

The First Church in Albany



Heritage Sunday

Sunday, May 4, 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

“Easter is one of those occasions in life when words prove poor vehicles to convey ideas. To grasp the full significance of Easter is beyond man’s apprehension—to express it in words, its meaning impossible... Scientists predict that some day instruments will be constructed so delicate that sound waves generated centuries ago will be heard. When we speak, sound waves are created that never entirely fade. Think how interesting it would be to have a receiver that could cause us to hear all the messages every preached from this pulpit. This pulpit has been in use since 1656... Suppose we had an instrument delicate enough to tune in. Would it be possible to summarize all the messages delivered from this pulpit in a single sentence? I believe it would. Here is my suggestion: ‘Easter is the conclusive proof that here in the midst of life God works.’ A very simple observation, yet an appreciation of this truth turns darkness into daylight, turns songs of weeping into joy, turns despair into hope, turns cowards into courageous warriors.” - Former First Church minister the Rev. Dr. F. Raymond Clee D.D. Litt.D.’s Easter sermon “The Royal Robe of God.”

Today, we explicitly acknowledge the extensive history of this congregation, The First Church in Albany. We do so, not to distinguish ourselves from other Christians, nor sentimentally fawn over novelties in the past; rather, we do so to acknowledge, as Dr. Clee puts it, “a very simple observation”: God is at work here. Throughout the centuries and all its various iterations, First Church is here because God is up to something—God is up to

bringing Easter life to a people and their surrounding communities. For this, we are grateful to learn from those of past generations as we seek to faithfully partner with God and all that God is up to in our day and age. May our remembrance today not just acknowledge a human history, but a full history that tells of God's work amongst us. - Rev. Trey Tirpak, Associate Minister

Prelude

"Een Vaste Burg"

C. Kee

Tolling of the Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing *Based on Psalm 107*

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

Amen.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord because God is good whose faithful love lasts forever!

People: Let the redeemed say that God is good and has delivered us from trouble!

Leader: Some wandered in desert wastelands; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

People: But then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and God delivered them from their distress, giving them water and food and hope.

Leader: Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons.

People: But then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and God delivered them from their distress, giving them forgiveness, light, and hope.

Leader: Some were shipwrecked and lost at sea, giving up life.

People: But then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and God delivered them from their distress, making the storm cease and giving them hope.

Leader: At the heart of human history is our saving God who hears our cries, delivers us from distress, and gives us hope—let us praise this saving God!

Opening Hymn

"At the Heart of Human History"

See p. 6

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess how often we retreat into "our own lives," avoiding the vulnerability that the community of Jesus requires. We've resisted connection, even when we've longed for it. Forgive us for giving into fear or holding too tightly to our pride. Send your Holy Spirit to empower us to love again and seek fellowship so we might more readily receive and give your grace. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Congregation of the Lord, hear the good news: Even when we drift apart, God draws us together. Through Christ, we are forgiven and are being reconciled, both to God and to one another. In this grace, we find unity, fellowship, and 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 Message & Blessing

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.

Scripture Reading Psalm 133

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text John 21:1-19

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon "Laughter is carbonated holiness"

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** "*Seeking Warmth from Charcoal Blazing*" See p.7

Profession of Faith §217 of "*Fratelli Tutti*", a Papal Encyclical by Pope Francis, written to the whole world and all people of goodwill

Social peace demands hard work, craftsmanship. It would be easier to keep freedoms and differences in check with cleverness and a few resources. **But such a peace would be superficial and fragile, not the fruit of a culture of encounter that brings enduring stability.**

Integrating differences is a much more difficult and slow process, yet it is the

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

“A Litany of Joy”

A. Fedak

Note:

First Church will be hosting our CROP Walk today, starting at 11:30 AM. Gather in Clee in Park for prayer and picture—all are welcome to the send off or to walk with us!



Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgists:

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and
Stephen Reohr

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

2025 FCIA Officer Nominations

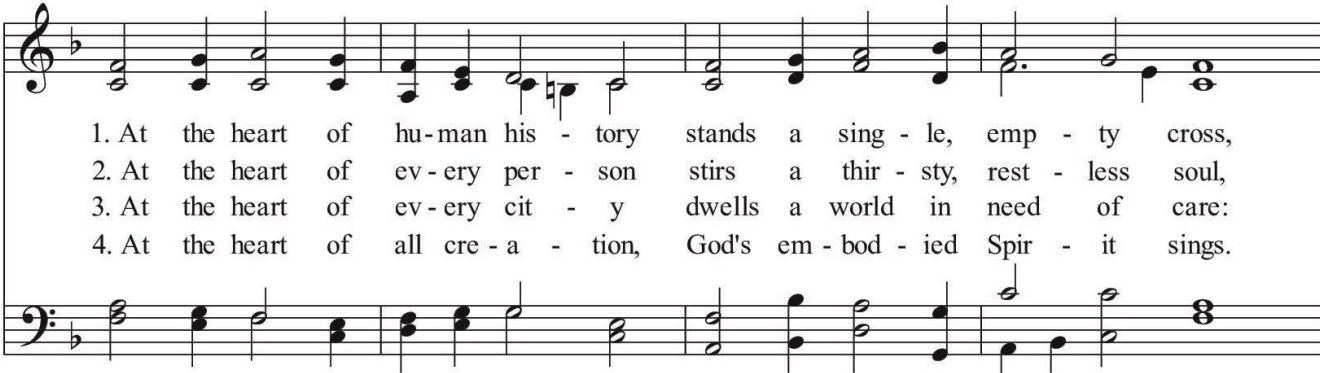
Our Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 18 after worship (followed by a potluck lunch). The following names have been offered up for consideration:

Elders—Zak Morton, Pete Pagerey

Deacon—Jean Lamere

At the Heart of Human History

Commissioned by The First Church in Albany (NY) for its 375th Anniversary

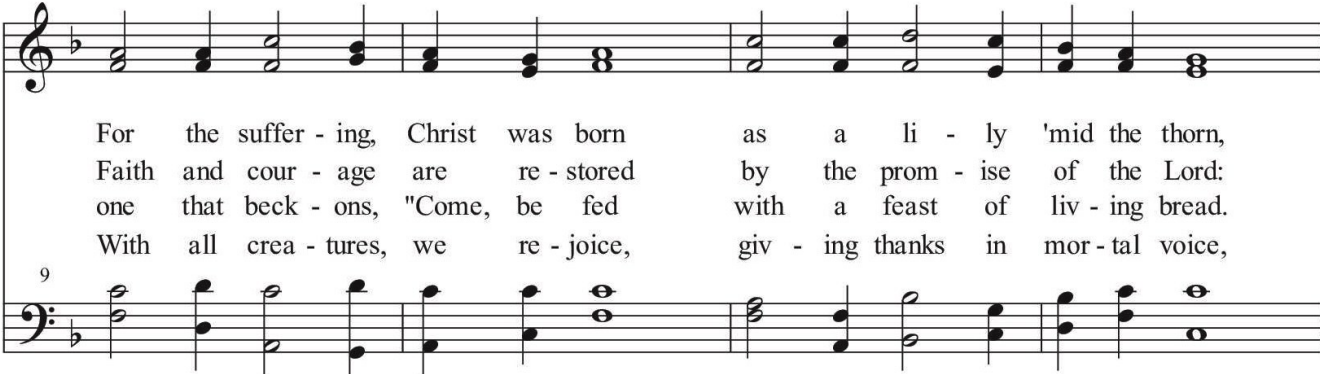


1. At the heart of hu-man his - tory stands a sing - le, emp - ty cross,
2. At the heart of ev - ery per - son stirs a thir - sty, rest - less soul,
3. At the heart of ev - ery cit - y dwells a world in need of care:
4. At the heart of all cre - a - tion, God's em - bod - ied Spir - it sings.



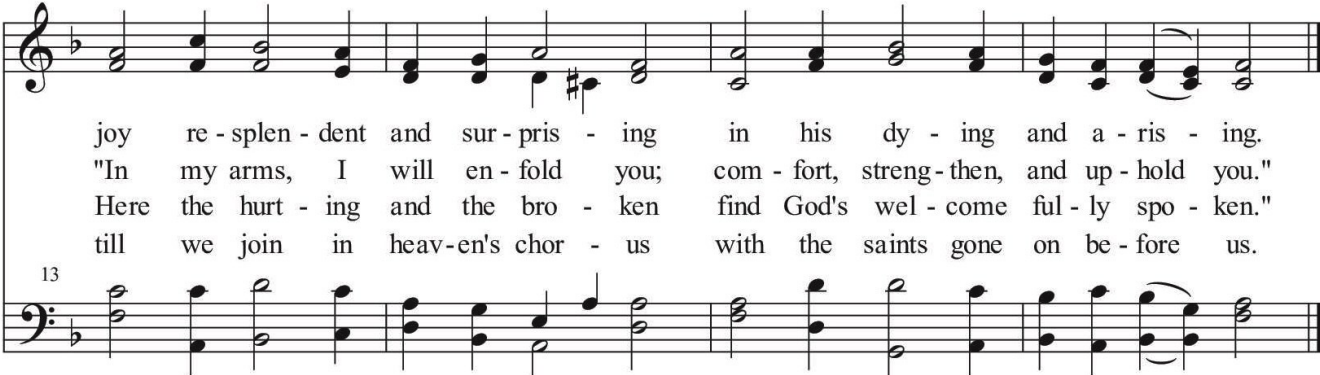
em - blem of the world's re - demp - tion, draw - ing life from grief and loss.
keen to drink from liv - ing wa - ter, find new hope and be made whole.
those who long for food and shel - ter; those who seek a house of prayer—
Ways break o - pen in the des - ert; dri - est val - leys gush with springs.

5



For the suffer - ing, Christ was born as a li - ly 'mid the thorn,
Faith and cour - age are re - stored by the prom - ise of the Lord:
one that beck - ons, "Come, be fed with a feast of liv - ing bread.
With all crea - tures, we re - joice, giv - ing thanks in mor - tal voice,

9



joy re - splen - dent and sur - pris - ing in his dy - ing and a - ris - ing.
"In my arms, I will en - fold you; com - fort, streng - then, and up - hold you."
Here the hurt - ing and the bro - ken find God's wel - come ful - ly spo - ken."
till we join in heav - en's chor - us with the saints gone on be - fore us.

13

Seeking Warmth from Charcoal Blazing

Irish Trad arr. Marty Haugen

1. Seek - ing warmth from char - coal blaz - ing, Pe - ter
 2. Bread and fish, a fire - side break - fast for a
 3. Ques - tions asked and ans - wers giv - en, time - less

3
 fought the chill night air. Some - one spoke, "I saw you
 wea - ry fish - ing crew. Je - sus que - ried, "Do you
 fac - es warmed by flame; bit - ter night of love's de -

6
 with him." Pe - ter said, "Not me. I swear." Two more
 love me?" Pe - ter said, "You know I do." Two more
 ni - al, with the dawn re - demp - tion came. We still

9
 times was Pe - ter ques - tioned, two more times he an - swered
 times his mas - ter ques - tioned, two more times did Pe - ter
 hear these an - cient voic - es and the les - son that they

12
 "No!" then from deep with - in the sha - dows came the -
 vow. "Feed my lambs," was Je - sus' bid - ding. "Tend my
 give. "Do you love me?" is the ques - tion meant to

15
 prom - ised roost - er crow.
 sheep; they need you now."
 guide us as we live.

As We Gather at Your Table

PLEADING SAVIOR 87 87

Carl P. Daw

J. Leavitt's "Christian Lyre" Harm. R. Vaughn Williams

1. As we ga - ther at your Ta - ble, as we lis - ten
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra -
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to

4
to your Word, help us know, O God, your pres - ence;
ment of life; send us forth to love and serve you,
7 share that feast where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come

let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with
bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your
10 those who had been last and least. There no more will

sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own; teach us through this
great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave; may we still be -
14 en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy, as we join with

ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
saints and an - gels to re - peat the soun - ding joy.



Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

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



MAY 2025

MON 5	CINCO DE MAYO ANNUAL MTG. OF REG. SYNOD OF ALBANY	9AM
TUE 6	PANTRY PRAYER SHAWL MTG. ZOOM BIBLE STUDY ELDERS' MTG. CONSISTORY	9AM 11:30AM 1PM 6PM 6:30PM
WED 7	CENTERING PRAYER POWELL RM AA MEETING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	NOON NOON 7:30PM
THU 8	PANTRY	9AM
SAT 10	AUDREY MING'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!	NOON
SUN 11	MOTHER'S DAY LECTIO DIVINA IN CHAPEL WORSHIP [AT] FCIA COFFEE HOUR	9AM 10AM 11AM

WE GIVE THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL SEASON FOR THE CACC OVERFLOW SHELTER AT FCIA. SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



First Church in Albany

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org