



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 12, 2025 • 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

Andante tranquillo

Whitlock

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit

God's Guidance

Michael Lister

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

If we but trust in God to guide us through all of life's winding ways,
the strength of Christ, whate'er betides us, will bear us through unsettled days.
We trust in God's unchanging love, built on the rock that cannot be moved.

***Call to Worship**

One: Like the soft whisper of a little child singing
to herself before anyone else in the house is awake,

**All: ever so gently, God's voice cradles us
with songs of wonder and awe.**

One: With the persistence of teenagers and young adults,
heady with the newfound freedom of questioning everything,

**All: God's voice rumbles like a river through our lives,
sweeping away all the boundaries between us.**

One: Like the grandpa who passes on the secret to his bread,
the nana who teaches her grandkids how to drive,

**All: God's voice is always reminding us
that we are precious, esteemed, beloved.**

***Hymn No. 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

*Prayer of Confession

We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism but live as if they have not changed us. We need to hear your sure word, 'do not fear,' Shaper of our lives. Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*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 (Taize)

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

Isaiah 43:1-7 (O.T., p. 672)

Linda Stevens

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Joshua Gurwitz, *tenor*



Praise the Lord. _____ Praise the name of the Lord.
(Cantor sings the refrain once then followed by the congregation)

The voice of the lord is heard upon the waters; the god of glory thunders, God's voice is heard across the ocean. The voice of the lord is heard in all its power; the voice of the lord is full, it speaks with might and splendor. The voice of the lord breaks down the tallest cedar; Lebanon, Mount Hermon now leap like frightened calves and oxen. The voice of the lord makes lightning strike the heavens; deserts shake in tumult, the desert lands of Kadesh tremble. The voice of the lord, like thunder, shakes the oak trees; it strips the forest bare, the throngs in the temple shout, "Glory." **(R)**

For God is the lord, the lord of all the waters; all the raging rivers, all floods are stilled by God, the maker. The lord gives us peace, makes quiet all the waters; God will be our strength, our hope, our peace for evermore. **(R)**

Anthem

Go Ye Therefore and Teach All Nations

Carl Schalk

First Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Go ye therefore and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.
And, lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 28:16-20 (N.T., p. 34)

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Do Not Fear: Trust God's Promises Miriam Lawrence Leupold

Our Response

***Hymn No 76**

Do Not Be Afraid

ISAIAH 43

Prayers of the People

Kate Pruzek

*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

Do Not Be Afraid

Phillip Stopford

Refrain: Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.

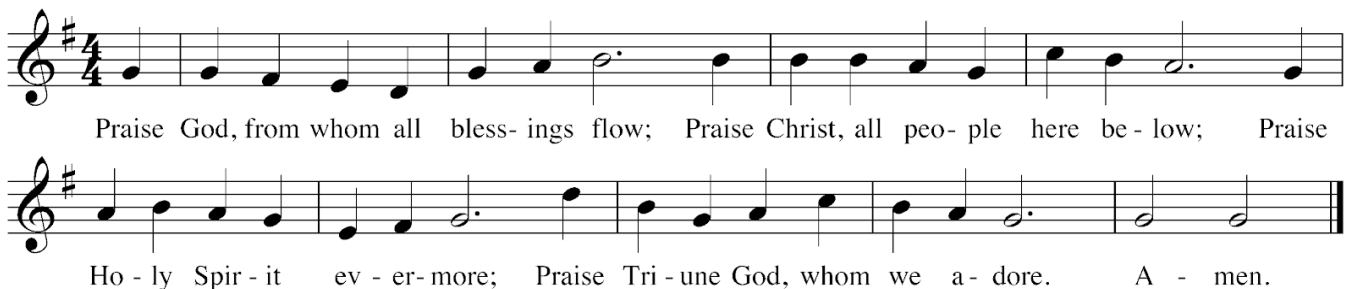
When the fire is burning all around you, you will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming, then remember I am at your side.

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger, remember you are precious in my eyes.

You are mine, o my child, I am always with you, and I love you with a perfect love.

*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: 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

The Call

Ralph Vaughan William

Joshua Gurwitz, tenor

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a Way, as gives us breath:
such a Truth, as ends all strife: such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a Light, as shows a feast:
such a Feast, as mends in length: such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a Joy, as none can move:
such a Love, as none can part: such a Heart, as joys in love.

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son who is the true bread of 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. 250**

In the Bulb, There is a Flower

PROMISE

*Charge and Blessing

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



Do not be a - fraid, for I am with you. Cho-sen and be - loved, you are my
own. Do not be a - fraid, for I have re - deemed you:
by your name I called you for my own.

***Responsive Hymn No. 76**

Do Not Be Afraid

ISAIAH 43

Postlude

Prelude in G Major

J.S. BACH

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, January 12

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

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: Linda Stevens

Prayer Reader: Kate Pruzek

Communion Servers: Kevin Fuscus & Roger Green

Offering Counters: Ron Geuther & Amy Robinson

Serving you on Sunday, January 19

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: FPC Youth, Molly Dowell, Lillie McLaughlin

Online Worship Assistant: Maureen Del Giacco

Scripture Reader: FPC Youth

Prayer Reader: Molly Dowell

Communion Servers: Mirabelle Beck & David Hinchey

Offering Counters: Laura Schultz & Janna Pfluger-Boucher

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

The **Adult Education Class** next **Sunday, January 19**, will explore our theme “Do Not Fear” and find strength to do exactly that.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC’s January donation is toilet paper. All items must be new and unopened. The **FOCUS Food Pantry** is also requesting one-pound bags of rice. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

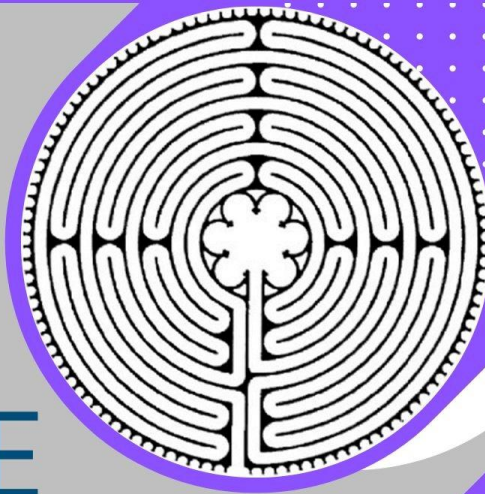
The **paraments** (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the **pastors’ stoles** (the cloth around their necks) are white, because that is the liturgical color for the Baptism of the Lord Sunday (January 12). White symbolizes days and season of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ.

The **Session** has called the **congregation to meet on Sunday, January 26**, following the 10:30 am worship service for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of 1) hearing annual reports of Session, Board of Deacons, and other recognized groups of the church, 2) receiving the financial report of the year ending December 31, 2024, for information, 3) receiving 2025 budget for information, and 4) voting on changes in terms of call of co-pastors.

This meeting will be held in the Sanctuary and online via MSTeams.

Glenn and Miriam Lawrence Leupold,
Moderators of Session
Marian Eaton, Clerk of Session

Come
and
walk



Monthly
every
3rd Thursday

THE LABYRINTH

at First Presbyterian
Church

11am-2pm
& 5-7pm



Grace & Graze

Join us for prayer (grace) and snacks (graze)! We will try some prayer practices together, and spend some time in conversation.

Did we mention snacks??

The 4th Tuesday of every month from
7:00-8:30pm

First Presbyterian Church of Albany
(362 State St.)



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, 1/12 11:45am Fellowship Time

Tuesday, 1/14 7:00pm Anti-Racism Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 1/15 10:00am Women to Women Small Group

Thursday, 1/16 11:00am Labyrinth Monthly Walk
 5:00pm Labyrinth Monthly Walk
 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday, 1/19

9:15am Adult Education
9:15am Children's Education (1st through 5th grade)
9:15am Preschool Education
9:15am Youth Education
9:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary and livestreaming on
 Facebook
11:45am Fellowship Time

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First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

*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*

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven 619

(Psalm 103)



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

Do Not Be Afraid

76

Refrain
All
 E B C#m G D/F# E B

Do not be a - fraid, for I am with you. Cho - sen and be -

C#m D Bm7 Dmaj7 E B C#m

loved, you are my own. Do not be a - fraid, for I have re -

E7 D Bm7 C Em Am7 Bm7 E *Last time*

deemed you: by your name I called you for my own.

Leader or All
 D Bm7 E

1 ♪ Look up, a new thing I am do - ing;
 2 I am God, who blots out your trans - gres - sions;
 3 ♪ The Lord, the Ho - ly One of Is - rael

D Bm7 E

♪ it springs forth; ♪ look and see it grow.
 for my own sake I do not chide or blame.
 ♪ has prom - ised to lead us on our way,

F G

♪ Through wil - der - ness I'll make a lev - el high - way;
 On - ly this much I ask, that you love me
 ♪ and we who love and wor - ship God our Mak - er

F Dm7 Bsus B *to Refrain*

through des - erts, make streams and riv - ers flow.
 and seek me and hon - or my name.
 will lis - ten to hear the Spir - it say:

Several verses from Isaiah 43 are paraphrased here: 1b (refrain), 19 (stanza 1), 25 (stanza 2). That prophetic oracle of salvation is rooted in the assurance of God's presence with the People of the Covenant. They, in turn, are called to seek God's will and proclaim God's power.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D)

(Em)

F

Gm



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7)

(D)

C7

F



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7)

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(F#)

(Bm)

F7

Bb

Gm

F

Dm

Gm

A

Dm



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G)

(Em)

(D)

(Bm)

(Em)

(A7)

(D)

Bb

Gm

F

Dm

Gm

C7

F



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

