



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost • September 22, 2024
10:30 Worship

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude *Andante cantabile from Symphony No. 4* Charles Marie Widor

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Mission

Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit *May Our Mouths Be Filled With Thy Praise* Jack C. Goode
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

May our mouths be filled with thy praise, O Lord, so that we may glorify thy name.
For thou hast opened to us the wonders of thy love.
Remember us, O Lord, remember us in thy great mercy,
that we may meditate on thee.

***Call to Worship**

One: Blessed are those who delight in the law of the Lord,

All: and meditate on God's word day and night.

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water,

All: which yield their fruit in its season.

One: Let us worship God, our source of wisdom and strength.

***Hymn No. 305**

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWELLS 148TH

***Prayer of Confession**

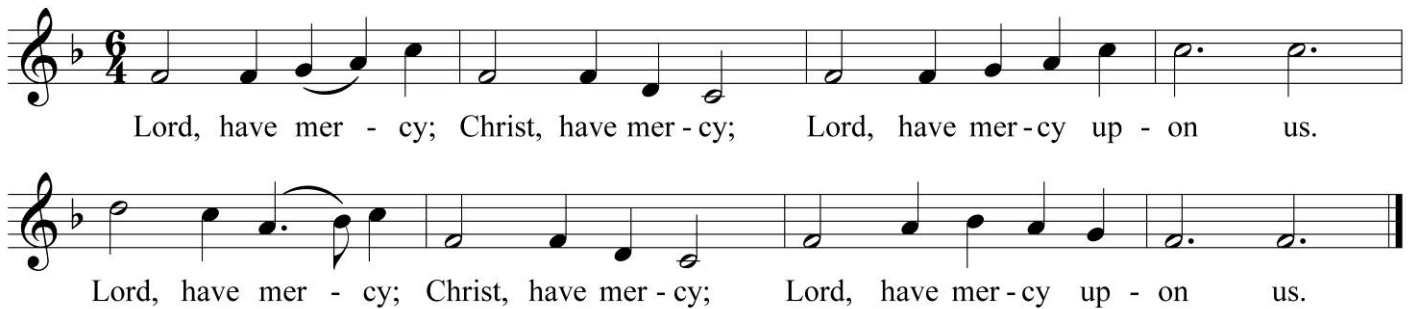
Merciful God, we confess that we have often acted out of selfish ambition and vain conceit. We have allowed envy and self-interest to guide our actions, rather than the wisdom that comes from above. Forgive us for the times we have caused conflicts and quarrels among ourselves and others. Help us to submit ourselves to you, resist the devil, and draw near to your grace. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

***Kyrie Eleison 577**

Lord, Have Mercy

KYRIE ELEISON



Two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***The Welcome and Peace**

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

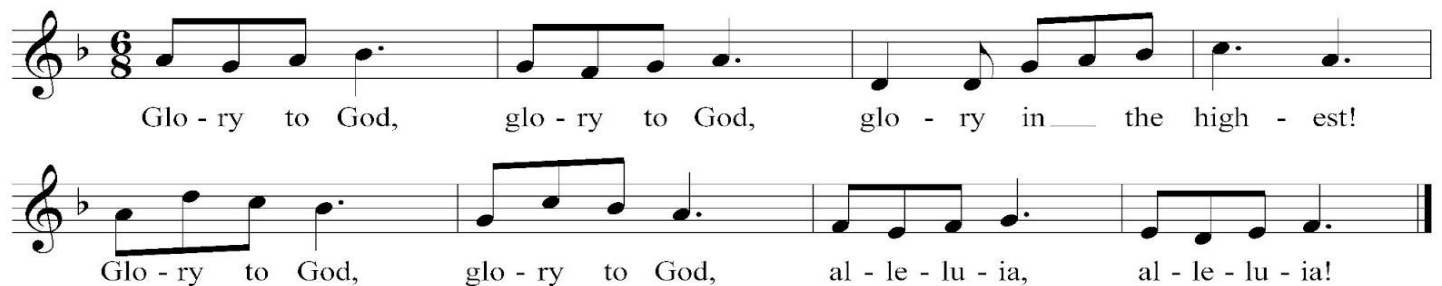
All: And also with you.

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

***Gloria Patri No. 583**

Glory to God

GLORIA (Taizé)



Two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: 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

New Testament Lesson James 3:13–4:3 (N.T., p. 230)

John Minerbrook

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

Daniel Hoke, *bass*

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



Hap-py are they who de-light, _____ who de - light in the law of God.

Happy indeed are they who refuse the way of evil, nor walk the road of sinners, nor join the mockers of God. (R)

Joy shall be in the hearts of those who delight in the law of God, for they recite the law, they speak it day and night (R)

They are like green trees that grow by clear flowing waters, they bear their fruit in due season, their leaves fade not, they prosper. (R)

It is not so for all, not so with evil doers, they blow like chaff in the wind, they fall by the weight of the truth. (R)

God upholds the just, God knows the way of the righteous, but the evil ones shall perish, shall perish by their deeds

Anthem

O Clap Your Hands

Thomas Cousins

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

O Clap your hands, all you people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

For the Lord most high is a great king over all the earth.

Sing praises, alleluia.

For God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

O Clap your hands, all you people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Proverbs 31:10–31 (O.T., pp. 613–614)

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Our Response

*Hymn No. 174

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

MADELEINE

Prayers of the People

Susan Haney

*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

Locus Iste

Anton Bruckner

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Locus iste a Deo factus est,
This place was made by God,

inaestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est.
a priceless mystery, it is beyond reproof.

*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)

One: ...Hear us now as together we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

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

En prière
Daniel Hoke, *bass*

Gabriel Fauré

Si la voix d'un enfant peut monter jusqu'à Vous à genoux, La prière!
If the voice of a child could reach up to you, O my Father,

Écoutez de Jésus, devant Vous à genoux, La prière!
To be heard by Jesus... kneeling before You, A prayer!

Si Vous m'avez choisi pour enseigner vos lois Sur la terre,
If you have chosen me to teach your laws On Earth,

Je saurai Vous servir, auguste Roi des rois, Ô Lumière!
I would know how to serve you, august King of kings, O Light!

Sur mes lèvres, Seigneur, mettez la vérité Salutaire,
On my lips, Lord, place the salutary Truth,

Pour que celui qui doute, avec humilité Vous révère!
So that those who doubt, with humility will revere you!

Ne m'abandonnez pas, donnez-moi la douceur Nécessaire, Pour apaiser les
maux, soulager la douleur, La misère!
*Do not abandon me, but give me the Grace necessary to overcome evils, and to relieve
pain & misery!*

Révélez Vous à moi, Seigneur en qui je crois Et j'espère:
Reveal yourself to me, Lord in whom I believe and hope!

Pour Vous je veux souffrir et mourir sur la croix, Au calvaire!
For You I want to suffer and die on the Cross, on Calvary!

Prayer after Communion

All: Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

The Sending

***Hymn No. 516**

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

***Charge and Blessing**

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

***Responsive Hymn 765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA



May the God of hope go with us ev-ery day,___ fil-ling all our lives with love and joy and peace.---



May the God of jus-tice speed us on our way,___ bring-ing light and hope to ev-ery land and race.---



Pray - ing,___ let us work for peace;___ sing - ing,___ share our joy with all;---



work - ing___ for a world that's new,___ faith - ful___ when we hear Christ's call.---

Postlude

Final from Symphony No. 4

Charles Marie Widor

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 8:45am to 12:15pm 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

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

Godly Play in the Preschool Class on 2nd floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

Godly Play in The Upper Rooms on 3rd floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2nd floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education Class in the Rose Room on 1st floor and MS Teams

Announcements

Next Sunday, the Adult Education Class will be led by Patricia Fennell, MSM, LCWS-R and CEO of Albany Health Management Associates, Inc. She is a clinician, research scientist, educator, and author specializing in chronic illness and more. Best of all, she's a part of our church community. Her class will look at living with long-term or chronic illnesses.

You are invited to the **Walls Temple/First Presbyterian Annual Church Picnic!** On Saturday, **September 28**, at Walls Temple, located at 27 Delaware Street in the South End, our two congregations will hold their second annual picnic from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If you can, please bring a dish to share, but if you can't, don't let that stop you from coming along. Sign-up in Assembly Hall to let us know what you might be bringing!

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's September donation 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 these from suppliers. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

First Presbyterian has a number of **Small Groups** where people come together on a regular schedule for fellowship, study and prayer. **Looking for one to join?** A new Small Group will begin Wednesday, October 3, at 7pm in the church's Rose Room. Other meetings will be held on 10/17, 11/6, 11/20 and 12/4. Topic to be determined. All are welcome! If you're interested or have questions, please contact Pastor Miriam (mleupold@firstpresalbany.org or 518-449-7332).

VOTE! The Anti Racism Committee and Walls Temple AME Zion Church are sponsoring a get-Out-the-Vote Postcard Writing Party on **Tuesday, Oct. 8th** at First Presbyterian Church. This begins at 6:00 pm with a light supper. Come and work as long as you would like!

Please join the Anti-Racism Committee **after worship on September 29** for Voter Registration Sunday. Democracy is fairer and more just when all eligible voters participate. Register to vote or learn about the procedures to register, so that you can assist others in registering to vote. In New York state, registration forms must be received by October 26 to vote in the November 5 election.

First Pres Community Partners Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

The Outreach & Mission Committee invites you to our first
Lunch & Learn Lecture
immediately following worship at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, October 6, 2024

*Understanding the Affordable Housing Crisis
in the Capital Region*



Speaker: **Ms. Susan Cotner**
Executive Director, Albany Community Land Trust

The O&M Committee will provide the main course, bread, and beverages.
We ask that members of our congregation please bring
a dessert or side dish to round out the menu (not required but appreciated!)
Please sign up on the sheet in Assembly Hall.
Thank you!



Inquirer Classes

Interested in learning about
becoming a member?
Attend a class to find out more on
September 29, October 6 or 13
9:15-10:15am
in the church Library.

Questions: contact Pastor Miriam at 518.449.7332
or mleupold@firstpresalbany.org

Serving you on Sunday, September 22

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Diane Cornell, Susan Haney, Lee Helsby, Harriet Seeley, Alison Stonbely
Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial
Scripture Reader: John Minerbrook
Prayer Reader: Susan Haney
Communion Servers: Lillie McLaughlin & Marian Eaton
Offering Counters: Marc Boucher & Carol Green
Audio Visual Specialist: Kevin Fuscus

Serving you on Sunday, September 29

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Carol Bullard, Kathie Keck, Yousaf Mathias, Amy Robinson
Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial
Scripture Reader: Tara Lindsley
Prayer Reader: Betsy Hadden
Communion Servers: John Myers & Kendra Smith-Howard
Offering Counters: John Myers & Yousaf Mathias
Audio Visual Specialist: John Myers

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Today	11:45am Fellowship Time
Monday, 9/23	7:00pm FCC Rehearsal
Tuesday, 9/24	6:30 pm FOCUS Board Meeting
Thursday, 9/26	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:15 pm Octet Rehearsal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday, 9/29	9:15 am Adult Education 9:15 am Children's Education (1 st through 5 th grade) 9:15 am Preschool Education 9:15 am Youth Education 9:15 am Inquirers' Class 9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on Facebook 11:45 am Fellowship Time & Voter Registration



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, Youth Director • Steven Minchin, Office Administrator
Fred Bohrer, FOCUS Executive Director*



Check out our socials!

305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom 174



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: *Sophia*), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you seat - ed
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at the heaven - ly board, may the church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

The author of this text, the editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language in this text echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.