

The First Church in Albany

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17, 2025, 7pm

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.

PLEASE SIT IN THE TWO INNER AISLES OF THE SANCTUARY.

Prelude *Land of Rest* G. Near

Why is it called Maundy Thursday?

When the church worships on Maundy Thursday, it remembers the last evening that Christ spent with his disciples in the upper room. Three major events make up this evening: he washed the disciple's feet, he instituted the Lord's Supper, and he gave them the "new" commandment to love one another. The name of this day comes from the last of these. "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum novum," referring to the "new commandment" Jesus gave his disciples in John 13:34. - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Call to Worship *Children and anyone else is invited to gather sit around the table in the center aisle*

Leader: Tonight we remember the night Jesus washed his disciples' feet, and shared a final meal with them.

People: We remember that to be called friends of Jesus, we must live out his new commandment: to love one another.

Leader: As we remember the towel, the bread, and the cup,

People: We also remember the darkness that fell.

Leader: We come to sit in the quiet and hear the story again.

People: We come to contemplate his great love for us.

A Prayer for Illumination

Teaching Text John 13:1-17, 33-35; pg 876-877 in pew bible

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

A Teaching About Foot-Washing and The Last Supper: Minister

Eucharistic Hymn: Choir Sings – *“Shadows Lengthen into Night”* (v.1)

*Sharing Paschal bread and wine, as the daylight ebbs away,
friends at table joined to dine. One of them soon betray.
Shadows lengthen into night*

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Mystery of the Faith

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

Commemoration of Communion

What is a Service of Tenebrae (Shadows)?

A Service of Tenebrae (Shadows) is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Scripture readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this somber day. Traditionally, lights are extinguished after each reading, and the congregation leaves a stripped sanctuary in complete silence and darkness. - Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.



Service of Tenebrae (Shadows)

The Shadows of Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36-46

Shadows Lengthen into Night (v.3) First Church Choir

*In the garden, still and deep, those he asked to watch and pray,
heavy lidded, fall asleep, weare from the anxious day.*

Shadows lengthen into night.

The Shadow of Betrayal: Matthew 26:47-50, 55-56

"This Is The Night" Congregation sings

The Shadow of Denial: Matthew 26:57-59, 69-75

"Shadows Lengthen into Night" (v.2) First Church Choir

*In a grove of olive trees underneath a darkening sky,
Jesus warns as he foresees: Peter also will deny.*

Shadows lengthen into night.

The Shadow of the Trial: Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26

While the web of darkness grows, Jesus suffers through his trial.

As the herald rooster crows, Peter speaks his third denial.

Shadows lengthen into night.

The Shadow of the Cross: Matthew 27:27-44

"Were You There?" #102 in pew hymnal Congregation sings

The Shadow of Death: Matthew 27:45-51, 54

"Shadows Lengthen into Night" (v.8) First Church Choir

Lifted high upon a cross, perfect love hangs pierced with nails.

All creation grieves its loss, as the very sunlight fails.

Shadows lengthen into night.

The Shadow of the Tomb: Matthew 27:57-60

"Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed" #78 in pew hymnal Congregation sings

Stripping of the Sanctuary

*(If you would like to help strip the sanctuary during this hymn,
you are free to do so, or you can sing)*

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (v.1-4, final verse acapella)

#101 in pew hymnal

Congregation sings

Total Darkness: *Please remain standing for a few moments of silence*

Please leave in silence. Offering plates are at the door.

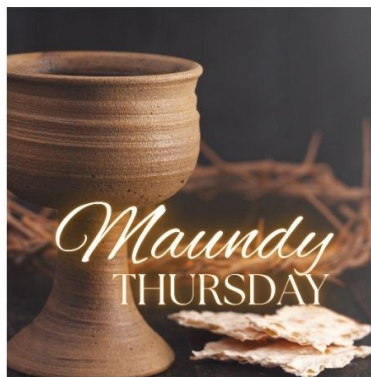
The First Church in Albany
invites you to join us for

Holy Week



April 13	Palm Sunday Worship Service	10 AM
April 17	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	7 PM
April 19	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	7 PM
April 20	Easter Sunday Worship Service, followed by an Easter Egg Maze 12yr and under	10 AM
April 18	Good Friday at St. Andrew's Episcopal, Albany	12 PM
April 20	FOCUS Churches Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 AM

See www.firstchurchinalbany.org for more information.



Ecumenical SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY
April 18, 12pm
St. Andrew's Episcopal, Albany

EASTER SUNRISE
April 20, 6:30am
Swan St. Stairs
West Capital Park

firstchurchinalbany.org



First Church in Albany

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

www.firstchurchinalbany.org



JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH

206 This Is the Night

Capo 1: (Em) (D) (Em) (D)
 Fm Eb Fm Eb

1 This is the night, dear friends, the night for weep - ing,
 2 This night the trai - tor, wolf with - in the sheep - fold,

(Em) (C) (G) (Am) (C) (Bsus) (B7)
 Fm Db Ab Bbm Db Csus C7

when powers of dark - ness o - ver - come the day,
 be - trays him - self in - to his vic - tim's will,

(G) (Dsus) (D) (Am) (Em) (Bm7)
 Ab Eb sus Eb Bbm Fm Cm7

the night the faith - ful mourn the weight of e - vil
 the Lamb of God for sac - ri - fice pre - par - ing:

(C) (Am7) (Em) (Am7) (Em) (Bm7) (Em)
 Db Bbm7 Fm Bbm7 Fm Cm7 Fm

where - by our sins the Son of Man be - tray.
 sin brings a - bout the cure for sin's own ill.

This text conveys well the paradox of despair and expectancy felt on Maundy Thursday. The somber repetition of "this night" here contrasts with and prepares for the joyful "this is the night" repeated in the *Exsultet*, the ancient Easter hymn at the lighting of the paschal candle.

Holy Saturday EASTER VIGIL

*The Light shines in
the darkness,
and the darkness
can never
extinguish it.*

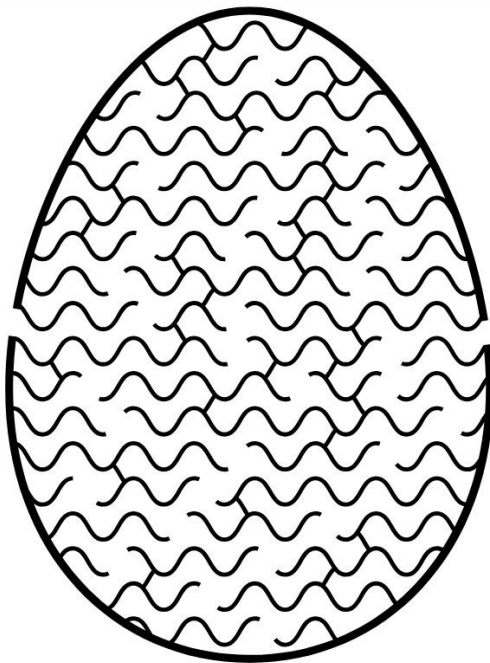
John 1:5

firstchurchinalbany.org

A Holy Saturday & Easter Vigil Services: A Holy Saturday service honors Christ's descent into death, echoing The Apostles' Creed. And then, when the sun sets, an Easter vigil service beings. Through fire and light, readings and song, baptism and communion, the Easter vigil service reenacts the story of salvation, celebrating Christ's triumph over sin, misery, evil, and death.

Easter Egg Hunt & Maze

Designed by Joshua Bliss



Kids (up to 12 years)
join us in Zimmerman
Hall after Easter
Worship on Sunday,
April 20 for our annual
Easter Egg Hunt &
Maze.