

The First Church in Albany

Gift of Bibles to FirstKIDS Sunday
Sunday, September 28, 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

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

arr. Myra Hess

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcement, & Blessing

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." **Amen.** II Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 91)

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

Leader: People of God, who live in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord:

People: You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Leader: God will deliver the beloved, and protect those who revere God's name.

People: God will answer when they call,

Leader: and be with them in trouble,

People: and rescue and honor them.

Leader: God will fill their years with satisfaction, and save them from disaster.

People: Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

See p. 6

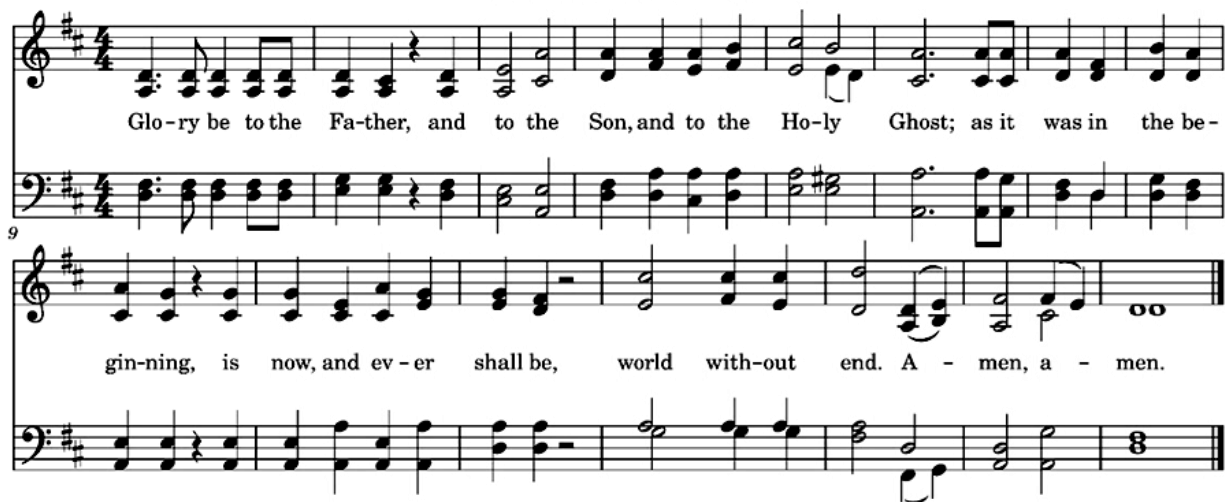
Prayer of Confession based on a prayer by EcoCongregation Scotland

Loving God,
you have chosen to live among us in flesh and blood,
and you know all that it is to be human.
We bring you the grandest of our human ingenuity
and the basest of our failures.
We offer to you the things which by accident turned out badly
and the times we know the wrong and chose it anyway.
In honesty we bring to you the damage we have done
not only to other people but to the creation as well.
We regret those times when we forgot
how much you each person and each prayer,
each decision made in love.
We pray forgiveness for our bitterness, which is always a choice,
and ask for your help with letting go of it
and of everything to which we should cling no longer.
In silence wait on the Good Word that we cannot take for granted
but Whom in grace you send to us nonetheless.

Time of silence and reflection

Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Gloria Patri



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.

*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 worshipping from



Children's Message & Blessing

We will be presenting the FirstKIDS students with bibles for the new year.



Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Text Luke 16:19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-for I have five brothers-that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

The Life that Is Life Indeed

Rev. Paul G. Janssen

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response**

"A Life That Is Life Indeed"

See p. 7

Profession of Faith

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.

We believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged.

We believe that God calls the

church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry.

We believe that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

“March of the Priests”

arr. R. Metzdorff

*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.**

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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

See p 8

*Charge & Blessing

Postlude

“September: The Hunt”

P. Tchaikovsky

Note: Please join us downstairs in Zimmerman Hall for Coffee Hour!

Prayer LIST





as of 9.26.25

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



Indicates a new listing

Current Concerns

-  We rejoice that our sister Iteke Prins is now in the presence of the Lord she loved so much in life. We pray for family and friends as they mourn her passing and give thanks for the time she shared with us at the First Church. We are surely better for it.
-  For Judith Utley-Suess, dealing with some health concerns.
-  For John Bowen and family, at the passing of his brother Jim, after a recent stroke
-  For Ian Leet, recently hospitalized with a serious health concern. For his wife, Edie, and family, as they plan to meet with Ian's medical team to discern his treatment. Edith shares their gratitude for all the prayers and well wishes extended to Ian and the family during this time.
- For John & Star Haviland, as John continues treatment for a health concern
- Keith Curry, church sexton, for healing and recovery
- 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 work of our newly formed transition team as they seek to fill the position of interim pastor and as they facilitate worship and ministry in the meantime.

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.*

Preacher: Rev. Paul G. Janssen
Liturgist(s): Norma Jean Ballou
Pianists): Eugene Sit
Worship Tech(s): Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

CCLI License #463379; One License #A-700689

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

A Life That Is Life Indeed

Words and Music ©Paul G Janssen 2025



To rise with glad - ness at the break of day:
To cher - ish fam - i - ly with o - pen heart:
To be con - ten - ted with my dai - ly bread:
To our Cre - a - tor, hon - est grat - i - tude!



To sleep with con - science free and clear:
To greet a strang - er as a friend:
To sing both sad and glee - ful songs:
To Christ our Sav - ior ar - dent love!



To fill the day with good and worth - while work:
To wel - come an - gels un - a - wares with joy:
To pray, en - trust - ing all in God's sure hands:
And to the Spi - rit ev - 're prec - ious breath!



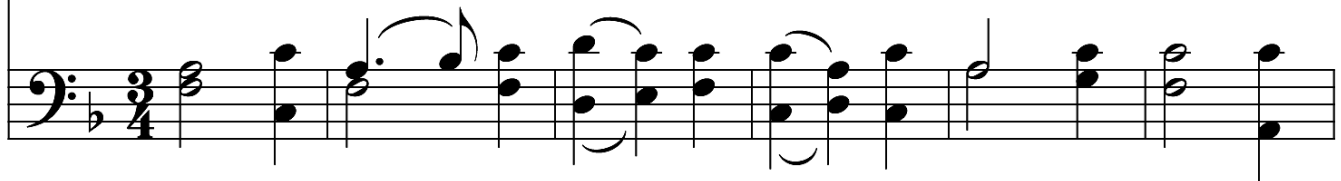
A life that is life in - deed!
A life that is life in - deed!
A life that is life in - deed!
A life that is life in - deed!



366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



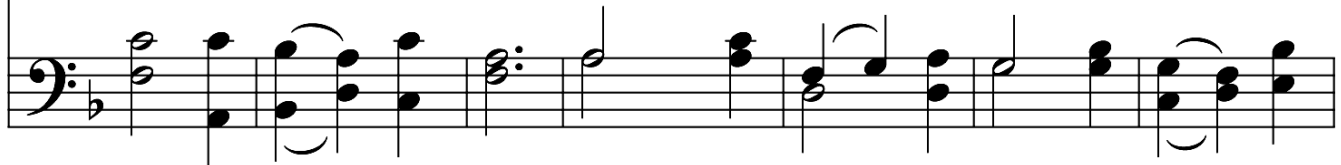
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
 8.7.8.7.D

The First Church in Albany **Wednesday at noon**
Enter via the parking lot entrance
 Join us at *Centering*
PRAAYER *All are welcome!*
 110 North Pearl St. Albany NY 12207 www.firstchurchinalbany.org

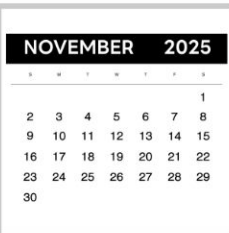






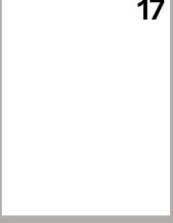

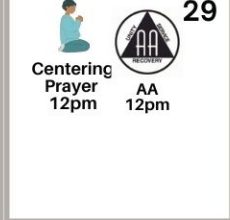
Today's Preacher...Rev. Paul G. Janssen










NewProfilePic.com

After growing up in Iowa and graduating from Central College, Rev. Paul Janssen headed east to New Brunswick and completed his M.Div. at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1985. He and his wife Annette moved to Hackensack and served Third Reformed Church, adopted a son, and from there moved on to Pascack Reformed Church in Park Ridge, New Jersey, where they adopted a daughter and served the congregation for 22 years, picking up a rescue pup along the way. Paul and Annette then moved to Somerville, New Jersey, where Paul served as Pastor of United Reformed Church for another 11 years. By December 2024 both had retired from full-time work, and Paul, Annette, and Tucker moved to Selkirk. Selkirk, because his brother - Rev. Dr. Allan Janssen, well known to First Church - had served First Reformed Church of Bethlehem for over 20 years, and the Capitol Region had become something like a second home.

October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
						
						
						
						

Key:

-  Indoor Worship 10am
-  Communion Sunday
-  Coffee Hour
-  Pantry 9am
-  Centering Prayer 12pm
-  Soup & Sandwiches
-  AA 12pm
-  First Kids
-  Choir
-  BIBLE Zoom Study 1pm





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



**TUE
30**

PANTRY



9AM

OCTOBER

**WED
1**

CENTERING PRAYER

NOON

IN THE POWELL RM

AA MEETING IN THE PARLOR

NOON

**THU
2**

PANTRY



9AM

**FRI
3**

VISITATION FOR ITEKE PRINS

4-7PM

**ROCKEFELLER FUNERAL HOME,
RENSSELAER**

**SAT
4**

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR ITEKE PRINS 10AM

IN THE SANCTUARY

**SUN
5**

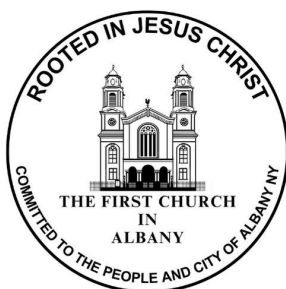
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

10AM

COFFEE HOUR IN ZIMMERMAN HALL 10:45AM



FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



The First Church in Albany

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org