

# 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)

## Transfiguration Sunday

**February 14, 2021**

**10:00 am Sunday Worship**

**Service**

***via ZOOM***



# Please keep in prayer this week...

- The family and friends of Linda Becker Heim
- The family and friends of Jane Ward
- The family and friends of Joline Mondore
- 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
- Beth
- Gertrude Dorn
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Gilbert Houk
- 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

*“Alleluia” from Exsultate Jubilate*  
Rose Hunsberger, soloist

Mozart

# Welcome and Announcements



## Call to Worship

Leader: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting

**People: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

**People: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people.**

Leader: Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

**People: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.**

# Fairest Lord Jesus

370

*Schönster Herr Jesu*, anon. German, 1677;  
tr. anon., 1850; rev. Isabella Stevenson, 1924

ST. ELIZABETH, 5.6.9.5.5.8

*Schlesiger Volkslieder* (1842)

## Hymn #370

from Rejoice in the Lord Hymnal

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Lord of all cre - a - tion, Son of our  
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the  
3. Fair is the moon - light, fair - er still the sun - shine, fair is the  
4. All fair - est beau - ty, heav - en - ly and earth - ly, won - drous - ly,

## "Fairest Lord Jesus"

ST. ELIZABETH

1. God who from heav'n came down; thee will I cher - ish,  
2. col - ors and bloom of spring. Je - sus is fair - er,  
3. shim - m'ring star - ry sky; Je - sus shines bright - er,  
4. Je - sus, is found in thee; none can be near - er,

1. thee will I hon - or, O thou my soul's de - light and crown.  
2. Je - sus is pur - er; he makes the sad - dest heart to sing.  
3. Je - sus shines clear - er than all the heav'n - ly host on high.  
4. fair - er, or dear - er than thou, my Sav - ior, art to me.

# Prayer of Confession

*(inspired by 2 Kings 2, Psalm 51)*

God of the blazing chariots, the whirling wind, the sacred silence,  
**Listen softly to the confessions of our hearts.**

*[silence]*

Create clean hearts in us.

**Renew right spirits within us.**

Shelter us within your presence.

**Sustain us by your Holy Spirit.**

***Restore to us the joy of our salvation.***

*Blazing, whirling, sacred God,*

***inhabit and transform our stories. Amen.***

~ written by Joanna Harader and posted on **Spacious Faith.**

<http://spaciousfaith.com/>

# Assurance of Pardon

You are God's Beloved;  
with you, God is well pleased.  
You are renewed and restored.  
You are forgiven and loved.  
You are a new creation in Christ.  
everything old has passed away;  
see, everything is becoming new.  
Go and share the good news of God's love. Amen.

~written by Rev. Mindi, and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

# Prayer of Illumination

*(from the hymn "Spirit of the Living God," Iverson)*

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

## 2 Kings 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So, they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So, they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Continued...

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So, the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup> He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

The Sermon

“Are You Growing or Revolving?”

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 #256  
from Rejoice in the  
Lord Hymnal

“O Wondrous Sight,  
O Vision Fair”

DEO GRACIAS

256

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

*Caelestis formam gloriae*, 15th century;  
tr. J. Neale, 1851; text of 1861 (alt'd)

DEO GRACIAS (AGINCOURT SONG), LM

15th-century English melody

1. O won-drous sight, O vi-sion fair of glo - ry that the Church shall share,  
2. From age to age the tale de - clares how with the three dis - ci - ples there,  
3. The law and proph-ets there have place, two cho-sen wit-ness - es of grace;  
4. With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray Christ deigns to man - i - fest that day  
5. And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,

1. which Christ up - on the moun-tain shows, where bright-er than the sun he glows!  
2. where Mo - ses and E - li-jah meet, the Lord holds con-verse high and sweet.  
3. the Fa - ther's voice from out the cloud pro-claims his on - ly Son a - loud.  
4. what glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove who joy in God with per-fect love.  
5. for which in joy - ful strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

Alternative tune: TUGWOOD, 501

# Benediction

*(based on Micah 6:8)*

Go in peace—to do justice—staying home is justice today;  
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

*“Deo Gracias”*

Jenkins

## **WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona  
Walston, Senior Minister;  
Guest Organist: Justan Foster  
Liturgist: Monica Marsh  
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.**

