon  
 O sis - ter wa - ter, flow - ing clear, make mu - sic for  
 Dear moth - er earth, who day by day un - folds such bless -  
 Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; so, e - ven in

*Harmony*

with sil - ver gleam, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 your Lord to hear. Sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ings on our way, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 the midst of tears, sing prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*

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

Sometimes called “The Canticle of the Sun,” this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed “Alleluias.”

TEXT: Francis of Assisi, 1225; trans. composite  
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 LM with alleluias  
 (this tune in a higher key, 327)

# All Who Live Upon the Earth

John Dalles

## STEWARDS

Iteke Prins

77 77 with refrain

1. All who live u - pon the earth, God's green world so  
2. All who drink these cool - ing streams, filled by rains that  
3. All who breathe the at - mos - phere, bra - cing air that  
4. It is God in whom we dwell, have our be - ing,

full and fair, may we trea - sure glo - bal worth,  
God sup - plies, may we turn from sel - fish schemes,  
God has made, may we prize as rich and rare,  
move and live, if we are to serve God well,

with a watch - ful ste - wards care! Sis - ters, bro - thers,  
sha - ring wa - ters won - drous prize!  
ev' - ry fo - rest, field, and glade!  
we must share what God will give.

Refrain  
Sis - ters, bro - thers,

ev' - ry - where: tend God's wa - ter, earth, and air.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

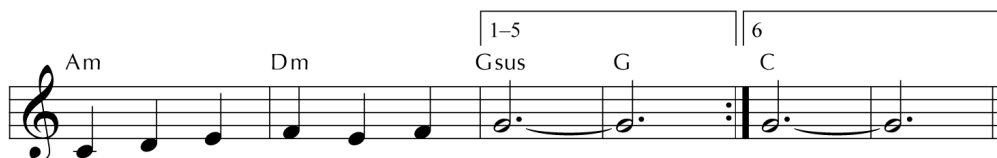
# 22 God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

# Prayer LIST as of 4.25.25

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

♥ **Indicates a new listing**

## Current Concerns

- ♥ The family of Margaret “Peggy” Dickinson McMahon who has passed. Her funeral will be Friday, May 2 at 11am, with visitation at 10am at First Church.
- ♥ The Tomaszewski family, for Benj, Rev. Trey’s college roommate who died
  - Cameron Carley, for the passing of his uncle, Denny Carley
  - John Pierce, son of Betty Pierce, recovering from surgery
- ♥ Starlene Haviland, recovering well from recent eye surgery. Awaiting date for second surgery.
  - The family and friends of Eula Lang.
  - For all those navigating financial hardship. For those seeking gainful employment in difficult times.
  - Charnelle (Jones) Musser and Brian Miller with health concerns
  - Becky Hudak, as she and her friend Faye continue on the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

## 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
- The staff, volunteers, and guest of the CACC Overflow Shelter
- For those in our immediate area dealing with gun violence and its aftermath

## Give Thanks

- ♥ For a blessed Lent and Holy Week and a glorious Easter Sunday. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! We rejoice in the welcoming of new members Susan and Patti Lloyd!

**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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# Audrey's

80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 10  
FROM 12PM - 2PM

Zimmerman Hall,  
First Church in Albany  
110 North Pearl St.,  
Albany NY 12207

RSVP BY TEXT TO  
518-961-2027 OR EMAIL  
CARDIACSCI@HOTMAIL.COM  
SUBJECT: AUDREY MING

Food Will Served!

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

**From Audrey,**

No gifts please. Your presence will be the best gift.

If you would like to do something, in addition, you may give a contribution to First Church, designated for the Weathervanes.

If you cannot come to the party but would still like to do something which would make me happy, you can mail in a contribution.

Hope to see you there.

Thank you for helping me celebrate my birthday!"

**Please RSVP to Becky Mondore by April 25th:**

cardiacsci@hotmail.com or  
TEXT 518-961-2027

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

## APRIL & MAY 2025

<b>TUE</b> <b>29</b>	<b>PANTRY</b> <b>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>9AM</b> <b>1PM</b>
<b>WED</b> <b>30</b>	<b>SOUP &amp; SANDWICHES</b> <i>Last day</i> <b>CENTERING PRAYER</b> <b>POWELL RM</b> <b>AA MEETING</b> <b>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>11:30AM</b> <b>NOON</b> <b>NOON</b> <b>7:30PM</b>
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>THU</b> <b>1</b>	<b>PANTRY</b>	<b>9AM</b>
<b>FRI</b> <b>2</b>	<b>VISITATION &amp; FUNERAL</b> <b>MARGARET "PEGGY" D. MCMAHON</b>	<b>10AM &amp;</b> <b>11AM</b>
<b>SUN</b> <b>4</b>	<b>LECTIO DIVINA</b> <b>IN CHAPEL</b> <b>WORSHIP [AT] FCIA</b> <b>COFFEE HOUR</b>	<b>9AM</b> <b>10AM</b> <b>11AM</b>

THE OFFICE MANAGER WILL ON VACATION APR. 28 - MAY.

**THE CACC OVERFLOW SHELTER IS OPEN EACH EVENING 6PM - 8AM.  
THROUGH APRIL 30.**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT [WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG)



**First Church in Albany**

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207  
518-463-4449

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)



The Season of Creation is a special time when Christians around the world focus on caring for the Earth. It is a time for reflection, prayer, and action to strengthen our relationship with God and with all of creation.

This season begins on 1 September and ends on 4 October. It starts with the Day of Prayer for Creation and concludes with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who is known as the patron saint of ecology and is loved by many Christian denominations.

The idea began in 1989, when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I of the Orthodox Church declared 1 September as a day to pray for creation. The Orthodox Church year even begins on this date, which marks the day God created the world.

Later, the World Council of Churches helped expand this day into a full season. In 2015, Pope Francis added it to the Roman Catholic Church's calendar by establishing the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. By 2019, the Catholic Church also began celebrating the full Season of Creation. Today, Christian leaders from many traditions encourage people to use this time to care for the environment. Over the month-long celebration, more than 2 billion Christians are invited to come together to protect our common home.

Steering Committee:

- Anglican Communion
- Integral Human Development
- A Rocha International
- actalliance
- christianaid
- European Christian Environmental Network
- Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network
- Laudato Si' Movement
- The Lutheran World Federation
- The World Communion of Reformed Churches
- The World Council of Churches
- The Middle East Council of Churches
- The World Methodist Council



SCAN ME



# CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Care for God's Planet and People.

Creation Justice Ministries educates, equips, and mobilizes Christian individuals, congregations, denominations, and communions to protect, restore, and rightly share God's creation.

**Our member communions and denominations include:**

Alliance of Baptists  
African Methodist Episcopal Church  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
American Baptist Churches USA  
Armenian Church of America  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
Church of the Brethren  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Ecumenical Catholic Communion  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Mennonite Central Committee  
National Baptist Convention, USA  
Orthodox Church in America  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Progressive National Baptist Convention  
The Reformed Church in America  
The United Church of Christ  
The United Methodist Church

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 203, Washington, DC 20002

[creationjustice.org](http://creationjustice.org)