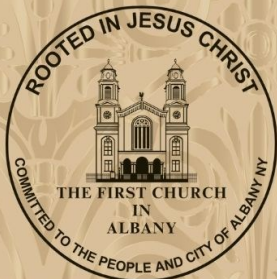


Farewell & GODSPEED



The Rev. Trey Tjirpak

Sunday, September 14, 2025
10am



Prelude “*Suite Modale for Flute & Piano*”
(Movement II) Ernest Bloch

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing
Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Amen.

Call to Worship *Based on Psalm 89*

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

Leader: Come, let us sing of the Lord’s steadfast love! Let us proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations.

People: We gather to worship the One whose throne is established forever, whose authority is righteous and just.

Leader: The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord! Who is like you, mighty God, ruling over the seas and stilling the storm?

People: You are our rock, our strength, our King! Blessed are those who walk in your light and trust in your name.

Leader: Come, let us lift our voices in praise to the Lord, whose power is unmatched and whose love endures forever!

***Opening Hymn:**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

See p. 5

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.

Call to Confession Ephesians 4:1-6

In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul reminds us to live a life worthy of our calling. A life characterized by humility, patience, love, and gentleness. Through the strength of gentleness, we are to make “every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Yet, we know that we don’t always live these gentle ways. Let us now confess our sin together, that we may open ourselves more fully to God’s transforming grace and gentleness.

Prayer of Confession

Gentle God, we confess that too often we choose harshness instead of gentleness, mistaking it for strength. Forgive us. Help us see that the ways of humility, patience, love, and gentleness are true strength. Instill in our souls that gentleness is not about being docile, but about being grounded in your call on our lives.

Time of silence and reflection

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Hear the good news: Because the Almighty is gentle, we are forgiven. As those called to live worthy of the calling from this powerful and gentle God, let us put aside our pride and harshness, embracing patience and love, unity and gentleness. For in doing so, we will know true power and peace.

Song of Response

“Stay Gentle”

Brandi Carlile

Glenn Claydon, guitar & vocals

Stay gentle, keep the eyes of a child
Don’t harden your heart or your hands
Know to find joy in the darkness is wise
Although they will think you don’t
understand

Don’t let the world make you callous
Be ready to laugh
No one’s forgotten about us
There is light on your path

Stay gentle, keep the eyes of a child
And wear your heart on your sleeve
Know to find joy in the darkness is wise
Although they will think you are naïve

Don’t let ‘em lower your shoulders
Love ‘em more while they try
Grow younger while you’re growin’
older
Be amazed by the sky

Darling, stay wild if you can
The girl with the world in her hands
The kingdom of Heaven belongs to a
boy
While his worry belongs to a man

Stay gentle, stay gentle
The most powerful thing you can do
Oh, gentle, unbreakable you

*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!)*

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

Merciful God, your desire for relationship with us is so great that you seek us in the places of our ignorance, and the forgotten corners where we hide in despair. Gather us into your loving embrace, and pour upon us your wise and holy Spirit, so that we may become faithful servants in whom you rejoice with all the company of heaven. Amen.

Scripture Reading 1 Tim 1: 12-17

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Text Luke 15: 1-32

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

A Cosmic Joke

Abby Norton-Levering

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word



Today's Preacher



Abby Norton-Levering has been the Regional Synod of Albany (RSA) Ministries Coordinator since 2013. Abby's responsibilities include building trust, cooperation, and shared ministry among churches and classes within our regional synod, and connecting us to resources. Prior to her work for the RSA, Abby was a local church pastor and a hospital chaplain. When she's not working, Abby enjoys storytelling, making music, sketching, painting, and meditatively drawing while listening to audiobooks. She lives in Niskayuna with her husband Bill, daughter Valerie, cat Ted, and dog Tia.

***Hymn of Response** *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

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

“Variations on AZMON”

Alfred V. 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**

Good God, may these gifts be used to spread your love, hope, and healing to a world in need. Thank you for your love that never fails us. **Amen.**

Service of Farewell & Godspeed

See insert

***Sending Hymn**

“Go My Children, With My Blessing”

See p 7

***Charge & Blessing** *From the RCA Farewell and Godspeed Liturgy*

Now to him, who, by the power at work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

**Unto God’s gracious mercy we commit you.
The Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord’s light and countenance be upon you and give you peace, both this day and forevermore.
Amen.**

Postlude

“Suite Modale for Flute & Piano” (Movement III)

Ernest Bloch

Note: Please join us downstairs in Zimmerman Hall for a farewell reception!

Preacher: Rev. Abby Norton Levering
Liturgist(s): Rev. Trey Tirpak
Organist(s): Al Fedak & Iteke Prins
Vocalist(s): Sue Fedak

Musician(s): Glenn Claydon, guitar & vocals; Eugene Sit, soloist; Jackie Wright, flute
Worship Tech(s): Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 610

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 The name of Je - sus charms our fears, and
 3 Christ speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new
 4 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 5 To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be

dear Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease, sings mu - sic in the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful wak - en
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 now and ev - er given by saints be - low and

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 sin - ner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
 to re - joice; the poor in heart be - lieve.
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

SPANISH

1 *Mil voces para celebrar
 a mi Libertador,
 las glorias de su majestad,
 los triunfos de su amor.*

KOREAN

1 만 입이 내게 있으면
 그 입 다 가지고
 내 구주 주신 은총을
 늘 찬송하겠네

This text comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn the author wrote to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. It is now customarily the first hymn in Methodist hymnals worldwide. This tune, adapted from a German composer, is the usual North American setting.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Spanish trans. Federico J. Pagura;

Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001

MUSIC: Carl Gottlieb Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Spanish Trans. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

AZMON
CM

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

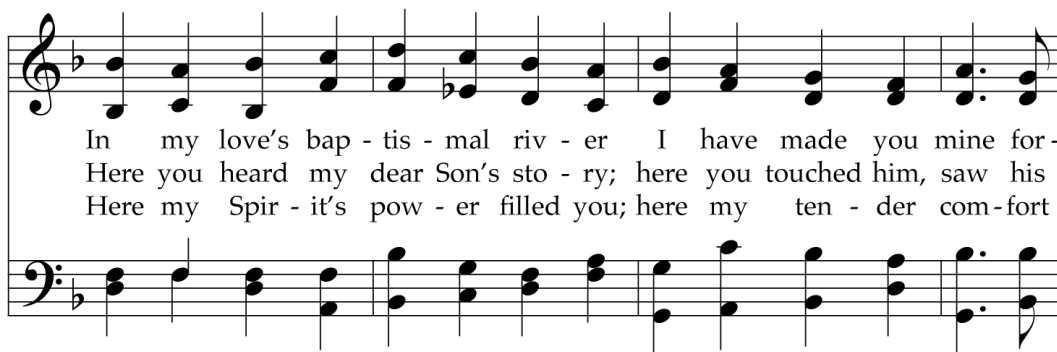
Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



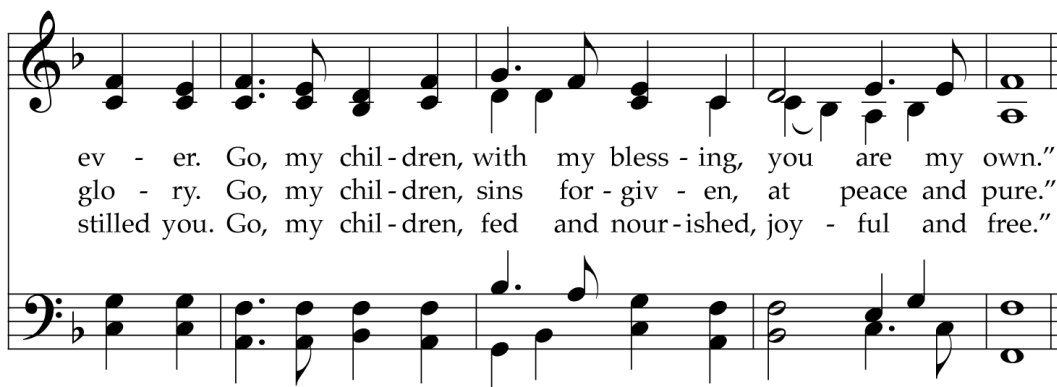
1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort




ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.



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



- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| TUE
16 | PANTRY  | 9AM |
| WED
17 | CENTERING PRAYER
IN THE POWELL RM
AA MEETING IN THE PARLOR
WEATHERVANES IN ZIMMERMAN HALL
CACC MEETING IN THE PARLOR | NOON
NOON
7PM
7PM |
| THU
18 | PANTRY  | 9AM |
| SAT
20 | PAINTING OF CACC SHELTER  | 10AM |
| SUN
21 | WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
COFFEE HOUR IN ZIMMERMAN HALL | 10AM
10:45AM |



FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207
518-463-4449
www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Farewell & GODSPEED

OPENING SENTENCES

PASTOR-CONGREGATION LITANY

Pastor: I thank you, my siblings in Christ, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these past four years. I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together. With joy I recall what we accomplished with God's help, and with sadness those dreams not fulfilled. I ask your forgiveness for mistakes made and expectations not met.

Congregation: We offer our forgiveness and celebrate all that God has accomplished among us. We are grateful for your ministry and for your influence on our lives. We ask your forgiveness for mistakes made and for expectations not met.

Pastor: I receive your gratitude and forgive your shortcomings. I release you from the vows and promises made at my installation.

Congregation: We release you from your promises to us, and we offer you our blessing as you leave to minister elsewhere.

PRAYERS

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.**

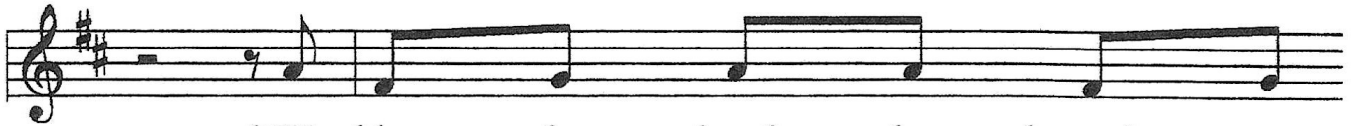
**And forgive us our debts, as
we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us
from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

We Gather Here To Bid Farewell

Margaret Clarkson

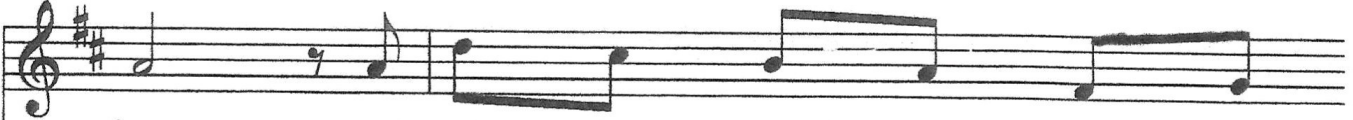
Iteke Prins

Choir --1. We gather here to bid farewell. To friends who leave for other parts, our prayers we pledge our love we tell, and lift to God our grateful hearts.



2. We bless the hand that brought you
3. Our God is sov - reign o - ver
4. In friend - ships bond our souls u
5. God guide you, keep you, lead you

21



here, and rich - ly blessed us all in
all, his ways are right his pro - mise
nite. In prayer and praise and ho - ly
on, from hope to hope, from strength to



you. as you now leave for wi - der
true; and he who knows each spar-row
vows to God's great heart, of love and
strength, un - til in God's all glo-riou

25



sphere; God's cov - 'nant mer - cies we re - view.
fall, has care of us, has care of you.
light, your kin in Christ com - mit you now.
dawn; we meet be - fore his throne at length.

Prayer LIST as of 9.12.25

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



Indicates a new listing

Current Concerns



- For Iteke Prins, who has returned to the hospital for continued treatment
- For John & Star Haviland, as John continues treatment for a health concern
- Keith Curry, church sexton, who remains hospitalized, for healing and wisdom for treatment.
- For The Barrett and Tirpak families, for the loss of Tutu Kurt Winner, Trey's grandfather
- The Rev. Peggy Funderburke, may we celebrate in honor of her life and legacy. Her service is planned for Oct. 9, at Greenbush Reformed Church
- Carolyn Allen, for an upcoming medical test
- Ruth Pagerey, as she continues on her health journey
- For Jill Busman, wife of Kent Busman (retired director of Camp Fowler), who is undergoing cancer treatment
- Zachary, son of Joy Smith, experiencing a complicated medical issue

Ongoing Needs

- Olivia Gaydushek
- Mia Westman
- First Church, as it moves forward with a pastoral transition. For all that makes up that transition process.
- For areas recovering from natural disasters like flooding, fires, earthquakes, etc.
- For war-torn places and area of conflict throughout the world

Give Thanks



- For the ministry of Rev. Trey Tirpak and for his future with a new call and ministry
- For schools being vigilant and safeguarding students and faculty as they begin this new school year. May they know safety and security each day as they seek to learn and grow.

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.

The First Church in Albany

Wednesday at noon
Enter via the parking lot entrance

Join us at

Centering
PRAYER

All are welcome!

110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

September 2025



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																										
<p>OCTOBER 2025</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>										1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<p>1</p> <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY</p> <p>Office Closed for holiday</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
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<p>7</p> <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg 11:30am</p> <p>Consistory 6pm</p> <p>Joint Boards Mtg 7pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>																																										
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<p>21</p> <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>Blessing of the Prayer Shawls</p> <p>Trustee Mtg after Worship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>hello FALL</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p> <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>																																										
<p>28</p> <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>Rev. Trey Tirpak's last day at First Church</p>	<p>SCHOOL</p>																																													

Key:

