

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

(Reformed Church in America)

110 North Pearl Street

Albany, NY 12207

(518) 463-4449

www.firstchurchinalbany.org

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 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.

Prelude

“Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben”

Rose Hunsberger, soloist

St. Matthew's Passion
J.S. Bach

Out of love my saviour is willing to die,
Of any sin he knows nothing
So that eternal ruin
And the punishment of judgement
May not remain on my soul

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship

One: Christ is our light as we wander in the wilderness

All: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

One: Christ is the Word to teach, warn, and bless.

All: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

One: Christ bore the cross of suffering and death

All: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

One: Christ is the water alive with new breath;
All: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

One: Prepare us, O Lord God. Lead us on the way.

All: We live in hope until Easter Day.

Hymn #192 *from Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*

“God, Our Help and Constant Refuge”

MICHAEL

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

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God whose very being is love,
You love us without condition,
Yet we have forgotten what your love
feels like,
turned away your abundance,
and chosen to see your grace dimly.
We live in a world marred
by fear, pain, and loss,
A world whose values are not always
aligned with yours, money, power, and
status.**

**Forgive us for keeping to ourselves what
you desire us to share,
and discarding what you desire us to use
well.
Dwell in our hearts, O God,
Grow us as disciples of Jesus Christ and
witnesses of the Holy Spirit;
Raise us up that we might become
beacons of your love.
Amen.**

Moment of Silence

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord Jesus Christ has room enough for all of us within his embrace.
The Good News, which is true for us even in the dark lenten days,
is that in Christ we are forgiven for all of our sins.
In Jesus Christ, there is light, life, and hope.
Thanks be to God.



Prayer of Illumination

God of life,
breath new life into these
ancient words,
that we may hear what you
want us to hear,
be who you want us to be,
and do what you want us to do.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Reading of Scripture

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

for his steadfast love endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble

³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,

and he saved them from their distress;

²⁰he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.


Continued...

John 3:14-21

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶”For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷”Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”



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

The Sermon

“By Night”

Guest Preacher Gene Ryan

The Prayer and Blessing on the Word

The Response to God



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

“We Walk By Faith”

WE WALK BY FAITH

Benediction

God of love and mercy,
Bless us on our Lenten journey.
By your light,
call us to faithful following
By your word,
call us to attentive listening
By your cross,
call us to sacrificial obedience

By your Holy Spirit,
call us to repentance, joy, and service.
Amen
And May God give the angels charge
over you,
May their hands bear you up,
And keep you from falling.
Amen.

Postlude

"O Blessed Spring"

J. Biery

BERGLUND



Today's Guest Preacher Gene Ryan

Gene Ryan is a seminary student at Western Theological Seminary, anticipating graduation this May.

He has worked with youth and young adults for most of his professional career at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and at Camp Fowler on summer staff.

He grew up an hour west of Albany, in Fort Plain, New York. And, he currently lives in Delmar with his fiancé, and his cat, Bernard.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Guest Preacher: Gene Ryan

Guest Organist: Justan Foster

Liturgist: Ian Leet

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.