

## THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street

Albany, NY 12207

(518) 463-4449

[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)

**The Fifth Sunday  
of Lent**

**March 21, 2021**

**10:00 am Sunday Worship**

**Service  
*via ZOOM***



# Please keep in prayer this week...

- The family and friends of Wayne Sivaslian
- The family of Frank, uncle of Rebecca Gardner
- The family and friends of Linda Becker Heim
- The family and friends of Jane Ward
- The family and friends of Joline Mondore
- The family of Agnes Hevi
- Larry Underdue
- Judith Suess & Leroy
- Amy Carr (Gillespie family)
- Cindy Gillespie, in benevolence for the loss of her father
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Brown family
- Pagerey family
- Steve Hoffman
- Gertrude Dorn
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- First Church Staff and Leaders

Prayer Concerns? If you would like your church family to join you in prayer, please share your concerns and joys with us. Call the office at 518-463-4449 or email [fciaofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:fciaofficemanager@gmail.com).

# Prelude

*“The Lone, Wilde Bird”*  
*Rose Hunsberger, soloist*

D. Johnson

# Welcome and Announcements

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The hand on the left is wearing a gold ring and is part of a black sleeve. The hand on the right is wearing a gold ring and is part of a purple sleeve. The background is a light-colored wooden floor.

## Call to Worship

Psalm 119:9-16

<sup>9</sup>How can young people keep their way pure?  
By guarding it according to you word.

**<sup>10</sup>With my whole heart I seek you; do not  
let me stray from your commandments.**

<sup>11</sup>I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may  
not sin against you.

**<sup>12</sup>Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me  
your statutes.**

<sup>13</sup>With my lips I declare all the ordinances of  
your mouth.

**<sup>14</sup>I delight in the way of your decrees as  
much as in all riches.**

<sup>15</sup>I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my  
eyes on your ways.

**<sup>16</sup>I will delight in your statutes; I will not  
forget your word.**

Hymn #281 *from Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*

*“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

RHONDDA

Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## Prayer of Confession

We come seeking God in mighty earthquakes. We come Listening for God in resounding thunder. We come expecting God in sweeping victories. Yet God is found in a baby's touch. Yet God speaks in silence. Yet God is found in the least of these. Save us, O God, from our aimless wandering. Save us, O God from our idols. Save us, O God, from our self-induced chaos. God, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

## Moment of Silence

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news of God's love for us; not in the earthquake, not in the storms, not in the mighty deeds but in the silence, in the gentle touch, in the quiet rain God says, again, "You are my Beloved."



## Prayer of Illumination

**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.**



# A Reading of Scripture

John 12:20-33

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrews; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup>”Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—’Father, save me from this hour?’ No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.



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

The Sermon

“We Wish to See Jesus”

Rev. Mashona Walston

The Prayer and Blessing on the Word

# The Response to God



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

## 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.

Hymn #261 *from Hymn, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*

*“God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us”*

O QUINTA QUALIA

# Benediction

(based on Micah 6:8)

Go in peace — to do justice;  
love mercy—be kind and gentle to yourself and others;  
and walk humbly with your God—God is beside you, in you, and from you, today and all  
days...Amen.

*~written by Rev. Sally May, Mallet's Bay Congregational Church, Colchester VT, and  
posted on Discipleship Ministries <https://umcdiscipleship.org>*

## Postlude

*"March Gothique"  
Justan Foster, organist*

T. Salome

**WORSHIP LEADERS:**

**Preacher:** Rev. Mashona Walston

**Guest Organist:** Justan Foster

**Liturgist:** Jean Lamere

**Soloist:** Rose Hunsberger

**Tech Team:** Ian Leet, Josh Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

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