

Sunday, October 24, 2021, 10am

The First Church in Albany

*Welcomes you*



# **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.*

## **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost** Autumn Celebration Sunday October 24, 2021

### **We Gather in the Presence of God**

#### **Prelude**

*“Toccata in G minor”  
Iteke Prins, organist*

J. A. Reincken

### **Welcome, Announcements & Blessing**

“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

- Revelation 3:20-22

### **Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 126)*

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

**People: We were like those who dream.**

Leader: Our mouths were filled with laughter,

**People: And our tongues with shouts of joy!**

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**People: May those who sow in tears, reap with shouts of joy.**

Leader: First Church, those who go out weeping, bearing the seeds for sowing,

**People: Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying bundles of laughter.**

Leader: Let us worship this God who turns our sorrows into joy and laughter!

**\*Opening Hymn**

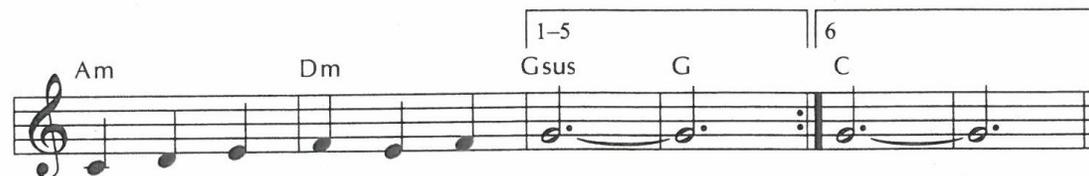
## God of the Sparrow



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

## Prayer of Confession

**God of healing, we look for you in all the wrong places. We assume that we know how you work and where you are at work. Because of this, we miss out on seeing your glory, and we fail to join with you as partners in your work. Send your Holy Spirit to give us the spiritual eyes of faith that the blind man in today's text had, so that we may also be made well. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Friends in Christ, the good news is this: Jesus asked the blind man what he wanted, and when the blind man told Jesus what he wanted, Jesus gave it to him. The same is for us today and everyday for Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."



### **\*Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of the Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a hand-sign of peace.

*Touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger, and wave to one another. This hand-sign makes Christ's gesture of blessing in a lot of iconography in the Orthodox Tradition.*

## Prayer of Blessing & Message for the Children



## Prayer of Illumination

**Holy Spirit, we also shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me," and bring to light what we need to see today. Amen.**

## Scripture

Mark 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup>They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaues, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When Bartimaeus heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon**

*Jesus Stood Still*

Rev. De. Mashona Walston

### Sermon Notes

Trouble in the text:

Trouble in our world:

God in the text:

God in our world:

Ways that God is moving in me:

# A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

## \*Hymn of Response

## Be Thou My Vision

$E^b$ 
 $A^b$ 
 $Cm$ 
 $B^b$ 
 $E^b$

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,

$B^b$ 
 $A^b$ 
 $B^b$

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!

$A^b$ 
 $E^b$ 
 $Cm$ 
 $A^b$ 
 $B^b$

thou my best thought,— by day or by night;  
 Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be,  
 thou and thou on - ly first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

$E^b$ 
 $Cm$ 
 $A^b$ 
 $Fm$ 
 $E^b$

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931); vers. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), P.D.  
 Music (SLANE 10.10.10.10): Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader (b. 1942) © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

**Doxology #591**

**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**

**Leader:** Jesus, Son of David,  
**People:** Have mercy on us.

*The Lord's  
Prayer*

**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

# Will You Come and Follow Me

F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 Will you come and fol - low me, if I but call your name?  
2 Will you leave your-self be - hind, if I but call your name?  
3 Will you let the blind - ed see, if I but call your name?  
4 Will you love the 'you' you hide, if I but call your name?  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup>/C F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
> Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 Am7 B<sup>b</sup>6 Csus C

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
> Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup>/C F

will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?  
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you, and you in me?  
> and ad - mit to what I mean in you, and you in me?  
through my sight and touch and sound in you, and you in me?  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude**

*“Lobe den Herren”  
Iteke Prins, organist*

*arr. F. Saffe*

*\*The prayer of confession today is based on a prayer from Rev. Austin D. Hill.*

**Worship Leadership:**

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

**Guest Organist:** Iteke Prins

**Vocalist:** Rose Hunsberger, soprano

**Technical Team:** Joshua Bliss, and Stephen Reohr

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





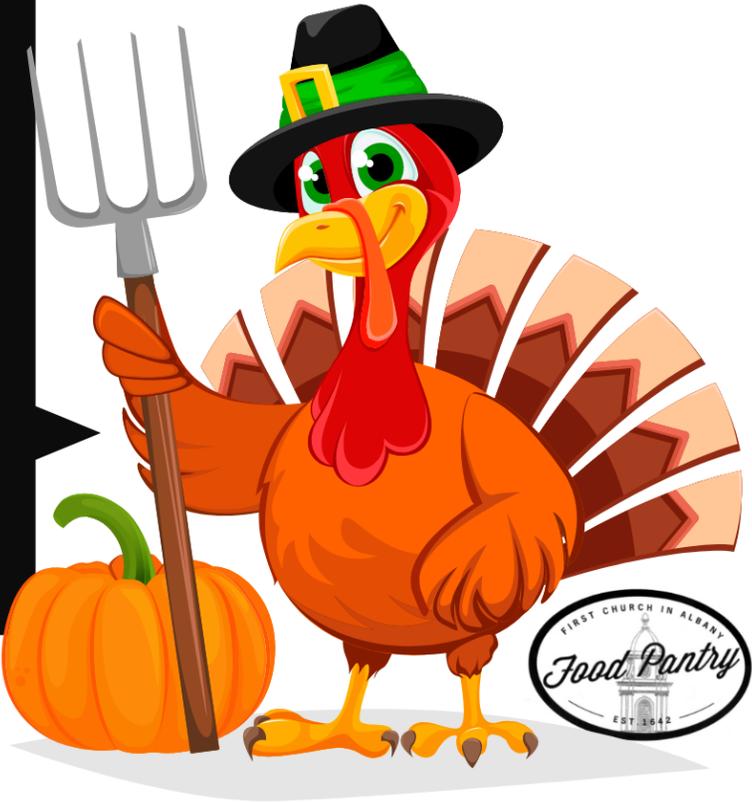
# FIRST CHURCH PRAYER LIST

- Jane, sister of Donna Schultz
- Elaine and Jim Jenks, Rose Hunsberger's parents
- Iteke Prins and Colleen Lais, for the passing of friend Raebeth
- Imani Brewer
- Jeff Curry
- Barb Andrews
- Haleigh Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Neil Keen
- Ian and Edi Leet
- Kenneth Carr (Fran's brother) and Angela Venable, for the loss of their daughter
- Harriet Stockhoff
- Kathy Stallmer (Monthie family)
- Cheryl Gowie
- Steve Hoffman
- Ada Harris
- Ginger
- Charles Welge
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Our government officials, first responders and health care workers as we continue to manage the Covid-19 pandemic
- Countries like Haiti, recovering from natural disasters, and Afghanistan, dealing with political upheaval. For these and others, we pray for the humanitarian crises that accompany uncertainty and strife.
- Staff and Leaders of The First Church in Albany

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 [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org)

TOM THE TURKEY HERE!  
 FIRST CHURCH, WE NEED  
 YOUR HELP TO FILL  
 OUR THANKSGIVING  
 BASKETS!  
 TAKE A TAG OR TWO  
 AND BRING THE ITEMS  
 TO CHURCH BEFORE  
 NOVEMBER 12  
 THANKS A BUNCH!



The tags that Tom speaks of are available on the display above the stairs to Zimmerman Hall, as you come in for worship in the Sanctuary.

**We've got a new**  
**StoryWalk®**

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.



at

The First Church in Albany



FOUNDED IN 1642  
 "OLDEST PULPIT IN AMERICA"



The pages of Ashley Spires' The Most Magnificent Thing will be hanging on the fence around the church building. Bring family and friends and enjoy!

