



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 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

Melodia Op. 129, No. 4

Max Reger

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Ministry

Ringling of the Bell

Choral Introit

Peace

Shaker tune, arr. Kevin Siegfried

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Peace unto Zion. Peace, peace to the faithful, and a crown of rejoicing
and a crown of rejoicing from your Heavenly Father.

When Zion shall be cleansed she shall flourish as a rose.

I will walk in her midst and will bless all those with a tenfold blessing,

And their sorrows shall cease for I'll cry upon her walls.

***Call to Worship**

One: Come, let us give thanks to God!

All: **We gather together to praise the One, who strengthens the weak, and hears the prayers of the forgotten**

One: Come, let us give thanks to Christ!

All: **We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve those who are hungry and alone this time of year.**

One: Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit!

All: **We gather together to exalt the One who provokes us to love not only our family and friends, but the guest among us.**

***Hymn No. 367**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

***Prayer of Confession**

We have to admit, Holy Listener, that we are more likely to be irritated by the lives of others, rather than being provoked to love them. When we are called to encourage those around us, too often our actions and words discourage them. Offered lives of peace and hope, we wander around filled with anxiety and despair. Forgive us, Rock of Redemption. Cleanse our hearts, so we might be more loving; keep us on the path of faithfulness, so we might confess your hope offered to all who are broken, who are lost, who cry out to you. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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
 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 1 Samuel 1:4-20 (O.T., pp.244-245)

Renee Merges

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16Daniel Hoke *baritone*

Pro - tect me, O God; Lord, I take re - fuge in you. _____

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

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to you Lord: “You are my God. My happiness lies in you alone.” You have put into my heart a marvelous love for the faithful ones who dwell in your land. **(R)**

Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows. Never will I offer their offerings of blood. Never will I take their name upon my lips. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. **(R)**

The lot marked out for me is my delight: welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me! I will bless you Lord, you give me counsel, and even at night direct my heart. **(R)**

I keep you, Lord, ever in my sight; since you are at my right hand, I shall stand firm. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. **(R)**

For you will not leave my soul among the dead nor let your beloved know decay. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness forever. **(R)**

Anthem*Blessed are Those Who are Persecuted*

Raymond Haan

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (O.T., p.276)

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.**Sermon**

Miriam Lawrence Leupold

Our Response

***Hymn**

My Soul Rejoices in the Lord

ELLACOMBE

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette



1. My soul re - joic - es in the Lord; my God gives strength to me.
2. O God, you turn the world a - round and make things fresh and new.
3. The bur - dens that we long have known by grace are cast a - way.
4. This song was Han-nah's joy - ful shout of won - der and sur - prise.



I feel my heart with - in me soar at God's great vic - to - ry.
The proud and might - y are cast down; the poor find life in you.
You lift the poor to sit on thrones and bring a just, new day.
Young Ma - ry, too, would sing it out, that you change peo - ple's lives.



O__ God, you are the Hol - y__ One! You are the Rock I trust.
See! Those who ate till they were stuffed are__ search - ing now for bread,
The ones who grieve what might have been are__ find - ing ways to be
May we re - mem - ber all you do and your sur - pris - ing ways.



I sing with joy what you have done, for you've de - liv - ered us.
while those who nev - er had e - nough feast at__ your ta - ble spread.
the bless - ing - bear - ers, lov - ing kin, in your__ com - mu - ni - ty.
May acts of__ love and jus - tice, too, grow from__ our songs of praise.

Prayers of the People

*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

How Excellent Thy Name

Howard Hanson

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Daniel Hoke, *baritone*

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent thy name in all the earth.

who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Alleluia.

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,

the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

what are we, that thou art mindful of us, and thy children, that thou visitest us?

For thou hast made us a little lower than the angels, Alleluia,

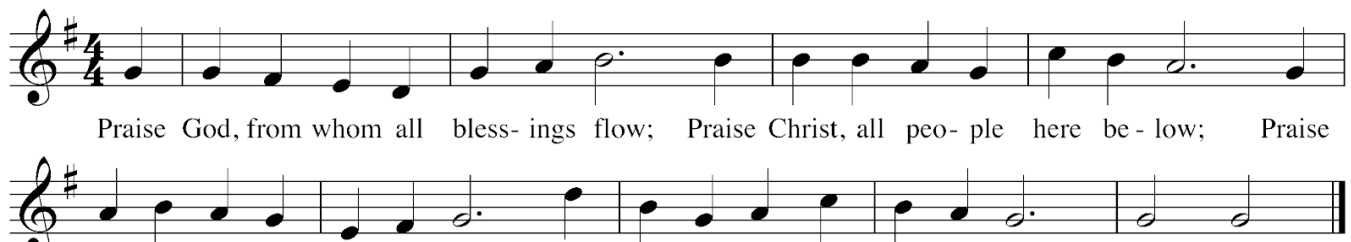
and hast crowned us with glory and honor.

Thou madest us to have dominion over the works of thy hands;

thou hast put all things under our feet: Alleluia.

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent thy name in all the earth

*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

Agnus Dei

Albert Cahen

Daniel Hoke, *baritone* Sarah Dworjan, *flute*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Prayer after Communion

All: Holy God, you have called us to run with patience, to be faithful through the years, to bring hope to a broken world. Help us each day to be your people and to live lives of uncommon faith and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen..

The Sending

***Hymn No. 39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

***Charge and Blessing**

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

***Responsive Hymn No. 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

Choral Song

Samuel Wesley

*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.

Serving you on Sunday, November 17

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

Online Worship Assistant: Maureen Del Giacco

Scripture Reader: Renee Merges

Prayer Reader: Jon Rice

Communion Servers: Susan Haney & Sarah Lansaw

Offering Counters: Amy Robinson & Laura Schultz

Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu

Serving you on Sunday, November 24

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

Online Worship Assistant: Fadia Ghobrial

Scripture Reader: Roger Green

Prayer Reader: Karen Brown

Communion Servers: Ellen Eisenbraun & Roseline Takor

Offering Counters: Marc Boucher & Carol Green

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 Odom 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 is the Rose Room

Announcements

Today's Adult Education Class is the Lunch and Learn event after worship.

Next week, November 24 the Adult Education Class will meet in the Rose Room at 9:15. The topic will be the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Online: What is Spiritual Direction?

- Tuesday, November 19
- 7:30 to 8:30 PM
- Online via Zoom; link will be provided after registration

Maybe you've never heard about spiritual direction before— or maybe you've heard about it before, but don't know much about it. Join **New Breath Spirituality Center's** Director Becca Ehrlich and learn about spiritual direction, why it can be helpful in your relationship with God, and participate in a mini group spiritual direction session. Suggested Donation: \$20. Register for this online event <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-is-spiritual-direction-tickets-1015692823577?aff=oddttdtcreator>

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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.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's November donation is shampoo. 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. **Also**, there is an urgent need for cake mixes and cans of frosting for Christmas bags by NOVEMBER 24.

Fresh flowers for the chancel on Sundays may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one at a cost of \$80. This cost may be shared if two people would like to donate flowers on the same day. The dedication will appear in that Sunday's program. To donate flowers, contact the church office (info@firstpresalbany.org or 518 449-7332). Questions? Contact Ellen Kemp at ellenkemp@gmail.com.

Calling all creative vendors! First Pres is hosting a **Handmade Holiday Market-place** on First Friday, December 6, in the Assembly Hall. If you or a talented friend would like to participate, please contact David Hinchon at (518)489-1854 or ds.hinchon@verizon.net.

A Message from the Stewardship Team: Many thanks to all who filled out a financial pledge card for 2025. If you have not submitted your pledge card, we hope you will do so soon. We are counting on you! If you need a pledge card, there are extras on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Another option is to go to our website (firstpresalbany.org/pledge/) and fill out a pledge card online.

During worship on Sunday, November 24, we will be marking **Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)** which honors the memory of those people murdered in acts of anti-transgender violence. It is recognized annually on November 20. TDOR serves several purposes. It raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an action that current media doesn't perform. TDOR publicly mourns and honors the lives of our transgender siblings who might otherwise be forgotten. We express love and respect for transgender people in the face of national indifference and hatred. TDOR reminds us that trans people may be our children, parents, lovers, friends, acquaintances, church members, et al.

First Pres Community Partners Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

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

Sunday, November 17, 2024

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness:
Best Practices for Community Response



Speakers:

Janine Robitaille (Chief Executive Officer)

Shahmeeka Chaney-Artis (Program Director, Community Connections)
Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless

The O&M Committee will provide the main course, bread, and beverages.

Come
and
walk



THE LABYRINTH

at First Presbyterian
Church

Monthly
every
3rd Thursday

11am-2pm
& 5-7pm

Festival of THANKS & GIVING

All are welcome to this free event
A simple lunch will be available

Sunday, November 24
Noon to 2 pm



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Donations of non-perishable
food are welcome
to support
the FOCUS Breakfast Club
and Food Pantries.

- Support your neighbors!
- Play games and make art together!
- Practice gratitude!



WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street in Albany
Limited parking available



First Fridays at First Presbyterian

An Experience of Visual and Musical Art

Friday, December 6, 2024

Johann Sebastian Bach

Magnificat

**First Presbyterian Chancel Choir,
Soloists, and Chamber Orchestra**

Michael Lister, director

Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organ

Songs of the Virgin

First Presbyterian Octet



In the Gallery:

Holiday Artisan Marketplace

Concert begins at 6:00 pm

Art Gallery hours: 5:30 ~ 8:00 pm

362 State Street (1 block off of Lark Street)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

- Sunday, 11/17 11:45am Fellowship Time
 12:00pm Lunch and Learn
- Monday, 11/18 7:00pm FCC Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 11/19 7:00pm Session Meeting
- Wednesday, 11/20 10:00am Women to Women Small Group
- Thursday, 11/21 7:00am Men's Bible Study
 11:00am Labyrinth Monthly Walk
 5:00pm Labyrinth Monthly Walk
 6:30pm Finance Committee meeting
 6:15pm Octet Rehearsal
 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday, 11/24

- 9:15am Education for children, youth and adults
9:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on
 Facebook
11:45am Fellowship Time
12:00pm Choir Rehearsal



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*



367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

39 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.