



# First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

World Communion Sunday • October 6, 2024  
10:30 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**

*Prière from Suite Gothique*

Léon Boëllman

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

### **Ringing of the Bell**

### **Choral Introit**

*Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled*

Patrick Rasmussen

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.

**\*Call to Worship**

One: If you are hungry,

**All: there is room at God's table.**

One: If you are weary, there is a seat saved for you.

If you dream of belonging, then you will practice belonging here.

From north, south, east and west, God invites us home.

**All: Let us worship our nourishing God.**

**\*Hymn No. 372**

*O for a World*

AZMON

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Creator God, we hear your invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
to live like we belong to one another.**

**And yet, what is out of sight is often out of mind.**

**Forgive us for training our hearts to focus only on what is in front of us.**

**Forgive us for ignoring the tie that binds us to all of creation.**

**Forgive us for assuming that you being with us  
means you can't be with others too.**

**Our gaze has been too narrow.**

**Open our hearts. Expand our understanding.**

**Help us to celebrate the many places you are present in this world.**

**Remind us of the ties that bind us to all of creation.**

**With hope in our hearts we pray.** *Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.*

**\*Kyrie Eleison No. 578**

*O Lord, Have Mercy*

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ



O\_\_ Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O\_\_  
O\_\_ Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O\_\_



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us. \_\_\_\_\_  
Christ, 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**

Psalm 124 (O.T., pp. 572)

Alison Stonbely

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*Almighty and Everlasting God*  
First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God,  
mercifully look upon our infirmities,  
and in all our dangers and necessities  
stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson**

Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22 (O.T., pp. 448–450)

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*A Good Cause*

Miriam Lawrence Leupold

## **Our Response**

**\*Hymn No. 330**

*Our Help Is in the Name of God*

OLD 124TH

**Prayers of the People**

Owen Gilbo

*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

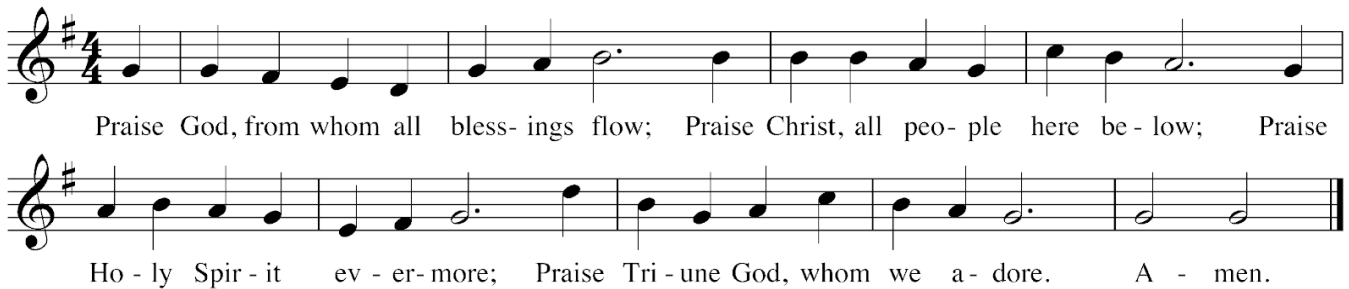
*Thou Wilt Keep Them in Perfect Peace*

Samuel Wesley

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.  
The darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day:  
The darkness and the light to thee are both alike.  
God is light and with God is no darkness at all.  
Oh let my soul live and it shall praise thee.  
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for evermore.  
Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

## \*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**

*His Eye is On the Sparrow*

Charles H. Gabriel

Rose Hunsberger, *soprano*

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,  
when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free:  
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.

## **Prayer after Communion**

**All: Holy God, every time we come to this Table, we look for you.  
We come looking for welcome, looking for reasons to hope.  
And just as you promised, you have met us here.  
So as we prepare to leave this place,  
may we go encouraged by knowing this holy meal is within us.  
May we remember what it felt like to be welcomed to your Table,  
and may we welcome others with that same warmth.  
May we remember what it felt like to have a meal where all were fed,  
and may we work for a world where none are hungry.  
May we remember what it felt like to draw closer to you,  
and may we continually seek you out with all that we do.  
Feeding God, week after week, we look for you.  
Week after week, you meet us here.  
Thank you. May we never be the same. Amen.**

## **The Sending**

**\*Hymn No. 769**

*For Everyone Born*

FOR EVERYONE BORN

**\*Charge and Blessing**

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

**\*Responsive Hymn 742**

*We Will Walk with God*

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

We will walk \_\_\_\_\_ with God, my sib - lings, we will walk \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

We will walk \_\_\_\_\_ with God, my sib - lings, we will walk \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

We will go re - joic - ing. \_\_\_\_\_ till the king - dom has come.

We will go re - joic - ing. \_\_\_\_\_ till the king - dom has come.

**Postlude**

*Menuet from Suite Gothique*

Léon Boëllman

*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 Liturgy this morning drew heavily from liturgy written by Rev. Sarah Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

*Godly Play* in The Upper Rooms on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education Class in the Rose Room on 1<sup>st</sup> floor and MS Teams

## Announcements

**About World Communion Sunday:** This tradition, always held on the first Sunday in October, was originally conceived by Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr of Shadyside Presbyterian Church (USA) in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. The U.S. Presbyterian Church adopted World Communion Sunday in 1936, then in 1940, the National Council of Churches endorsed it and promoted it to churches globally. Since that time, the practice has grown and expanded beyond denominational lines, emphasizing ecumenical partnership and unity throughout the Christian tradition. World Communion Sunday is a celebratory Sunday that invites us to think beyond the walls of our own congregation. On this day, people around the world celebrate Communion as an act of radical unity. While we gather at our own Table to celebrate Christ's joyful feast, we will also remember, with fondness, our siblings in faith celebrating this same meal around the world.

Aging With Pride Monthly Potluck **Today 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.

Plan to stay today for the **Lunch and Learn event** in Assembly Hall at noon!

The **Adult Education Class next Sunday, October 13**, will be a video and discussion of a presentation by Robert P. Jones at the Freedom Rising conference this year. His topic is racism and white rationalization. Anti-racism learning is not just for February! The class meets in the Rose Room at 9:15.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's October donation is bar soap. 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.

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

# First Pres Community Partners Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

The Outreach & Mission Committee invites you to our first  
Lunch & Learn Lecture  
immediately following worship at 11:45 a.m.

**TODAY**

*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!)



### **Youth Fall Fun Overnight**

October 13-14, Sunday 5pm to Monday 11am  
(Over Indigenous Peoples/Columbus Day holiday)

\$35 to register – \$30 each if you bring a friend!

Sign up here—>>> <https://forms.gle/GQqRPCA1Qi9tFfBA6>

- Or – Contact Molly Dowell at [mdowellbaum@firstpresalbany.org](mailto:mdowellbaum@firstpresalbany.org).

Registration due by Friday Oct. 4.

Includes admission to Double M Haunted Hayride in Malta.

*\*parent drivers will be needed to transport to Malta\**

## 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](mailto:mleupold@firstpresalbany.org)

# New Breath Spirituality Center



## Grand Opening!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH  
7PM-8:30PM

First Presbyterian Church of Albany  
362 State Street  
Albany, NY 12210

Come eat some small bites, hear about New Breath, learn about our programs, and meet our Executive Director.

As we will learn from Susan Cotner of the Albany Community Land Trust, the lack of affordable housing is due to several factors.

However, the city of Albany has one reason that no other city can claim.

On Friday, October 18 at 7:00 pm, Movies that Matter, right here at First Pres will take an in-depth exploration of our neighbor, the Empire State Plaza. What was in place before the Plaza? Why did it come to be? What have

been the long term consequences since it was erected? “The Neighborhood That Disappeared” is a documentary about Albany that looks at those questions and raises others. In addition to the documentary, we will engage in a discussion led by Ann Pfau and David Hochfelder, two of the founders of the 98 Acres in Albany Project. Ann and David have done extensive research into the issues surrounding the Empire State Plaza and look forward to sharing with us.

**First Pres'**  
**MOVIES THAT MATTER**  
**NOW SHOWING**

**FRIDAY - OCTOBER 18 - 7:00PM**

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
THAT DISAPPEARED**

FREE MOVIE & FRESHLY POPPED POPCORN  
Feel free to bring other snacks to share.

**First Pres' Jericho Theatre on the third floor**  
**362 State St - Albany**

**518-449-7332**  
**[www.firstpresalbany.org](http://www.firstpresalbany.org)**

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

### **Today**

11:45 am Lunch and Learn

1:00 pm Aging with Pride Monthly Potluck

Tuesday, 10/08

5:30 pm Property Committee Meeting

6:00 pm Get-Out-the-Vote Postcard Writing Party

Wednesday, 10/09

7:00 pm Dads' Small Group

Thursday, 10/10

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:15 pm Octet Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, 10/12

11:00 am Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Joyce  
Bascom

### **Next Sunday, October 13**

9:15 am Adult Education

9:15 am Children's Education (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Serving you on Sunday, October 6**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Joanne Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, David Hannay,  
Ann Hannay, Amy Jenal

Online Worship Assistant: Jeff & Meddy Jacques

Scripture Reader: Alison Stonbely

Prayer Reader: Owen Gilbo

Communion Servers: Paloma Luisi & Chas Kite

Offering Counters: Leslie Cheu & Janna Pfluger-Boucher

Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu

### **Serving you on Sunday, October 13**

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: John Abunaw, Kate Pruzek, Bob Stevens, Linda  
Stevens, Sahil Yashib

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: Rachel Hoppins

Prayer Reader: Kate Pruzek

Communion Servers: Jon Rice & Amy Jenal

Offering Counters: Ron Geuther & Amy Robinson

Audio Visual Specialist: Bruce Brynolfson



**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*



Check out our socials!



# O for a World

372

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems. The first system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system concludes the piece with a final vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,  
where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

## Our Help Is in the Name of God 330

(Psalm 124)

1 Our help is in the name of God the Lord, the One who  
 2 When e - vil seems to have the up - per hand, call on God's  
 3 Praise God the Lord who hears the cap - tives' prayer. Like birds es -

made the heav - ens with a word, cre - a - tor of the  
 name: the Lord, the great "I AM." When trou - bles rise and  
 cap - ing from the fowl - er's snare we are set free; our

world, each liv - ing thing. Come, bless the Lord, lift up your  
 all a - round gives way, re - mem - ber God stays with us  
 prais - es now as - cend: "Blessed be the Lord: Cre - a - tor,

hearts and sing: "Our help is in the name of God the Lord."  
 night and day. Our help is in the name of God the Lord.  
 Sav - ior, Friend. Our help is in the name of God the Lord."

As a means of fostering the continuity of Reformed tradition, this paraphrase of Psalm 124 has been created to fit the tune that was used for the French paraphrase of Psalm 124 in the 1551 Genevan Psalter. The early psalters in English generally avoided such longer poetic forms.

# 769 For Everyone Born

E *Leader or All* A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,  
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,  
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E A2 Bsus B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,  
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F#m7 E/G# A2 Bsus

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,  
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E Bsus E Bsus

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,  
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,  
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,  
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,  
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain



B All E E/G# A2 Bsus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



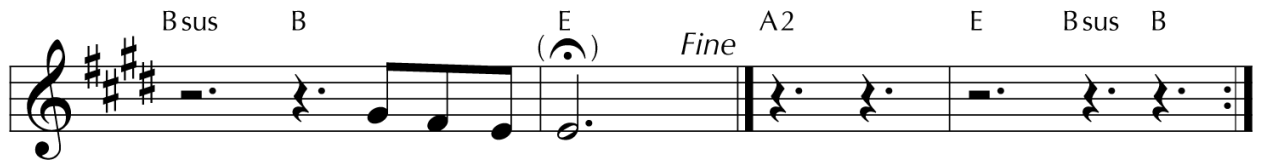
E E/G# A2 Bsus B

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,



C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



Bsus B E (fermata) Fine A2 E Bsus B

jus-tice and joy!