

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Happy Birthday. Church!!!

**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 "Improvisation on VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS"
arr. A. Fedak

Tolling of Bell

Procession: The four shall proceed down the aisle and use the center aisle table to place the elements.

Pentecost Liturgy. * by our very own John Paalburg
reprinted in Faithward.

First Reader (pouring water):

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. (*Genesis 1: 1-2*)

All: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters. (*Psalms 29: 3*)



Second Reader: (with wind chimes)

The wind blows where it chooses,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (*John 3: 8*)

**All: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in God's temple all cry, "Glory!" (*Psalm 29:9*)**

Third Reader: (carrying/pouring soil)

When you send forth your Spirit all living things are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (*from Psalm 104:30*)

**All: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it. (*Psalm 24:1*)**

Fourth Reader: (with candle)

I baptize you with water;
but one more powerful than I is coming
who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with FIRE. (*from Luke 3:16*)

**All: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. (*Psalm 29: 7-8*)**

Fourth reader: May the Lord give strength to the people!

All: May the Lord bless the people with peace! (*Psalm 29:11*)

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

Call to Worship *Today's liturgy is found in Faithforward.org

Sentences, adapted from Psalm 104 and Acts 2

Leader: Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow!

**All: The day of Pentecost has come and we have gathered together in
this place.**

Leader: We are nothing without you, O Lord.

Send forth your presence and grant us your mercies and love.

All: Creator God, reign down your Spirit that we, too, may prophesy!

Leader: Praise the Lord who sends forth his Spirit!

Praise the Lord who renews the face of the earth.

All: Jesus Christ, reign down your Spirit that we, too, may see visions!

Leader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever!

May the Lord rejoice in his works.

**All: Everlasting Father, reign down your Spirit that we, too, may dream
dreams! Praise the Lord! Praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
praise the Lord!**

***Opening Hymn**

“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”

(see insert)

Call to Confession:

“Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
Come, then, let us confess our sins to the one who is faithful to forgive.
Come, then, let us adore the one who is mighty to save!

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful and gracious God,
Our hearts cry out for you to make us whole again.
Even as we celebrate that you have come to dwell within us,
We have sinned against you and abandoned your commandments.
We have been jealous, possessive, ambivalent, and impulsive.
We have not heeded your Word and we have not cherished your
covenant.**

**Help us to glorify you in all times and in all places.
As our souls thirst for your living waters,
Quench our needs and satisfy our love.
That we may come back to you and be sent forth
To fill the world with your mercy and grace.
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ,
And by the power of the Holy Spirit who is at work within us,
Amen.**

Time of silence

Assurance of Pardon *from John 20:19-23*

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’
After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I
send you.’

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;
If you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

***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.

Children’s Message & Blessing

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!

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Text

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Pentecost!

A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

***Hymn of Response** *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"* (see insert)

Profession of Faith

Contemporary version

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church*,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Tithes & Offerings: *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:

“TRENTHM”

arr, A.V. Fedak

***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

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**

“Go to the World!

(see insert)

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude “SINE NOMINE” R.A. Hobby

Notes: *Drum roll, please!!!*

Beginning the fourth Sunday in October 2024, First Church will offer classes for communion/confirmation. Please register your child between now and September. Please register as soon as possible. This allows time for ordering material your youngster will need.

Teaching will take place during the Sunday morning hour. Each child will have an art project to complete. For the parents who feel their child is ready for baptism, the presentation of the art projects and participation in the witness of baptism will take place on Easter Sunday 2025. For those children not quite ready for baptism their projects will also be presented on Easter Sunday 2025.

Lastly, please select a mentor/sponsor/spiritual parent who can commit to walking through this journey with your child. Pastor Mashona will spend time with each mentor to provide orientation and guidance. On the third Sunday of October, Pastor Mashona will meet with all prospective parents and mentors for an orientation over coffee after worship.

In Christian Partnership,
Pastor Mashona

Also, there is a meeting today in the Chapel for Joint Boards and Classis.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston
Liturgist: Rev. Trey Tirpak
Organist: Iteke Prins
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

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

Nominees for First Church Consistory

Elder Nominees

- Kathleen Claydon
- Pete Pagerey
- Joy Smith
- Karen Van Epps

Deacon Nominee

- Michelle Williams

Trustee Nominee

- James Folts

The congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, May 26.

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For all who are missing their mothers, grandmothers or others who provide maternal nurturing as we move forward from Mother's Day.
- Edie Leet, for healing and steady recovery after surgery.
- Kathy Stallmer, friend of Ned and Kathie Monthie, for comfort on her health journey
- Brett, friend of Rev. Trey.
- 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
- Ginny Giguere
- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Carol LaBatte
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, with continued health concerns
- Donna 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 move forward into our everchanging world.
- 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



“Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (Lev. 23:15-21; Deut. 16:16).” During that festival, the Jewish people would remember God giving the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai, which are the words of life of the Jewish faith. Can you see any parallels with the Christian day of Pentecost?

“Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send “another counselor” (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit’s power is available for its mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel. The traditional color for Pentecost is red, after the flames described in Acts 2:3.” Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Church.

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Select excerpts from *The Worship Sourcebook of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship of the Christian Reformed Church in North America*.

FCIA PRESENTS

WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG

DRIVE-IN
Worship

SUNDAY WORSHIP GOES OUTSIDE

**Through
Labor
Day**

SUNDAY,
JUNE 2
AT 10AM

**FOLLOWED BY
THE LEMONADE
LULL IN CLEE
PARK**

110 NORTH PEARL ST.
ALBANY NY
518-463-4449



**The First
Church
in
Albany
Presents**

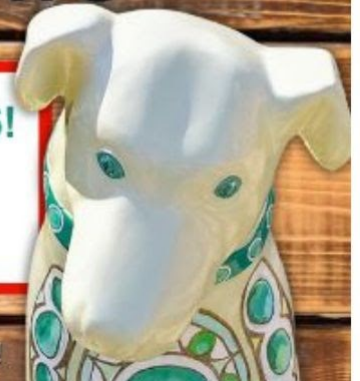
CLEEO'S FREE HOTDOG THURSDAYS

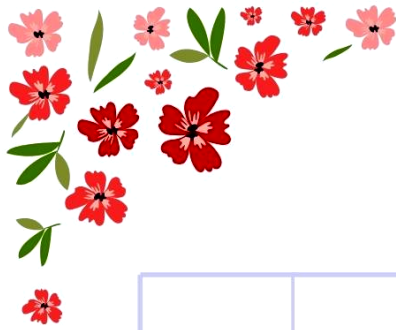
We start on Thursday, June 6!

11:30am in Clee Park

Hotdogs, chips, fruit, and beverages








Looking for volunteers to help serve!














May 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1  AA	2  Potluck & First Thursday Night of Worship	3	4
5 Heritage Sunday  Indoor Worship 10am  Communion Sunday  Coffee Hour	6  Reg. Synod of Albany Annual Mtg.	7  Classis Board of Trustees Mtg.	8  AA	9	10	11 Clee Park Gardening Day 9am 
12 Mothers Day  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour	13  Reg. Synod of Albany Annual Mtg.	14  Classis Board of Trustees Mtg.	15  AA  Weather vanes	16	17	18
19  Indoor Worship 10am  Coffee Hour  Pentecost Classis Mtg. w/ Joint Boards	20  Reg. Synod of Albany Annual Mtg.	21  Classis Board of Trustees Mtg.	22  AA	23	24	25
26  Indoor Coffee Worship Hour 10am Congregational Mtg.	27  Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY	28  Classis Mtg New Baltimore FOCUS Board Mtg.	29  AA	30	31	 Drive-In Worship Starts in June!

- Key:**
-  Indoor Worship 10am
 -  Communion Sunday
 -  Coffee Hour
 -  Pantry 9am
 -  Centering Prayer 12pm
 -  Book Study
 -  Soup & PB&J 11:30am
 -  Choir Rehearsal
 -  Weather vanes



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



Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; come with
2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the
3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us

Pen - te - cos - tal power; give the church a
grace of yes - ter - years; for to - mor - row's
words of fire and flame. Help our fee - ble

Cor - ner - stone, still the church is called to
all the way; still in pres - ence move be -
mys - ter - y! We would sing our loud ho -

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It features a soprano line with triplets and a bass line with block chords. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a corresponding musical staff. The first system includes three numbered lines of lyrics. The second system has three lines of lyrics. The third system has three lines of lyrics. The score concludes with a final triplet in the soprano line.

mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.
 fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.
 san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Cor - ner - stone, still the church is called to
 all the way; still in pres - ence move be -
 mys - ter - y! We would sing our loud ho -

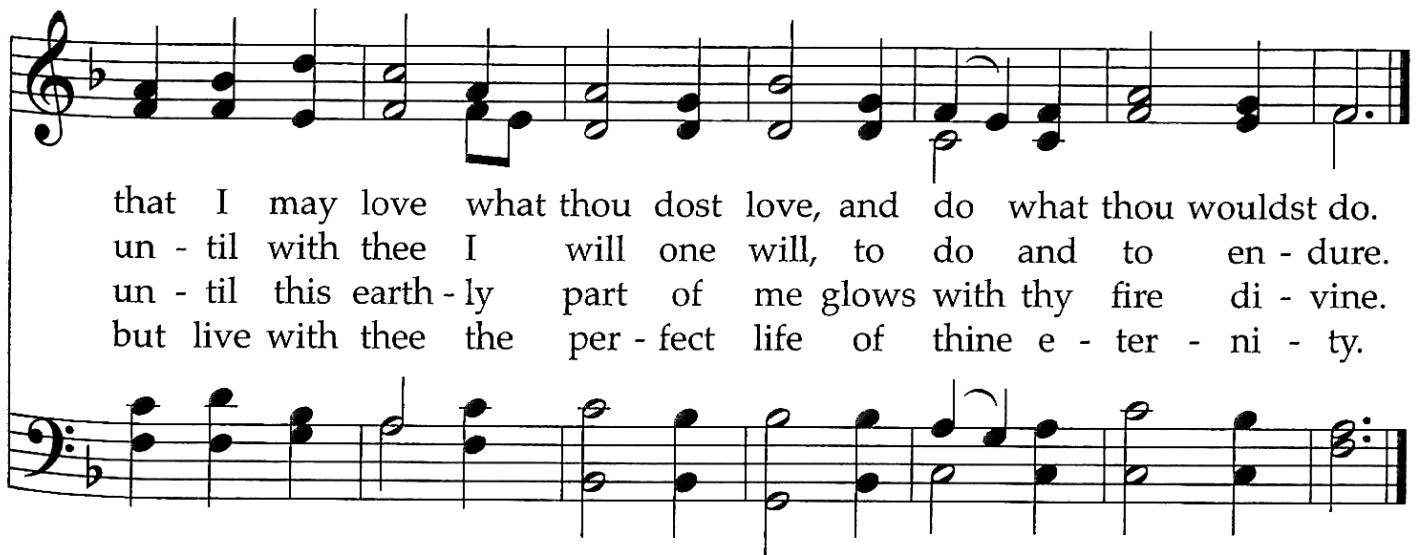
mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.
 fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.
 san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

This 20th-century text was written by a Presbyterian layperson and poet, who in her later years became interested in writing hymns for the seasons of the church year and prepared a collection of them for her congregation. It pairs effectively with this sturdy Welsh tune.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



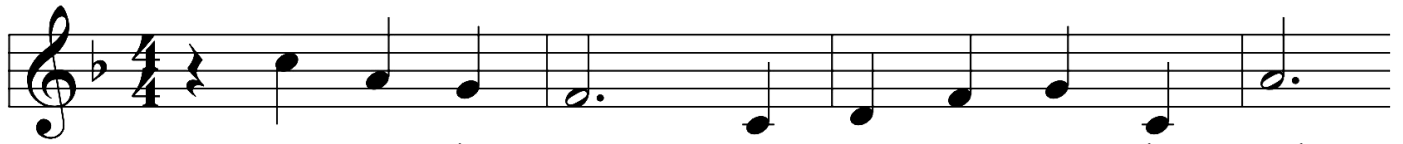
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

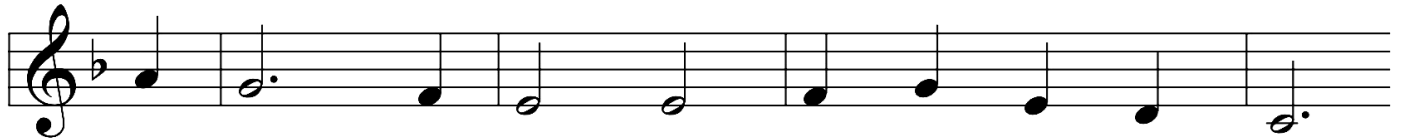
TEXT: Edwin Hatch, 1878
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

Go to the World!



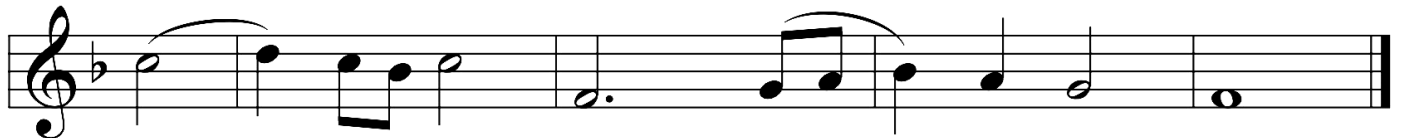
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.