

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 ~ (518) 463-4449

Email: info@firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Website: www.firstchurchinalbany.org ~ Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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 all are loved.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2019

Prelude

Praeludium and Fuga in d minor

Clara Schumann

Announcements

Call to Worship (*from Psalm 146*):

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

L: I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

P: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

L: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

P: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

L: Happy are those who hope in the Lord their God, who keeps faith forever, who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

**P: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord! AMEN**

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you loved us completely before we even knew you.
Every day you continue to call us by name.
Yet often we fail to hear you calling and do not recognize your voice.
Rather than focus on your leading, we are distracted by many things.
We are grateful for your forgiveness and your refusal to give up on us.
Your patience, mercy and loving kindness do not fail.
Empower us as we renew our promises to you,
That we may walk in your grace and faithfully live for you all our days. AMEN**

Assurance of Pardon

Friends in Christ, hear these words from the baptismal liturgy:
whatever our journey to this point, we remember that in baptism
God claims us and seals us to show that we belong to Jesus Christ!

**God forgives us and frees us from sin and death;
God unites us to Jesus in his death and resurrection;
makes us members of the church, the body of Christ; and
empowers us by the Spirit to join Christ's mission in the world. AMEN**

*The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

*Response *Take up your cross* (LAND OF REST tune of hymn 603)

**“Take up your cross ,” the Savior said, “ to my disciples be.
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow me.”**

**Take up your cross; nor let its weight now fill you with alarm;
Christ's strength will bear your spirit up, and keep your soul from harm.**

Charles Everett, altered

A Word with Children

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for 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

Luke 14:25-33

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

The Sermon

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*Hymn Supplement C.17 *Friends in Faith Who Follow Jesus*

RESTORATION

Offering

Offertory

My Lord, What a Morning

Arr. Harry T. Burleigh

*Doxology LASST UNS ERFREUEN (the tune of hymn 455)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise Creator, praise the Son,
Praise Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Meaning of the Sacrament and the Invitation

*Hymn 503

Come, Risen Lord

SURSUM CORDA

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 (sung to the tune A15)

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora

Mi corazon te sabe decir, santo eres Senor.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words, you are holy Lord.

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 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, for ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution and Communion

Communion Solo

Give Me Jesus

Arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn 419

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Sortie

Leon Boellmann

ΑΩ

*Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS: Liturgist: Ian Leet; Preacher: The Rev. Abby Norton-Levering; Minister of Music: Mary Bon; soloist: Rose Hunsberger.

We welcome all who gather to worship God this morning, especially visitors and friends from near and far. Please sign our guest book or complete a visitor's card (found in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. There is an elevator in our building, which makes every floor accessible. Please join us for refreshments and conversation after worship.

We welcome the Rev Abby Norton-Levering to our pulpit this morning. Abby is the Albany Synod Synod Ministries Coordinator.

Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher.

Children 4 and under are welcome in the Nursery following "A Word with Children."

First Church is an accessible building:

- We have an elevator so you can reach every floor.



An Automated External Defibrillator "AED" is located in the lobby attached to the wall outside of the **workroom**.

Pocket Prayer Shawls are available at today's Worship. Please ask one of our greeters and they can provide a basket of pocket prayer shawls to choose from. Pocket Prayer Shawls are made and filled with prayers and can be given to someone in need of comfort, healing, or a reminder of the closeness of God.

The Joint Boards of First Church have extended a call to Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston. She is the Sr. Minister of the Cortlandtown Reformed Church in Montrose, NY. She will lead the worship service on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 10:30 am. Following the worship service, she will be introduced to the congregation at congregational meeting for a question and answer session. After the meeting the joint boards will meet to finalize her call.

During the congregational meeting on Sunday, September 15th there will be a motion to elect Gail Wlodkowski as a new elder to the consistory.

Festival of Spirituals – Each month we highlight an African-American composer who has made a significant contribution to our Worship Music. Today we will hear music of September's composer:

Henry Thacker "Harry" Burleigh

Born December 2, 1866, Erie, PA and dying September 12, 1949 in New York City, Burleigh wrote many spiritual arrangements, both solo and choral. Most of these songs he learned from his grandfather, a former slave. He is credited popularizing African-American Spirituals and bringing them into mainstream of classical song. For more details, check out the article on Burleigh in September's *FAMILY*.

This Sunday we also begin a monthly series celebrating a major composer's anniversary. September 13th is the 150th anniversary of Clara Schumann's birth and the prelude includes one of her *Prelude and Fugues*. Although she has been neglected in favor of her more well-known husband, Robert Schumann, Clara was one of the most significant romantic composers and pianists. In addition to supporting her husband and eight children through concertizing throughout Europe, she revolutionized the piano concert. There's more information on Clara in September's *FAMILY*.

Copies of our newsletter "**The Family**" and information about First Church are available at the Hospitality table in the lobby.

Join the Choir – There will be a short rehearsal today after Worship in the Choir Room. Our first Choir Rehearsal is Thursday, September 12th at 7:00 pm. You don't need to read music or have any special talent; just a love of singing. Come join us for fun, food, fellowship and song! Everyone is welcome.

Available Sunday Flower Dates: September 15th and 22nd are available for the dedication of sanctuary flower arrangements. The cost is \$65.00 for two vases. Please call the Church Office (518) 463-4449, if you are interested.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday	9/8	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Sanctuary Service (Communion) The Rev. Abby Norton-Levering, Albany Synod Executive Post service: Coffee & Conversation 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Monday	9/9	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 6:30 pm Consistory Meeting
Wednesday	9/11	9:00 am – 11:30 am – Food Pantry Open 12:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday	9/12	4:30 pm Music Task Force 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	9/15	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Worship Service - Sanctuary The Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, preaching Post service: Congregational Meeting 12:15 pm Joint Board Meeting - Parlor

HAVE YOU SEEN CLEEO?



Someone has taken Cleo, the Cleo Park Dog! They broke the bolts that anchored him to the sidewalk outside Cleo Park and carried him away. If you know anything about his disappearance, please contact the church office.