



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost • August 25, 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

Allegro con moto

Ludwig van Beethoven

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

One: Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

All: With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people from all walks of life.

One: Threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.

All: O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.

One: Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

All: Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice. Teach us to be co-creators, with You, of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us.

All: Praise be to God.

***Hymn No. 336**

We Gather Together

KREMSER

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, through Christ you abide in us, and you invite us to abide in you. But so often we are restless and unsatisfied. Instead of resting in the fullness of life Christ offers to us, we chase after money and fame, recognition and power, status and control. Instead of honoring the image of God in all our neighbors, we push others down in the pursuit of our own desires. Forgive us for forgetting that you call us to a different way of being in the world, to lives grounded in the self-giving love of Christ. Lead us out of self-interest and into communal care for one another and the world you have made. In Christ's name we pray.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

***Kyrie Eleison No. 578**

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORE PORIAJU VEREKO

O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

***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. 585**

Glory To God

MACHU-PICHU



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God,
glo-ry to Christ Je-sus. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to the Spi-rit. To God be
glo-ry for-ev-er! To God be glo-ry for-ev-er! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men!
Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A - men! Al-le-lu-ia, A-men! _____

The Word

Old Testament Lesson Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 (O.T., pp.215-216) Richard Gascoyne

One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-12

Daniel Hoke, *bass*

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



How love - ly is___ your dwell - ing place, O Lord_____ of hosts.____

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord, O God of hosts. My soul is fainting; it yearns with longing for the courts of God. My heart and flesh sing out with joy to God, the living God. **(R)**

The sparrow finds herself a home, and the swallow finds a nest to place her young; they lay them at your altar, Lord of hosts, before you who are my ruler and my God. How happy are those who live within your house, for they will always sing their praise to you. **(R)**

How happy are those whose strength is found in you, whose hearts are set upon the pilgrim way. Though they travel through the valley of great thirst, they will find the springs of early rains; they will go from strength to strength upon their way; they will see the God of gods in Zion. **(R)**

O Lord, O God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear to my petition, God of Jacob. Behold my shield with favor, O God, and look upon the face of your anointed. A single day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Just to stand upon the threshold of your door is better than to live in tents of wicked ones. **(R)** You, O Lord, are both my sun and shield; you give your glory and your grace. The Lord will hold back nothing that is good from those whose hearts are true. O Lord, O God of hosts, how happy are those who put their trust in you. **(R)**

New Testament Lesson

Ephesians 6:10-20 (N.T., p. 195)

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Choice is Ours

Owen Gilbo

Our Response

***Hymn No. 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)

HERE I AM(Schutte)

Prayers of the People

John Myers

*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

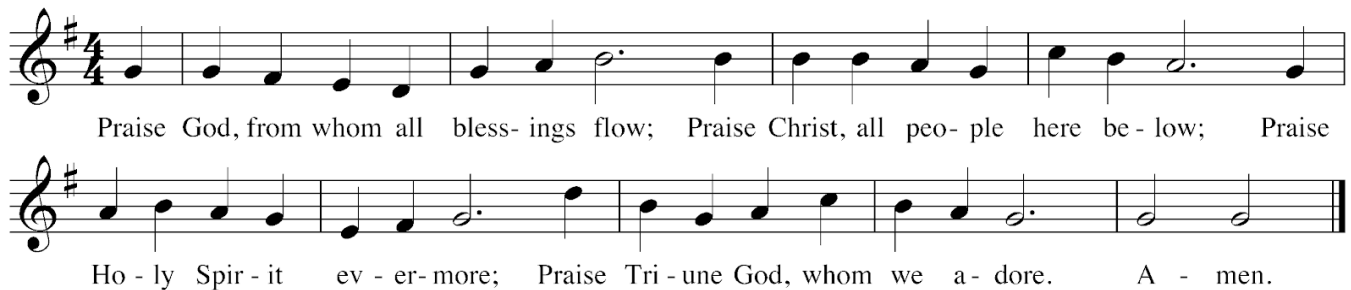
The Glory of God in Nature
Daniel Hoke, bass

Ludwig van Beethoven

The heavens are ringing with praises eternal, Exalting God in joyful strain,
Both earth and sea sound his glory supernal, O Man, give ear to Nature's claim.

The stars, resplendent above He upholdeth, Commands the sun to light the day.
His glory shining, He cometh in splendour, Almighty power, The earth to sway.

*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.

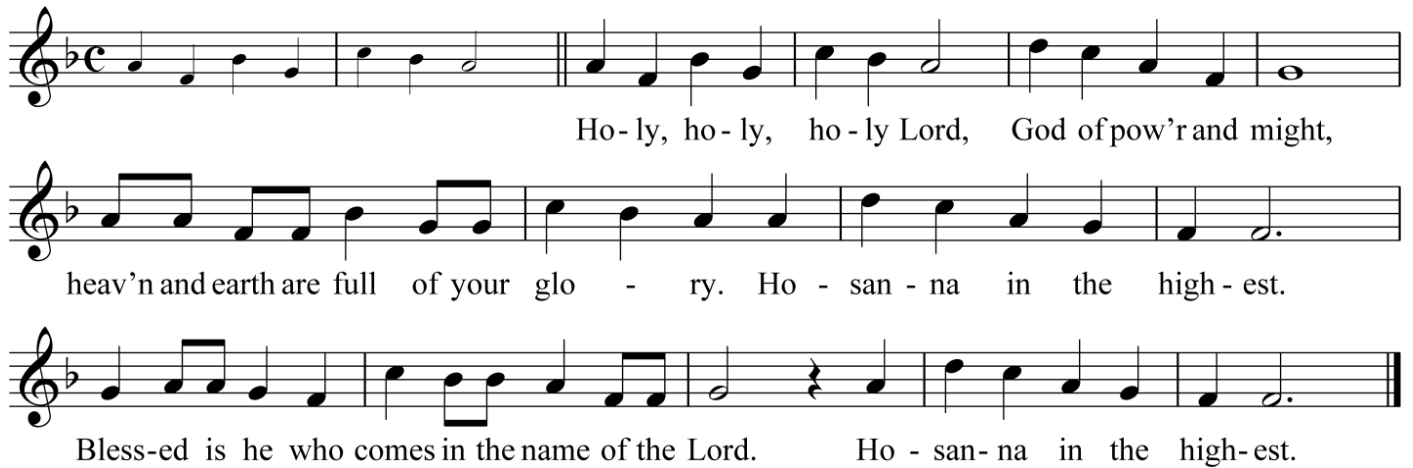
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Rolling in Foaming Billows

Joseph Haydn

Daniel Hoke, *bass*

And God said: Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear; and it was so.

And God called the dry land: earth, and the gath'ring of waters called the seas; and God saw that it was good.

Rolling in foaming billows uplifted roars the boisterous sea.

Mountains and rocks now emerge; into the clouds their tops ascend.

Through verdant plains, outstretching wide the rivers flow in serpent error.

Softly purling, glideth on through silent vales the limpid brook.

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending

***Hymn No. 542**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GOD BE WITH YOU

***Charge and Blessing**

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

***Responsive Hymn**

May You Run and Not Be Weary



May you run and not be wear - y. May your heart be filled with song. —

And may the love of God con-tin - ue to give you hope and keep you strong.

— And may you run and not — be wear - y. May your life be filled with joy!

— And may the road you trav - el al - ways lead — you home. —

Postlude

Prelude in a Classic Style

Gordon Young

*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

Next **Sunday, September 1st**, we will be worshipping with other FOCUS congregations at 10:00am at Westminster Presbyterian Church, located at 85 Chestnut Street in Albany.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. The donation for FPC for September is toothpaste. All items must be new and unopened. The **FOCUS Food Pantry** is also requesting one-pound bags of rice, as they are unable to get from suppliers. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

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 year is Ordinary Time.



Aging With Pride
Monthly Potluck
**Sunday September
1st 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

First Pres Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for LGBTQ+ seniors to come together in a welcoming, supportive environment to share food, stories, and laughter.

The First Presbyterian Church awards educational grants to church members who seek financial assistance in continuing their education. These funds may be used during the school year for any type of studies beyond high school. All you need to do is fill out the **application** and send it to the church. The deadline is September 10, 2024. For additional information please contact Kelsey Mayo at kelsey.mayo@gmail.com.

Faced with a tough decision, Office Administrator Casey, has decided to leave First Pres and take another job that allows her to work alongside her children and other children. Her last day in the office will be Friday, August 30, 2024. In the transition time of finding another Office Administrator, Casey will be assisting First Pres from home.



COME AND JOIN OUR ANNUAL

CHURCH WORKDAY

AUGUST 25, 2024

COME TO WORSHIP IN WORK CLOTHES!

10:30AM - PIZZA AND COOKIES TO BEGIN
THE FUN!

11:00AM - 1:00PM WORK PARTY! WE WILL
DIVIDE INTO TEAMS OF 2-3 PEOPLE AND
TACKLE SMALL PROJECTS AROUND THE
CHURCH

Church members of all ages are welcome to join!





FIRST PRES FAMILIES



ARE INVITED TO A BACK TO SCHOOL BASH



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
4:30 - 6:30 PM, ASSEMBLY HALL**

PIZZA AND DRINKS PROVIDED FOR ALL
(INCLUDING VEG AND GLUTEN-FREE FRIENDS)

BRING A SIDE, SNACK, OR DESSERT TO SHARE
CHECK IN WITH FRIENDS, PLAY SOME GAMES, AND
SHARE SOME TIME TOGETHER.

ALL KIDS, THEIR GROWN-UPS, AND GROWN-UPS WHO
WILL BE GUIDING YOUTH ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.



Please RSVP by September 10th to Miriam at the church office at
info@firstpresalbany.org so that we have enough for everyone!



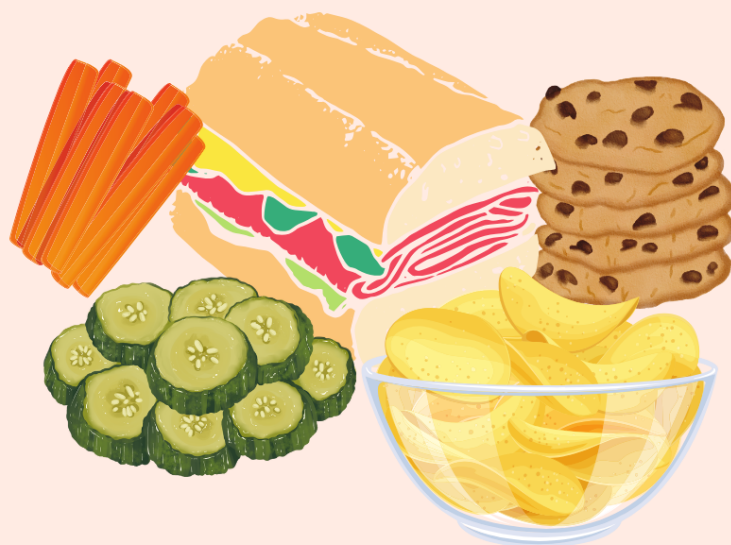
SUNDAY, 9/15

11:45 AM

Fellowship Lunch

**Gather in Assembly Hall after
worship on Sunday, September 15,
for tasty food, good conversation
and great fellowship!**

**All are welcome!
Food and drink
provided.
Gluten Free and
Vegetarian options
provided.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ALBANY, NY**

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, August 25	9:30 am	Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on Facebook
	10:45 am	Fellowship Time
	11:00 am	Church Workday
Next Sunday, September 1	10:00 am	FOCUS Worship Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church – 85 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY
	1:00 pm	Aging with Pride Monthly Potluck

Serving you on Sunday, August 25

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Richard Gascoyne, Joanne Gascoyne, John Abunaw, Kate Pruzek, Sahil Yashib

Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial

Scripture Reader: Richard Gascoyne

Prayer Reader: John Myers

Communion Servers: Sarah Lansaw & Ellen Eisenbraun

Offering Counters: Yousaf Mathias & Marc Boucher

Audio Visual Specialist:

Serving you on Sunday, September 8

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

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: John Minerbrook

Prayer Reader: Marian Eaton

Communion Servers: Roseline Takor & David Takor

Offering Counters: Leslie Cheu & Ron Geuther

Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu

Deacons currently serving on the Board of Deacons

Susan Haney – Moderator
David Hinchin – Hospitality Team
Kathie Keck – Hospitality Team
Ellen Kemp – Flower Team
Sebagala Kimuli – Care Team
Chas Kite – Care Team

Elders currently serving on Session

Mirabelle Beck – Stewardship Committee Chair
Marian Eaton – Clerk of Session
Ellen Eisenbraun – Christian Education Committee Chair
Kevin Fuscus – Property Committee Chair
Annette Johnson – Anti-Racism Committee Chair
Sarah Lansaw – Nominating Committee Chair
Paloma Luisi – Finance Committee Chair
Kelsey Mayo – Membership Committee Chair
Lillie McLaughlin – Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee Chair
Jon Rice – Outreach and Mission Committee Chair
Amy Robinson – Administration Committee Chair
Roseline Takor – Worship Committee Chair



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

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



Check out our socials!

We Gather Together

336

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

All

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.

SENDING

542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:
 vide you:
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 fore you:

After writing the first stanza of his "Christian Good-bye," the author sent it to two composers, one celebrated and one unknown, to see how each would set it. This is the second person's tune, which the author found more effective and used for the hymn's first publication.