



Sunday, May 5, 2024

Heritage Sunday

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 Rev. John Wesley, English Cleric and Theologian

"I look on all the world as my parish... As to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think."

Prelude "Carillon on Psalm 42" A. Fedak

Ministers & Elders enter the sanctuary and sit in their respective places.

Tolling of Bell

Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing

"May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." II Peter 1:2

Call to Worship *Adapted from Ministry Matters*

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

Leader: In our richness, we have believed that we are the ones who have all the answers to life's problems.

People: But when those who have little, offer all they have; we are put to shame.

Leader: In our power, we believe that might is right.

People: But when those who are powerless offer love and mercy; we are put to shame.

Leader: Joy fills our lives, when we center our lives on Jesus Christ.

People: Hope fills our hearts, when we focus on our Savior.

Leader: Comfort fills our spirits, when we believe in the Lord.

People: Peace fills our souls, when we seek to do God's Work.

Leader: Come, let us celebrate and praise our Lord! Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *“At the Heart of Human History”* (see insert)
A hymn composed for the 375th Anniversary Celebration of the First Church in Albany

Prayer of Confession *Ministry Matters*

God of mercy and patience, be with us this day as we celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing. Help us to remember that the gifts we give go to help many people in need. Remind us again that our lives are meant to be gifts to others for healing, hope, comfort, peace, and love. Forgive us when we get so caught up in the details of living and when we become so overwhelmed by our current economic woes that we neglect to help others. Enlighten us again with your spirit and your words of healing love. Caring and sharing are the hallmarks of discipleship with Jesus Christ. Heal and forgive us. Give us hearts for joyful caring and sharing; for it is in Jesus' name, we offer this prayer. Amen.

Time of silence

Words of Assurance

Let God's love and mercy wash over you as the spring rains wash over the earth, bringing promise of new life and hope. Be at peace. AMEN.

***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 Ian Leet

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

Ephesians 2:1-10

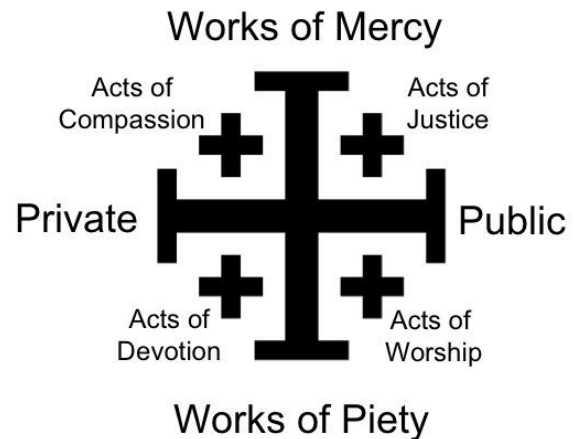
You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Life's Seesaw
Bruce France



A Prayer of Blessing on the Word

*Hymn of Response “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (see insert)

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 “Veni Creator Spiritus”
melody about 1000 AD arranged by P. Vidal

*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.**

***Profession of Faith**

Canons of Dort, God's Preservation of His People (Article I)

...God's counsel cannot be changed nor His promise fail; neither can the call according to his purpose be revoked, nor the merit, intercession, and preservation of Christ be rendered ineffectual, nor the sealing of the Holy Spirit be frustrated...

Passing the Peace Before Communion

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body." Colossians 3:15

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Communion Hymn** *"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"* (see insert)

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper *Please see insert*

Intercessory Prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer: *based on a pastoral prayer from Ministry Matters*

The days are getting longer, Lord. The sun's rays are higher in the sky bringing more light to our world. Warmth begins to flood over the colder portions of our nation. Let the warmth of your mercy and love pour over us. As we have gathered this day to celebrate the good news that you have given to the world, remind us that it is our purpose to offer that good news to others, not only in words but in deeds of love and mercy, peace and justice. As we have offered names of people and situations which have been heavy on our hearts for your healing mercies, remind us also that we stand in need of that same healing love. As we have prayed for ministries of peace and justice and for those engaged in those wondrous missions, remind us that we are also on a journey of peace and justice whenever we offer comfort and aid to others. Be with us always. Give us hearts of great joy and courage to serve you.
AMEN.

***Sending Hymn** *"We All Are One in Mission"* (see insert)

Sr. & Asst. Elders cover elements.

Sr. & Asst. Elders and Ministers recess to the narthex.

***Charge & Blessing**

Postlude

Chant Héroïque

G. Blake

Attention: *Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 26th*

Preacher: Bruce France, Executive Director of
Capital Area Council of Churches
Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston, Rev. Trey Tirpak
Organist: Iteke Prins
Audio/Visual: Joshua Bliss and Stephen Reohr

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

Note: Today is the **CROP Walk!** This year, the walk will start at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Hackett Blvd, Albany 12208. Registration begins at 12:30PM in the church hall and the walk officially steps off at 1:30 pm. There is a choice of 1 mile or 2 mile loops.

FIRST CHURCH PANTRY PACERS



If you haven't given to our Pantry Pacers, there's still time to do so!
Use the QR code to give toward our pacers!

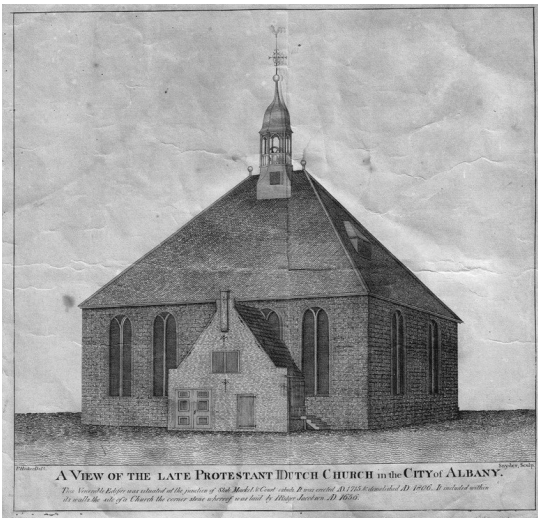


Today's Guest Preacher

Bruce France

Bruce France is the Executive Director of the Capital Area Council of Churches, a position he was called to after 38 years in business. The many skills he learned in business have been useful in automating many office functions, recruiting volunteers to the organization, and continuing the wonderful work of CACC.

Bruce is a life-long United Methodist and as a congregant of Emmaus UMC. He was involved in starting the RISSE program based in the Emmaus buildings. As a Certified Lay Speaker, Bruce periodically leads worship at United Methodist Churches in the Albany area. Bruce and his wife Wendie now worship at the Community United Methodist Church of Chestertown. They have three children and six grandchildren.



PRAYERS, CONCERNS & JOYS

- For Bill Fink and the family and friends of Marilyn Fink, as they mourn her passing
- For Rev. Trey Tirpak, as he embarks on his next chapter at First Church
- For Kathy Stallmer, friend of Ned and Kathie Monthie, for comfort on her health journey
- 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.
- 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
- 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
- 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

Sheridan Ave. Lot next to FCIA

FCIA PRESENTS

Through
Labor
Day

DRIVE-IN
Worship

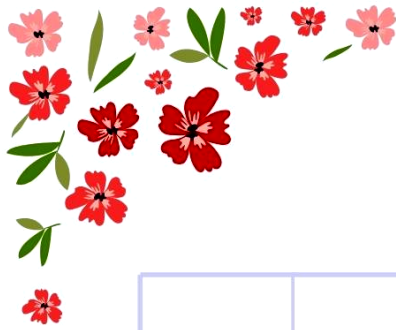
**FOLLOWED BY
THE LEMONADE
LULL IN CLEE
PARK**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP
GOES OUTSIDE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2
AT 10AM**

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

WWW.FIRSTCHURCHINALBANY.ORG



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 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Mothers' Day	13 	14 	15 AA Weathervanes	16	17	18
19 Indoor Worship 10am Coffee Hour Pentecost Classis Mtg. w/ Joint Boards	20 	21 	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
 - Weathervanes



First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St., Albany NY 12207

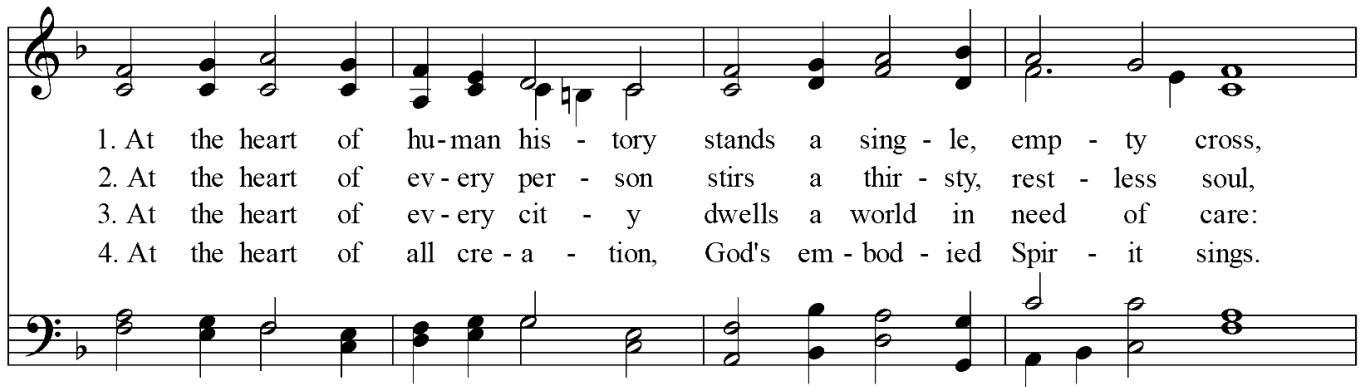
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At the Heart of Human History

Commissioned by The First Church in Albany (NY) for its 375th Anniversary

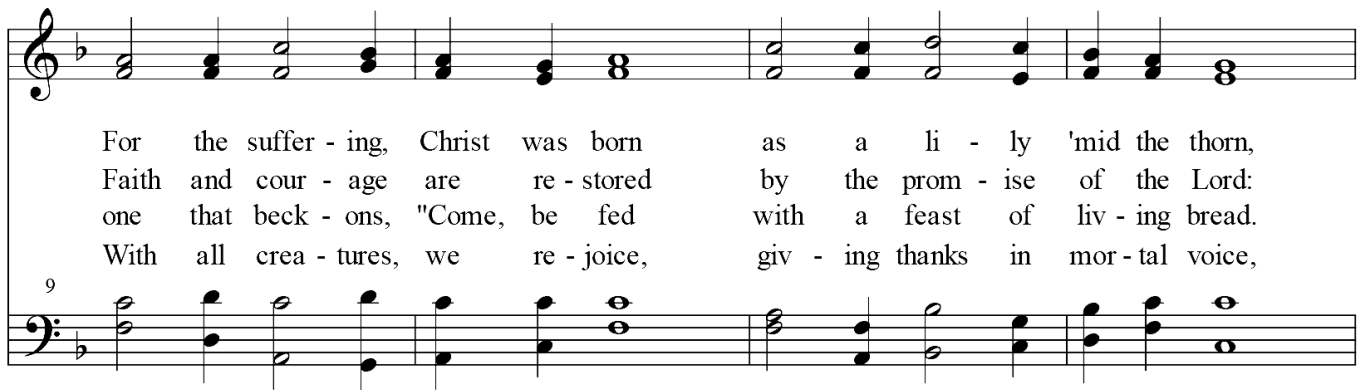


1. At the heart of hu-man his - tory stands a sing - le, emp - ty cross,
2. At the heart of ev - ery per - son stirs a thir - sty, rest - less soul,
3. At the heart of ev - ery cit - y dwells a world in need of care:
4. At the heart of all cre - a - tion, God's em - bod - ied Spir - it sings.



em - blem of the world's re - demp - tion, draw - ing life from grief and loss.
keen to drink from liv - ing wa - ter, find new hope and be made whole.
those who long for food and shel - ter; those who seek a house of prayer—
Ways break o - pen in the des - ert; dri - est val - leys gush with springs.

5



For the suffer - ing, Christ was born as a li - ly 'mid the thorn,
Faith and cour - age are re - stored by the prom - ise of the Lord:
one that beck - ons, "Come, be fed with a feast of liv - ing bread.
With all crea - tures, we re - joice, giv - ing thanks in mor - tal voice,

9



joy re - splen - dent and sur - pris - ing in his dy - ing and a - ris - ing.
"In my arms, I will en - fold you; com - fort, streng - then, and up - hold you."
Here the hurt - ing and the bro - ken find God's wel - come ful - ly spo - ken."
till we join in heav - en's chor - us with the saints gone on be - fore us.

13

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 베풀 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 러 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2 Here share with us, in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood,

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
that liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine be our im - mor - tal food.

Not all communion texts refer to the Last Supper: this brief hymn is based on the meal at Emmaus shared by the Risen Christ and his two companions on the road (Luke 24:13–35). It is set to a 16th-century psalm tune that carries the text with appropriate simplicity.

TEXT: James Montgomery, 1825
MUSIC: Day's *Psalter*, 1562

ST. FLAVIAN
CM

We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.