

WORDS, WORLDS, & WISDOM



Welcome back to Indoor Worship!!!

Sunday, September 22, 2024

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 Reflection *a haiku for today's worship*

Our tongues have power—
Power to heal and bring life.
Wield it and be free.

Prelude "*Partita on SLANE*" C. Callahan

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & 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 1*

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

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

People: but their delight is in the law of the Lord.

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water.

People: They yield fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither.

Leader: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

People: The Lord makes the righteous prosper.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord!

*Opening Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

(see insert)

Call to Confession

Leader: Today, the letter of James teaches us that our inner struggles often fuel our outward conflicts. Let us come before God to confess this, and ask for wisdom and peace so we might live anew.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, the letter of James reminds us that our quarrels sometimes arise from unchecked unease within us. We confess to acting impulsively when we feel agitated, and sometimes we allow our discomfort to keep us from acting altogether. In your love, forgive us, and teach us to seek your wisdom so that we might live humbly in harmony with others. Amen.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends of Jesus, in Christ we start to notice our inner discomfort, and by the power of the Holy Spirit within us, we come to know a peace that surpasses all understanding. Live in Christ, and be set free to speak words of life.

*Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us rise if able and spend a few moments greeting one another.

Children’s Message & Blessing *Today is the first day of our children’s programming with our Senior Minister.*

Prayer for Illumination

Jesus, you are the Word and Wisdom of God. Show up today in the preaching and receiving of the word. Change our words and worlds. In your name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Excerpts from Proverbs*

“The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.” - Proverbs 10:11

“Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” - Proverbs 12:18

“Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.” - Proverbs 16:24

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

James 3:13-4:3

Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom. However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.

What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Words, Worlds, & Wisdom

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response

"Though I May Speak"

Profession of Faith *Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 105-107*

Q: What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

A: I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor—not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds—and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.

Q: Does this commandment refer only to murder?

A: By forbidding murder, God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight, all such are disguised forms of murder.

Q: So, is it enough then that we do not murder our neighbor in any such way?

A: By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

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

“All Praise to You, Jesus Christ”

Ancient melody, ca 1400

Arr. Gatterman

***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.**

Prayers of the People

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For the Lloyd family for the passing of Donald.
- For Uncle Rev. Trey Tirpak and family on the birth of his nephew, Henry Ezra to his brother and sister-in-law.
- Stephen Giguere, Virginia’s husband, diagnosed with cancer.
- Shawn Giguere, Virginia’s son, with a health diagnosis.
- David Allen, recovering from emergency surgery.
- Mary Bon, recovering from a recent injury to her knee.
- Donna Linen’s health concerns, friend of the Dorn’s.
- Teresa Wheeler’s grandmother Cindy, with health concerns
- Donna Jones
- Michelle Williams
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Donna Schultz
- Carol LaBatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health concerns
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Ministers, staff, and leaders of First Church as they move forward into our everchanging world.
- Those dealing with natural disasters exasperated by climate change.
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.
- U.S. Federal, State and Local Elections

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email office@firstchurchinalbany.org or call the office at 518-463-4449

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** *"God, Be The Love to Search and Keep Me"* (see insert)

*Charge & Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord smile toward you, and give you peace.

Postlude *"Toccato on HYFRYDOL"*

Preacher: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Liturgist: Cameron Carley

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

*CCLI License #463379;
One License #A-700689*

Note: Come down to Zimmerman Hall for a time of refreshment and conversation as we catch up on the summer's happenings at First Church and in each other's lives!





New Evening Zoom Bible Study with Rev. Trey

Beginning on Wednesday, October 2nd at 7:30 PM via Zoom, Rev. Trey will lead a new Bible study on the book of Colossians!

This study will offer a simple journey through the text, with Rev. Trey providing helpful background and context along the way. .

No prior knowledge needed—just an open heart and a willingness to learn! All you need is a Bible.

Join us as we dive deeper into God's Word together by contacting Rev. Trey or just joining the Zoom call (the link will be available in the Eblast and on the website.)



Scan the code with your phone to watch a video from BibleProject that provides an animated summary of the Book of Colossians.



SOUP & SANDWICHES

Cleeⁱⁿ Park

Wednesday, 11:30am

If you would like to volunteer to serve on a Wednesday, please contact office@firstchurchinalbany.org

#firstchurchinmotion

Starting Wednesday November 6

September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 FOCUS Service at Westminster Pres. (No worship service at First Church)	2 ★ LABOR DAY ★★ Pantry 9am Office Closed	3	4 Pantry 9am AA 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm	5	6	7
8 Drive-In Worship 10am Communion Sunday Lemonade Lull	9 Pantry 9am Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11:30am	10 Special Consistory meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm	11 Pantry 9am AA 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm U.S.A.	12 Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	13	14 Out cleaning
15 Drive-In Worship 10am Lemonade Lull	16 Pantry 9am	17	18 Pantry 9am AA 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm Weathervanes 12:30pm	19	20	21
22 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour 	23 Pantry 9am	24	25 Pantry 9am AA 12pm Centering Prayer 12pm	26	27	28
29 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Blessing of Prayer Shawls 	30 Pantry 9am					


































Key:





OCTOBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	 <p>Please note new days for pantry</p>  <p>Tue. & Thu</p>	<p>ATTENTION PLEASE 1</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>ATTENTION PLEASE 3</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>  <p>Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm</p>	4	5
 <p>6</p> <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p>  <p>World Communion on Sunday</p>  <p>Choir Coffee Hour</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg. 11:30am</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	11	<p>12</p>  <p>Blessing of the Animals 11am</p>
<p>13</p>  <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p>  <p>Coffee Hour</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>INDIGENOUS PEOPLE day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>  <p>Weather vanes 12:30pm</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	18	 <p>Dutch Settlers' Mtg. 7pm</p>
<p>20</p>  <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p>  <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>Private Event 1:15pm</p>	21	<p>22</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p> <p>Albany Classis Mtg. 6pm FOCUS Board Mtg. 6:30pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>	25	26
<p>27</p>  <p>Indoor Worship 10am</p>  <p>Coffee Hour</p>	28	<p>29</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>  <p>Reimagine I-787 4pm-6pm</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>Centering Prayer 12pm</p>  <p>AA 12pm</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Pantry 9am</p>  <p>HALLOWEEN</p>	<p>Daylight Saving Time</p>  <p>Turn Clocks Back One Hour Sat. Nov. 3, 2am</p>	



Key:



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

518-463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) Eb (G) Ab (D/F#) Eb/G (A7) Bb7 (D) Eb

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) Bb (D) Eb (G) Ab (A) Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) Ab (D) Eb (F#m7) Gm7 (G) Ab (A) Bb

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

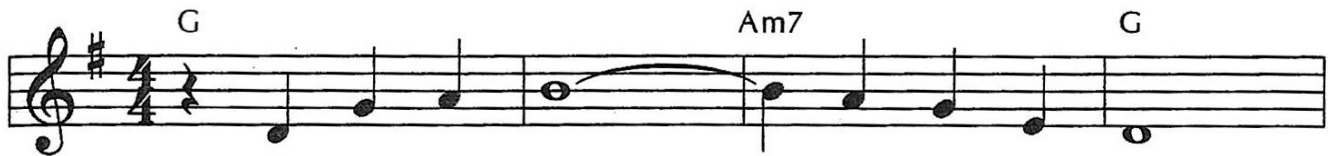
(Bm) Cm (D/F#) Eb/G (G) Ab (D) Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

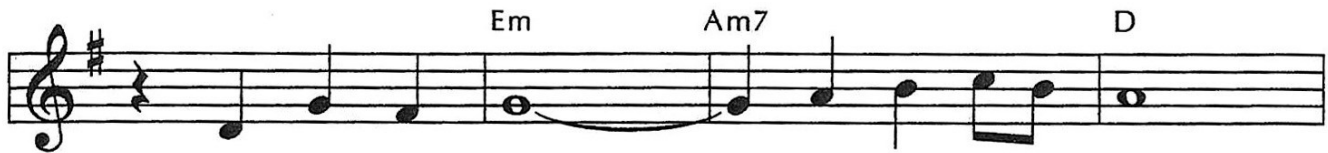
These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

Though I May Speak

The Gift of Love



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2 Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3 Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;



and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.



and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

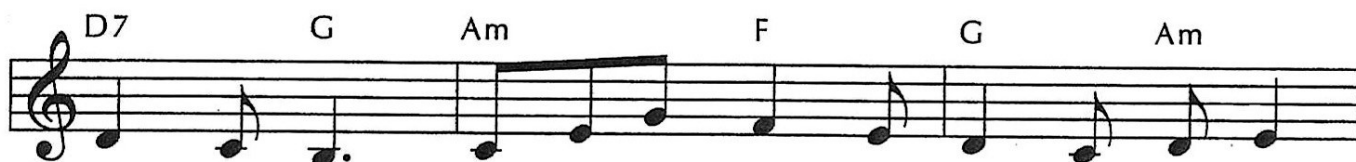
As paraphrases of 1 Corinthians 13:1, 3 the first two stanzas here are in the first person singular, yet they lead into a plural prayer for the gift of such love, for it thrives in community. These words are especially poignant with this adaptation of an English folk melody.

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

Thursday, September 12, 7pm
Potluck 6pm

This was the last of our monthly services in the evening. We are so grateful to all who have participated and made this a blessed community and were a blessing to the First Church.

A Night of
WORSHIP

