

The First Church in Albany Sunday, July 7, 2024 10am

THE NEW CREATION HAS COME

FOCUS Summer Service

Radio Station 87.9 FM

Prelude *“ROYAL OAK”* M. Hassell
 “Sonata in C major” J.S. Bach

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.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

Call to Worship

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

Leader: We come from the day-to-day busyness of our lives.

People: We come with cares and worries, joys and celebrations.

Leader: Let us set it all aside and enter this time of worship.

People: May our hearts and minds be open to what God might say to us this day.

Leader: Trusting always that God will meet us wherever God finds us.

People: Let us gather to worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

"God of the Sparrow"

Call to Confession

When we gather to worship God, we must first be honest with ourselves. We are not who God has called us to be as a people. We have not cared for others in every instance. We have made many mistakes. Let us unburden ourselves and confess our sins, knowing that God awaits to forgive and renew.

Prayer of Confession based on prayer from *Feasting on the Word, Proper 9*

**Holy Three, Holy One, triune God,
we confess that we do not believe
that you have overcome sin and death.
We are more in touch with the pangs of
weakness
than we are with the power of love.
In fear, we worship idols;
in despair, we collapse in hopelessness;
in rage, we seek to dominate others.
O God of David, forgive us.
O Son of David, have mercy on us.
O Spirit of the Living God, grant us peace.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the Good News! Who is the Good News? Christ is the Good News! The old life is gone, a new life has begun. You are not who you used to be; you are not yet who you will become. May you transform into the being God is continually fashioning.

***Passing the Peace** (during the passing of the peace, children please come forward for a message and blessing.)

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a honk of the horn and hand-sign of peace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

beep

beep



Children's Message & Blessing

Prayer for Illumination *Please sing*

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Sermon Text 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!



Sermon *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

Eucharistic Hymn & Offertory

"Bread of Life From Heaven"

Note: Today's offering will go to FOCUS Churches of Albany.

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper *Lima Eucharist Liturgy*

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 our thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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** *O God, Who Gives Us Life*

***Charge & Blessing**

***Postlude**

"Allegro - C major"
Jacqueline Wright, flute

J.S. Bach

“The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by author Eric Carle, is a children’s book, first published in 1969. It chronicles the story of a very hungry caterpillar as it transitions from an egg to a cocoon to a butterfly.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

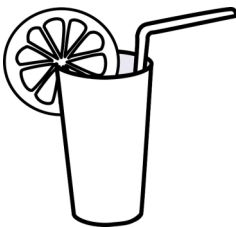
Keyboard: Iteke Prins

Vocalist and/or specialist: Glenn Claydon,
vocalist and Jacqueline Wright, flutist

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

Note: We thank all the FOCUS congregations gathered together for worship today. We also thank Kathleen Clayden for our homemade caterpillar.

Portions of today’s liturgy were taken from and influenced by Tara Bulgar and our friends at *Presbyterian Outlook*.



Join us in Clee Park for Lemonade and other refreshments!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

JULY 2024

MON PANTRY 9 AM
08

WED PANTRY 9 AM
10 CENTERING PRAYER 12 PM
AA MEETING 12 PM
NYS I-787 OUTREACH
EVENT 4-6PM

THU HOT DOGS IN THE
11 PARK 11:30AM

SUN DRIVE-IN WORSHIP
14 & LEMONADE LULL 10 AM

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



REIMAGINE I-787

Open House



Department of
Transportation

Wednesday 7/10/24, 4 pm–6 pm

The First Church | 110 N Pearl St, Albany

Spanish interpretation will be provided.
Un intérprete de español estará presente.

We look forward to seeing you there!

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- Teresa Wheeler's grandmother Cindy, with health concerns
- Catherine, a friend of Rev. Trey's, for her pregnancy
- Peter Pagerey
- Donna Jones
- Edie Leet, for healing and steady recovery after surgery.
- Kathy Stallmer, friend of Ned and Kathie Monthie, for comfort on her health journey
- Brett, friend of Rev. Trey.
- Michelle Williams, for recovery
- Matt, cousin of Barb Andrews with health issues
- Rev. Dr. Mashona as she continues her health journey
- Mia Westman
- Becky Gardner
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health concerns
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany as they move forward into our everchanging world.
- For those dealing with climate disasters like wildfires.
- 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.

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



CENTERING PRAYER

**Each Wednesday
at noon**

The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl St.
Albany NY 12207

Join us for the wonderful practice of
Centering Prayer.

Contemplative and grounding, Centering
Prayer helps you to focus on your
connection to God and find peace in your
spiritual journey.

Centering Prayer is a good way for us to
strengthen our prayer muscle. Led most
often by Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Mashona
Walston of First Church, everyone is
welcome!

firstchurchinalbany.org



The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl Street, Albany NY
12207
518-463-4449
www.firstchurchinalbany.org

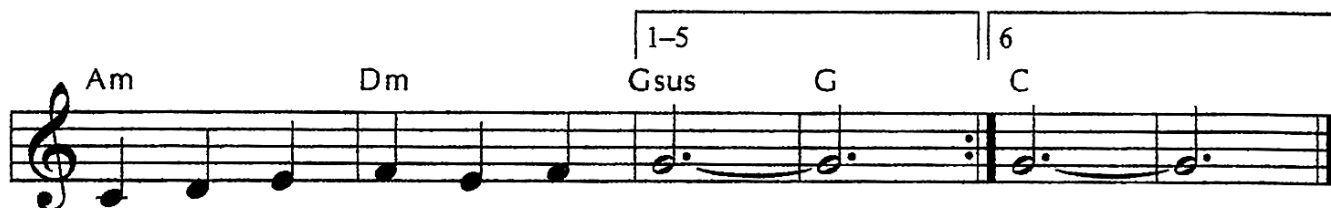
God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

Bread of Life from Heaven sing 2X

Refrain C

G

Am

Am7

F

G7

C

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we

F

G7

C

Am

F

G7

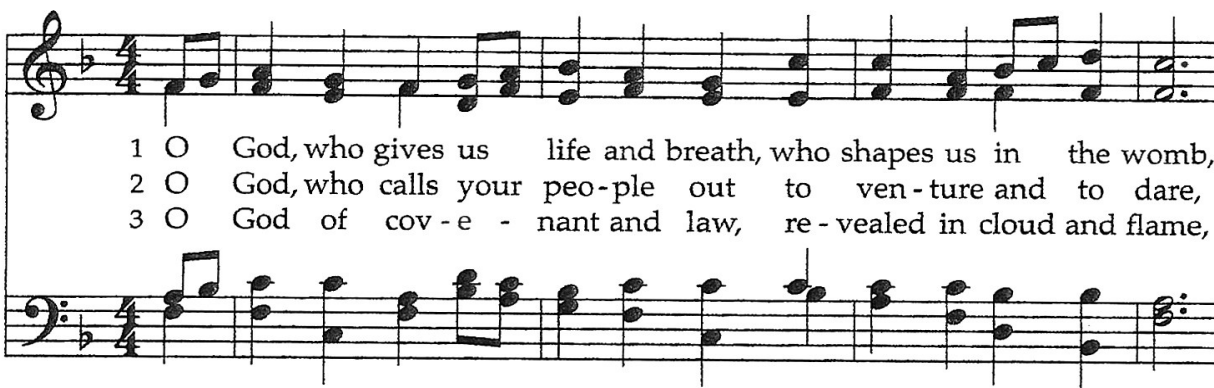
C

Last time

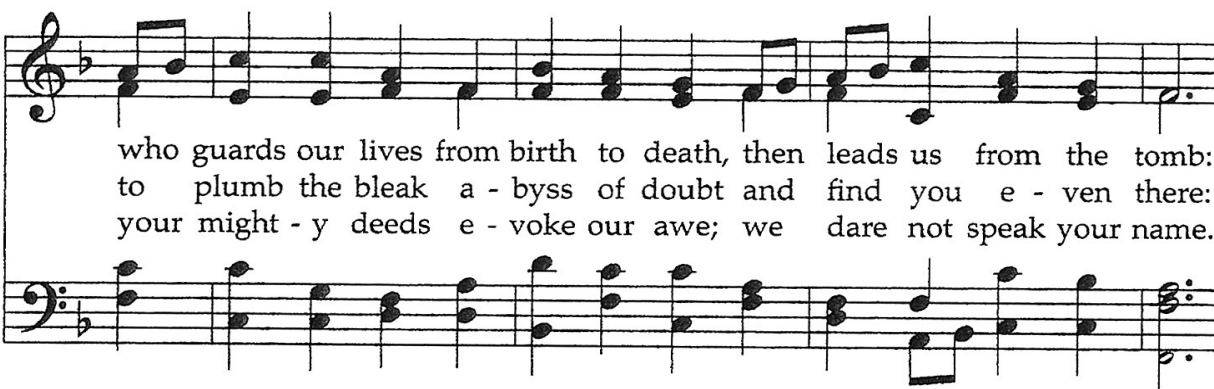
eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

Last time

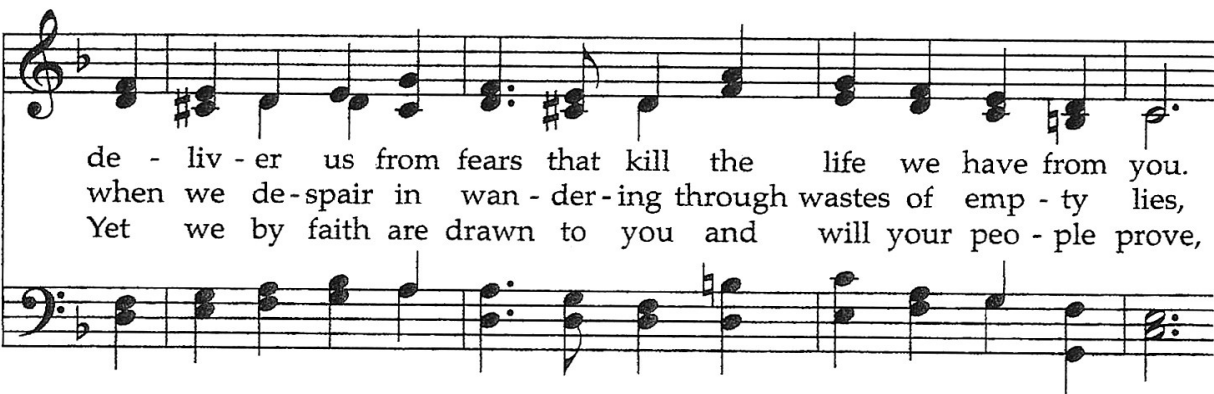
O God, Who Gives Us Life



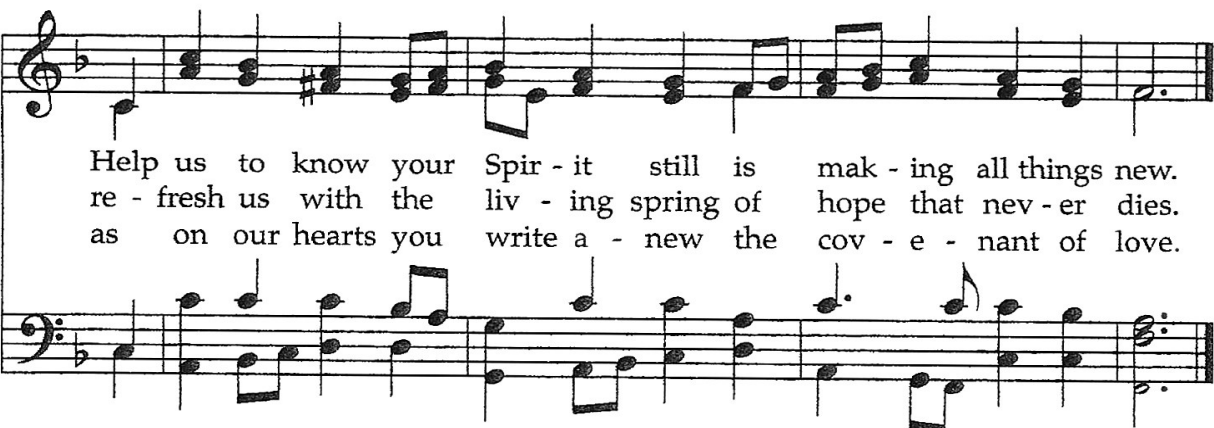
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
3 O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of empty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE MINISTRY
invites men and women of all ages
who have suffered the
loss of a spousal relationship
due to death, divorce, or separation
to a



HEALING WEEKEND

a program designed to help you grieve one of life's most traumatic losses



Dominican Retreat and Conference Center
Niskayuna, NY
July 26 to 28, 2024

Reservations required: Call Phyllis 914 261 5812 or
Gloria 646 281 4790

Email: beginningexperienceofhv@gmail.com

Website: www.beginningexperiencehv.org

An advertisement for Cleo Park. The top part shows a photo of three people walking on a path in a park. Below the photo is a large red sign that says "Cleo Park". Underneath that is a wooden sign that says "GLEEO'S FREE HOTDOG THURSDAYS". To the left of the wooden sign is a red and white checkered sign that says "The First Church in Albany Presents". To the right of the wooden sign is a white ceramic dog figurine. At the bottom of the wooden sign, there is a white box with text: "EACH THURSDAY, WEATHER PERMITTING 11:30am in Cleo Park Hotdogs, chips, fruit, and beverages". At the very bottom of the advertisement, it says "Looking for volunteers to help serve!".