



Sunday, April 14, 2024

**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.

Prelude Reflection

Everything in humans should halt in awe...Let all the world quake and let Heaven exult when Christ the Son of the living God is there on the altar. - Francis of Assisi

Prelude "Wondrous Love" arr. C. Callahan

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in this day.

Call to Worship Based on Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him. When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!" You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

***Opening Hymn**

"To God Be the Glory"

(see insert)

Prayer of Confession

Lord forgive us for the times when you call us to be still and know that you are God and we keep moving. Forgive us for the times when we try to fix other people more than we work on ourselves. Lord may we become the people you have called. May we each press towards the mark of your high calling.

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon 1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

***Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us spend a few moments greeting one another.

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

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Not Yet

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *"Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus "* (see insert)

Profession of Faith Belonging to God: a First Catechism PC(USA)

Question 1: Who are you?

Answer: I am a child of God.

Question 2. What does it mean to be a child of God?

Answer: That I belong to God, who loves me.

Question 3. What makes you a child of God?

Answer: Grace -- God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.

Question 4. Don't you have to be good for God to love you?

Answer: No. God loves me despite all I do wrong.

Question 5. How do you thank God for this gift of love?

Answer: I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.

Question 6. How do you love God?

Answer: By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

Tithes & Offerings "It is in giving we often receive."

If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.

Offertory

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian "

arr. Roy Belfield

***Doxology** #592 in pew hymnal

**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:

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
forgive our

our debts, as we
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** *"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian "* *(see insert)*

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude *"Praise Be to God in the Highest "* F.W. Zachau

Note: All congregants and guests, please make your way down to Zimmerman Hall for a part two of our discussion of hymns. Hymnology 101.



Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak

Organist: Iteke Prins

Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For Renee Darcy, friend and neighbor of Shirley Bone, going through major surgery. *(with permission)*
- Brett, friend of Revd Trey.
- Rob Van Dyke, friend of Doug and Jill Persons with medical concerns.
- Jill Persons and Jill's mother in England who is transitioning to nursing care.
- Ned Monthie, continuing his recovering from surgery
- 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
- Requests for the Tirpak Family
 - Trey's uncle, with cancer, family friend, with cancer, and a family friend who is caring for a terminally ill child
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health concerns
- Charnelle Jones
- 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 plan Holy Week Events.
- 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

= HAPPY = Retirement

Kim Reohr has retired from her position as Account Manager, and as a token of appreciation for 12+ years of dedication and diligent management of the church's financial operation, the church would like to take up a collection up for Kim, all contributions will be taken up to March 24th

-The Joint Boards

Welcome to our new part-time accountant, David Hallenbeck.

A Service of Installation

Rev. Trey Tirpak, as Associate Minister

Sunday,
April 28, 2024
at 3pm
at
the First
Church
in Albany



The Classis of Albany and the First Church in Albany will gather to formally install Rev. Trey Tirpak to be First Church's Associate Minister. Food and fellowship to follow. All are welcome!

firstchurchinalbany.org

The First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207 518-463-4449

Focus Churches of Albany

BROOKS BBQ

Annual Fundraiser

**TUESDAY
APRIL 16, 2024
3 - 6 PM**

**DELMAR REFORMED
CHURCH
386 DELAWARE AVE
DELMAR, NY**



**INCLUDES 1/2 CHICKEN,
BAKED POTATO,
COLESLAW, ROLL &
DESSERT**

TAKE OUT ONLY

**Pre-Pay: \$16
On-Site: \$18**

SCAN HERE TO PRE-PAY



OR CALL 518-443-0460 EXT 2

**Proceeds will benefit:
BREAKFAST PROGRAM
FOOD PANTRY**



FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

www.focuschurches.net

bbq@focuschurches.net





Working Together: Justice can prevail. Peace is possible.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT PEACEBUILDING IN THE HOLY LAND

**Monday April 15, 6:30 p.m. at the First Church in Albany,
110 N. Pearl Street, Albany and**

**Tuesday April 16, 7:00 p.m. at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady,
8 North Church Street**

Speakers include the Rev. Dr. Mae Cannon, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, and Tamar Haddad, the Coordinator at Churches for Middle East Peace's women empowerment program: And Still We Rise (ASWR). Dr. Cannon is the author of several publications about the conflict including *A Land Full of God: Christian Perspectives toward the Holy Land* (Cascade, 2017). Tamar Haddad is based in Jerusalem and previously served as the Project Manager for Gender Justice at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (cmep.org) is a coalition of national church denominations and organizations working to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote just, lasting and comprehensive resolutions to conflicts in the Middle East.





April 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 	1 	2 Primary Polling Place	3 AA	4 Soup & PB&J 11:30am Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	5	6
7 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Communion Sunday Crop Walk Rally 3pm	8 	9 	10 AA	11 Soup & PB&J 11:30am Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	12	13
14 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Communion Sunday	15 TAX 15 Churches for Middle East Peace 6:30pm	16 	17 AA Weathervanes	18 Soup & PB&J 11:30am	19	20 Clee Park Clean Up Day 9am
21 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Earth Day Sundays	22 	23 FOCUS Board Mtg.	24 AA Dutch Settlers Meeting 6pm	25 Soup & PB&J 11:30am	26 Castle Island Feria de Español 10am	27
28 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Choir Rehearsal 2pm Installation of Rev. Trey Tirpak 3pm	29 	30 	 Spring			

Key:



Indoor
Worship
10am



Communion
Sunday



Coffee
Hour



Pantry
9am



Centering
Prayer 12pm



Book
Study



Soup &
PB&J
11:30am



Choir
Rehearsal



Weathervanes



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

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www.firstchurchinalbany.org

To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note F4, and then a quarter note E4. The bass line consists of a steady quarter-note accompaniment.

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff has a quarter note D4, followed by a half note C4, and then a quarter note B3. The bass line continues with quarter notes.

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff has a quarter note A3, followed by a half note G3, and then a quarter note F3. The bass line continues with quarter notes.

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

The fourth system concludes the melody and bass line. The treble staff has a quarter note E3, followed by a half note D3, and then a quarter note C3. The bass line continues with quarter notes.

Refrain



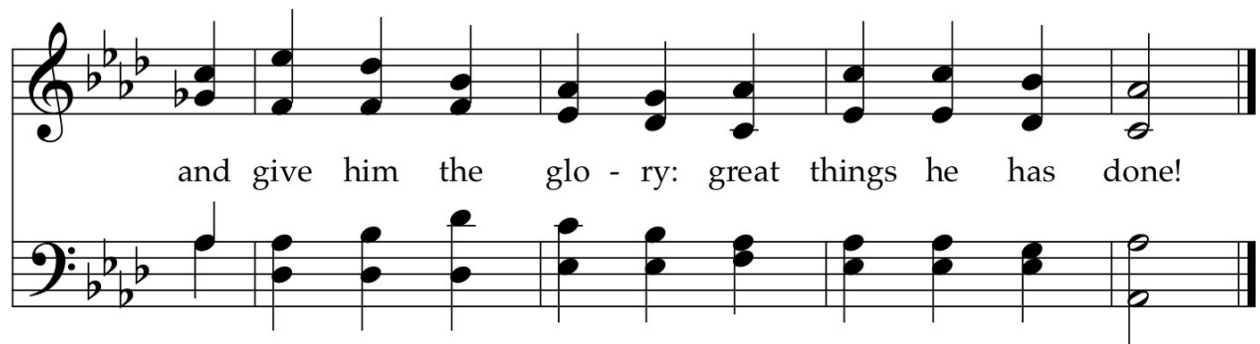
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!



O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,



and give him the glory: great things he has done!

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Fm C D^b B^bm6 Fm A^b

1 Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un -
 2 Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus— spread his
 3 Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of

C7/E Fm B^bm C7 Fm C D^b

mea - sured, bound - less, free! Roll - ing as a
 praise from shore to shore! How he loves us,
 ev - ery love the best! 'Tis an o - cean

B^bm6 Fm A^b C7 Fm B^bm C7 Fm

might - y o - cean in its full - ness o - ver me!
 ev - er loves us, chang-es nev - er, nev - er - more!
 vast of bless - ing, 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest!

A^b E^bsus E^b Fm Csus C Fm B^bm7

Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, is the cur - rent
 How he watch - es o'er his loved ones, died to call them
 Oh, the deep, deep love of Je - sus— 'tis a heaven of

Fm C D^b B^bm6 Fm
 of thy love— lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward,
 all his own; how for them he's in - ter - ced - ing,
 heavens to me; and it lifts me up to glo - ry,
 A^b D^b B^bm C7 Fm
 to thy glo - rious rest a - bove!
 watch - ing o'er them from the throne!
 for it lifts me up to thee!

Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony. For an alternate key see 922

Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, ca. 1890, alt., P.D.

Music (EBENEZER 8.7.8.7 D): Thomas J. Williams (1869-1944), 1890, P.D.

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.