



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost • July 14, 2024 • 9:30am Worship



Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC,
we are glad you are worshipping here this morning!

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

One: God calls upon all of us to do the right thing in life.

All: To help the helpless. To feed the hungry. To speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves.

One: The coming reign of God is to be made up of people who live at the margins of life.

All: The poor. The powerless. Those rejected even by their families. Those who live with injuries and disabilities.

One: Sometimes God calls us to speak to those who hold power since they are the ones who can use that power to do good in the world.

All: Sometimes those in power do not want to hear they are obligated to help others. They don't want to hear about what God wants.

One: God sends us anyway.

All: May we be used to spread the good news of God's love and care, and to relieve suffering.

One: With joy, let us worship the living God.

***Hymn No. 4**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

FROSSER GOTT

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

*Kyrie Eleison No. 577

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*The Welcome and Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.

*Gloria Patri No. 583

Glory to God

GLORIA (Taizé)

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The Word

Old Testament Lesson

Amos 7:7-15 (O.T., pp. 855-56)

Diane Cornell

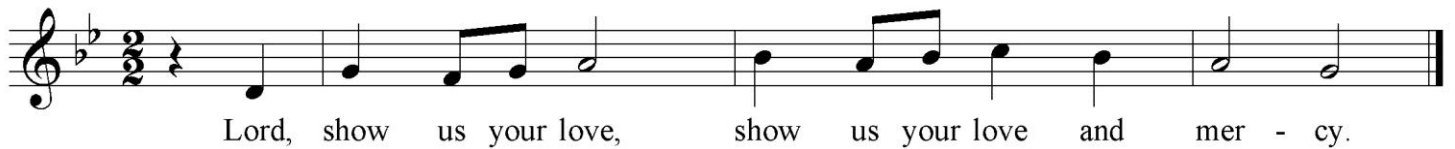
One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85

Joshua Gurwitz, *tenor*

(Cantor sings the refrain once then followed by the congregation)



Let me hear what the Lord has to say; they are words of peace to all, **(R)**
words of peace to all the people, to the saints who hope in the Lord. **(R)**
Help is near to all who fear the Lord; God's peace will come to our land. **(R)**
Love and faithfulness shall meet; justice and peace will embrace. **(R)**
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth. Justice will look down from heaven. **(R)**
there is full salvation; you will redeem Israel from all its sins. **(R)**

Gospel Lesson

Mark 6:14-29 (N.T., pp. 40-41)

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Speaking to a King

Glenn D. Leupold

Our Response

*Hymn No. 744

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

FESTAL SONG

Prayers of the People

Lee Helsby

*There is a "Prayers of the People" book on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage the congregation to write their concerns and thanksgivings in the book before the service so they can be included in the Prayers of the People. Several petitions are offered, each concluding with: O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/> or scan the QR code to the right.



Offertory

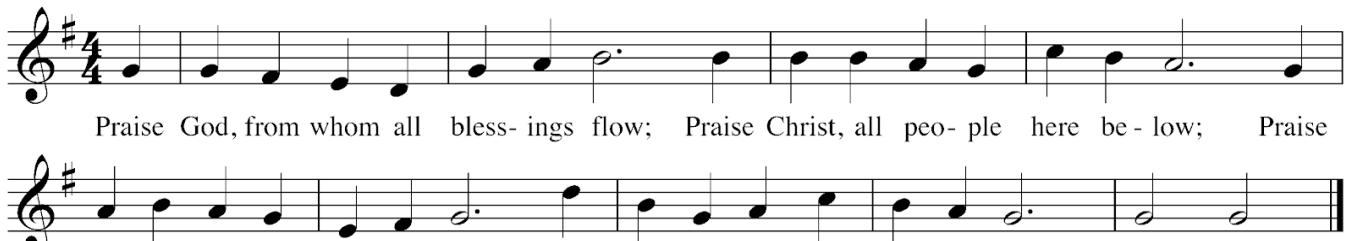
Be thou faithful unto death

Felix Mendelssohn

Joshua Gurwitz, tenor

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee a crown of life!
Be not afraid, my help is nigh

*Doxology (sung in unison)



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo-ple here be-low; Praise
Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more; Praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore. A-men.

*Prayer of Dedication

The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

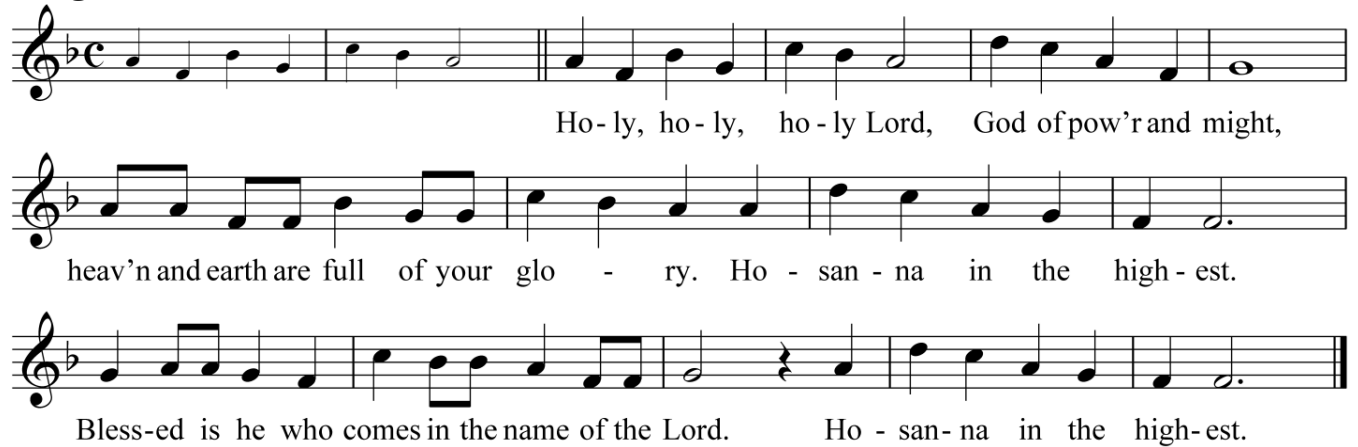
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer continues with sung responses)

One: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All Sing:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

One: ... in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Sing:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a-gain.

One: ...All glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All Sing:



A-men. A-men.

One: And now with the confidence of the children of God, we are bold to pray:

All: 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.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.

Communion Music

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Omer Westendorf

Joshua Gurwitz, *tenor*

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
so when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heavenly food.

Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord?

The mystery of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell:
who all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name in truth and charity.

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome, and for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of blessing. As you have filled our lives with love and hope, may we be a source of your love and hope for others who hunger and thirst for good news. Amen

The Sending

***Hymn No. 800**

Sometimes a Light Surprises

SALLY GARDENS

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response by the People (*in unison*) Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

***Responsive Hymn No. 749 v.1** *Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God. We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Postlude

Allegro maestoso e vivace from *Sonata for Organ No. 2* Felix Mendelssohn

You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.

Please come to Assembly Hall for Fellowship Time.

For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals and Bibles are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

The music is reprinted under CCLI License #2853455 and OneLicense #A-716938.

All are Welcome in this Place!

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



First Presbyterian Church

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

We welcome children to our worship services. Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 9:10am to 11:10am and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Rosekrans and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.

Christian Education on Sunday mornings will resume September 15

9:15-10:15 Education Classes

Godly Play in the Preschool Class (age 3 thru kindergarten)

Godly Play in The Upper Rooms (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education Class in the Rose Room and MS Teams

Announcements

The paraments (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the pastors' stoles (the cloth around their necks) are green, the liturgical color for Ordinary Time (Monday after Pentecost through Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent). Green is a sign of life in nature and as such represents growth, life and hope. Most of the Church's year is Ordinary Time.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. The donation for FPC for July is toilet tissue. All items must be new and unopened. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

Pastors Glenn and Miriam Lawrence Leupold are leaving Saturday, July 20, for their planning week. They will then be on vacation returning to the church office on Friday, August 23.



Members of the Outreach and Mission Committee, Leslie Cheu and Karen Brown, as well as Pastor Glenn, were able to present to Cleveland Morris, right, Community Connections Supervisor at IPH (Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless), several boxes of men's clothing. We filled some empty clothing racks, and some funds were also donated that will be used to purchase even more very needed men's clothing.

Thanks to all who contributed!

Come
and
walk

THE
LABYRINTH
at First Presbyterian
Church

Monthly
every
3rd Thursday

11am-2pm
& 5-7pm

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, 10:45 am Fellowship Time
July 14

Wednesday 12:00 pm Endowment Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday 11:00 am-2:00 pm and 5:00-7:00 pm Labyrinth open for walking

Next Sunday, 9:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on
July 21 Facebook and YouTube

10:45 am Fellowship Time

Serving you on Sunday, July 14

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Jeff Durgee, Ellen Kemp, Rachel Smith, Roseline Takor

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: Diane Cornell

Prayer Reader: Lee Helsby

Communion Servers: Paloma Luisi & Amy Robinson

Offering Counters: Yousaf Mathias & Leslie Cheu

Audio Visual Specialist: Kevin Fuscus

Serving you on Sunday, July 21

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: FPC Youth

Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely

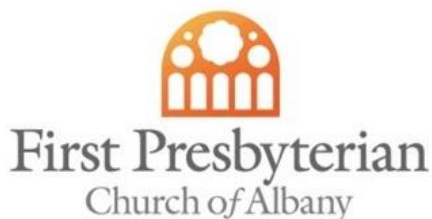
Scripture Reader: FPC Youth

Prayer Reader: Molly Dowell Baum

Communion Servers: Chas Kite, Jon Rice, & Amy Jenal

Offering Counters: Leslie Cheu & Marc Boucher

Audio Visual Specialist:



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firstpresalbany.org

*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell Baum, Youth Director • Fred Boehrer, FOCUS Exec. Dir.*



Check out our socials!

THE TRIUNE GOD

4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it:

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim;
 bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, while in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
 and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, and a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Based on an 18th-century German metrical version of a celebrated 5th-century Latin hymn, *Te Deum laudamus*, this abbreviated 19th-century English paraphrase is sung by both Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is set here to the tune composed and named for the German version.

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed between the two systems.

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
SM
(this tune in a lower key, 815)

800 Sometimes a Light Surprises



1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

This is one of the few hymns rooted in what can happen during worship, and that experience—gaining a spiritual insight while singing—is no less possible now than when this text was written in the 18th century. It is set here to a folk song variously labeled Irish or English.