

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207
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**Second Sunday
after Christmas Day**

**January 3, 2021
10:00 am Sunday Worship**

**Service
via ZOOM**

Photo credit: Doug Persons



The Approach to God

Prelude

Carol

Of the Father's love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
All dominions, bow before Him, And extol our Lord and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.



Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
For God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

--Psalm 147:1, adapted

Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

VENITE ADOREMUS

O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant;
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him - born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him - Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n: Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him - Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!



Prayer of Confession

Lord, in review of 2020 we acknowledge and are heartily sorry for the times we hid your light in thought, word, and deed. We seek forgiveness for the times we were not peacemakers, but fire-fanners. We seek forgiveness for not loving our neighbors, our family, nor ourselves. Help us to overcome pride, prejudice, and indifference.

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause us to be born again. Thank you for this new year and for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame. May others see the wonders of God alive in each of us.

Assurance of Pardon



Leader 1: You Represent a stream of experience.

Leader 2: Your stream is holy, a source of strength.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader 1: You represent a steam of uniqueness.

Leader 2: Your stream is holy, a source of insight.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader 1: You represent a stream of wisdom.

Leader 2: Your stream is holy, a source of faith.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Prayer of Illumination

**Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your word be heard;
In the meditation of our hearts, may your word be known;
And in the faithfulness of our lives, may your word be shown.
Amen.**

The Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-9

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

When God Begins

The Prayer and Blessing on the Word



The first “Nowell” the angels did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, And with His blood our life hath bought. *Refrain*





The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Meaning of the Sacrament and the Invitation



The Communion Prayer and the Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise.

Lord God of truth...

we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and singing:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God: God of power, God of might.

Heav'n and earth, filled with your glory, their hosannas gladly cry.

Blessed is the One that in the Lord's name comes.

Glory be to you, most high.

Embracing our humanity....that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life, We await his coming in glory.

The Response to God

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.

The Words of Institution and Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Charge and Blessing

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona
Walston, Senior Minister;
Minister of Music: Mary Bon.

**We welcome all who gather
to worship God this
morning, especially visitors
and friends from near and
far.**

Photo credit: Doug Persons

