April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

10:30 am Worship

First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

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 *Chorale on 'Praised Be God'* Healey Willan
Prelude on 'Easter Hymn'

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit *Easter Fanfare* E.E. Ferguson
First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Christ is risen!
Christ the Lord is risen from the tomb.
Alleluia!

***Call to Worship**

One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.
All: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.
One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.
All: But today, we know the good news is alive and well.
One: The good news is dancing!
All: The good news is on the loose!
One: The good news is out in the world, calling your name!
All: Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.
One: Let us worship our good-news Christ.

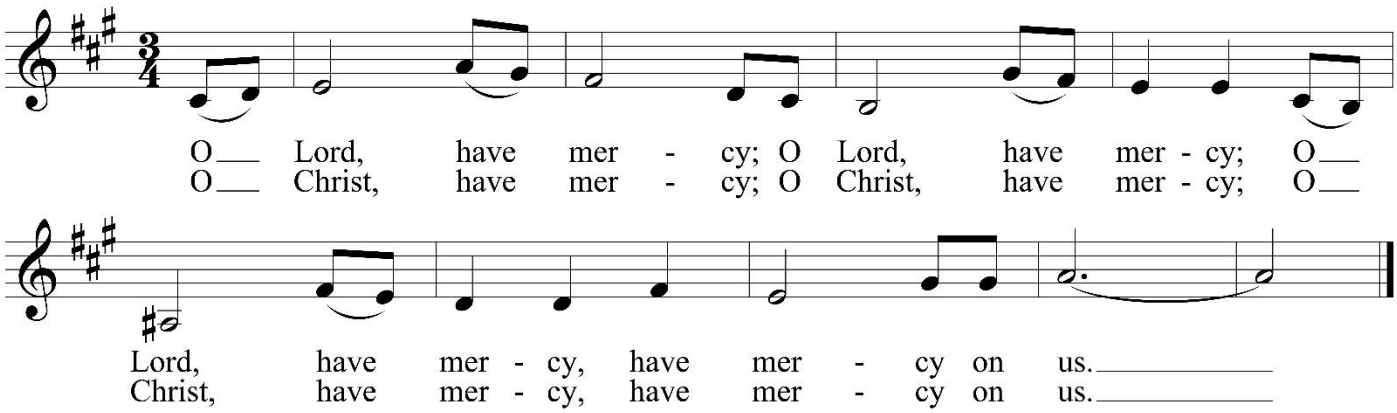
***Hymn No. 232** *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid," but we are afraid. And we don't know where to look. And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We are best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias." We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

***Kyrie Eleison No. 578** *O Lord, Have Mercy* ORE PORIAJU VEREKO



***Declaration of Forgiveness**

One: Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration:

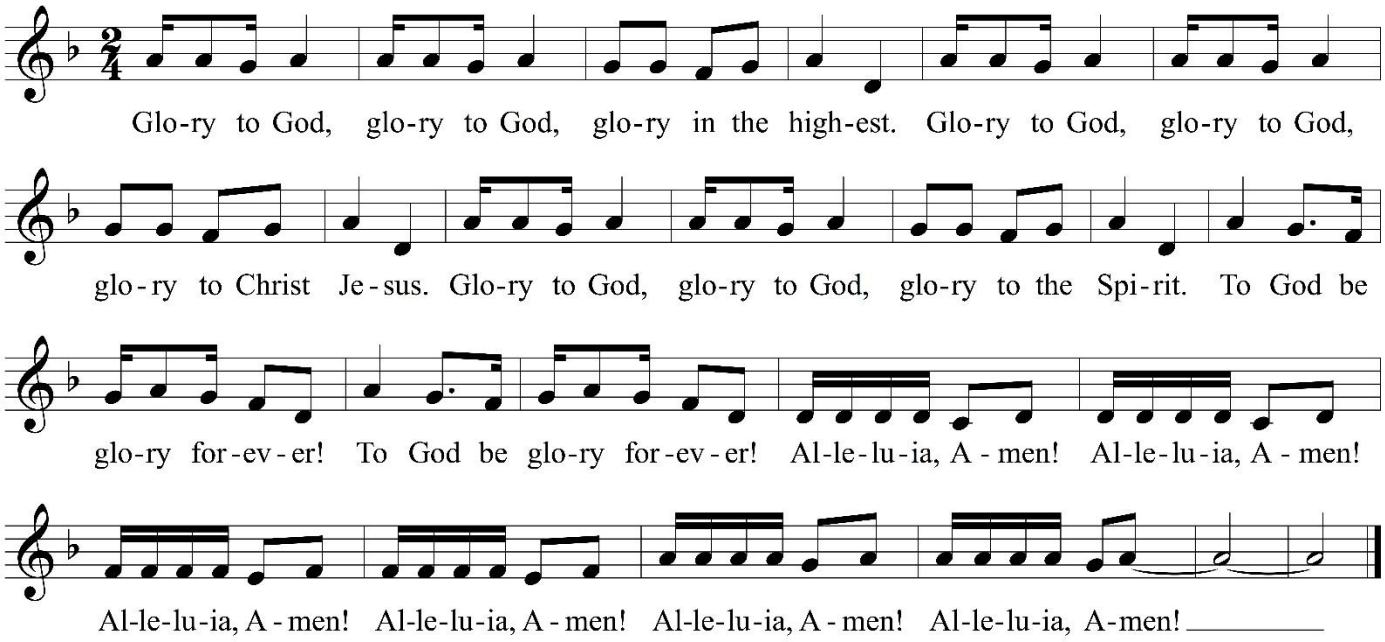
All: Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.

***The Welcome and Peace**

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

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

***Gloria Patri No. 585** *Glory to God* GLORIA (Taizé)

The Word

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 (O.T. pp. 565–566) Richard Gascoyne

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *God is Gone up* Gerald Finzi

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

God is gone up with a triumphant shout
The Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praises out
Unto our King sing praise seraphic-wise
Lift up your heads, ye lasting doors, they sing
and let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly
in flakes of glory down, him to attend
and hear heart-cramping notes of melody
surround his chariot as it did ascend
mixing their music, making every string
more to enravish, as they this tune sing.

Gospel Lesson Matthew 28:1–10 (N.T. pp. 33–34)

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon *The Good News Is Alive in the World* Miriam Lawrence Leupold

Our Response

***Hymn No. 238** *Thine is the Glory* JUDAS MACCABEUS

Prayers of the People Carolyn Snyder Lemmon

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 of the boxes on the table 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 right.

Offertory *O Sing Unto the Lord* Healey Willan

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

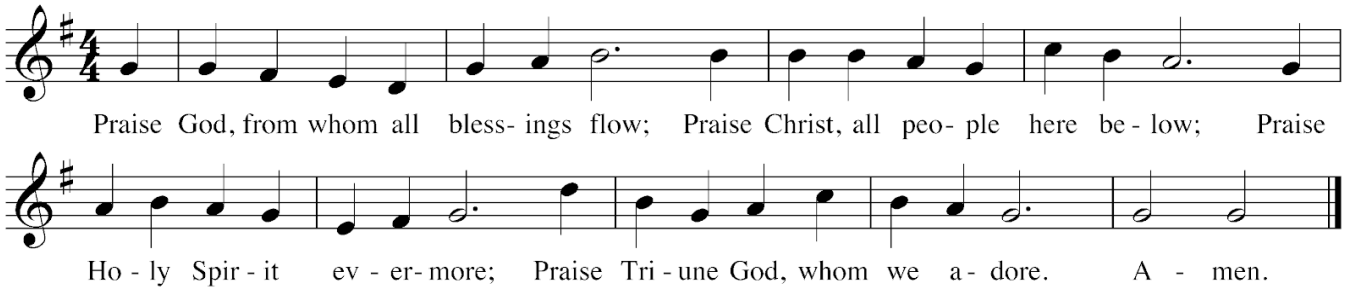
O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he hath done marvelous things.
With his own right hand, and with his holy arm,
hath he gotten himself the victory. Alleluia.

It behoveth Christ to suffer and to rise again from the dead,
and so to enter into his glory. Alleluia.
Christ, being raised from the dead, dieth no more;
death hath no more dominion over him. Alleluia.

With a voice of singing, declare ye this and let it be known,
utter it even unto the ends of the world. The Lord hath delivered his people.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands. O sing praises to the honor of his name
Make his praise to be glorious. Alleluia. Amen.

Doxology** ***(sung in unison)



***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 *Let the Bright Seraphim* G.F. Handel

Rose Hunsberger, *soprano*

Let the bright seraphim in burning row,
Their loud, uplifted angel trumpets blow.
Let the cherubic host, in tuneful choirs,
Touch their immortal harps with golden wires.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies. Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst. Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are. Thank you for this Table that brings us together. Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray, amen.

The Sending

***Hymn No. 245** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!* LLANFAIR

(If you would like to join the choir for the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus*, please come forward <u>during</u> this hymn. Music is available on either side of the choir.)*

***Charge and Blessing**

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

***Responsive Hymn** *Hallelujah* from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ.
And he shall reign forever and ever
King of Kings and Lord of Lords, hallelujah!

Postlude *Toccata from Symphony No. 5* 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 BIBLES are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Parts of the liturgy are by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed • A Sanctified Art • sanctifiedart.org
The music is reprinted under CCLI License #2853455 and OneLicense #A-716938.

Easter Instrumental Ensemble:
Simon Lindmark, *Trumpet I*
Zechariah Allen, *Trumpet II*
Kendra Smith-Howard, *French Horn*
Justin Miller, *Trombone I*
Natalie Coleda, *Trombone II*
Benjamin Martin, *Timpani/Percussion*

Serving you on Easter Sunday, April 5

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Jeff Durgee, Ellen Kemp, David Takor, Roseline Takor
Online Worship Assistant: Jeff & Meddy Jacques
Scripture Reader: Richard Gascoyne
Prayer Reader: Carolyn Synder Lemmon
Communion Servers: Amy Robinson & Lori Hylton
Offering Counters: Ron Geuther & Carol Green
Audio Visual Specialist: John Myers & Hank Prussing

Serving you on Sunday, April 12

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Betsy Hadden, Susan Haney, Harriet Seeley, Alison Stonbely
Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers
Scripture Reader: John Minerbrook
Prayer Reader: John Myers
Communion Servers: Alison Stonbely & Steve King
Offering Counters: John Myers & Amy Robinson
Audio Visual Specialist: Hank Prussing

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.

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 exclusively on YouTube.

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 in the Rose Room

The Easter Lilies in the Chancel
given to the Glory of God
and in Memory or Honor of loved ones
by members of the congregation

Given By:	**In Honor Of:**
Sue Haney	Our Risen Lord who promises a life everlasting
Bill & Carolyn Snyder Lemmon	Our Children & Grandchildren

Given By:	**In Memory Of:**
Leslie & Dwight Cheu	Our parents
Roger Fritts	Patricia A. Fritts
	Jennifer Marie Fox-Fritts
Richard & Joanne Gascoyne	Our parents & grandparents
Ron Geuther & Siblings	Darwin & Florence Geuther
Owen Gilbo & Betsy Hadden	Frank & Ann Page Hadden Jr.
	Nancy Page Hadden
	Joseph & Doralice Guerin
	Fred Millias
Carol & Roger Green	Loved Ones
Sue Haney	My Parents and all family members who've passed away
Ann Dyer Songayllo Hannay	Elizabeth, Priscilla & John Dyer
	Mary Dyer Parker
David Hannay	Margaret Hannay
The Jenal Family	Our loved ones
Annette Johnson	Madeleine & Walter Johnson
	Marilyn Hayes
Maia	Eliseo & Prisca & all departed loved ones
Don Mark & family	Judy Mark, celebrating her first Easter in heaven
Harry P. "Skip" Meislahn	Meredith G. Meislahn
John & Lee Myers	Departed Parents & Loved Ones
	Jane Shaw Myers
Jerry Nathan	Geraldine Nathan
	Michael Davis
Vaughn Nevin	Dear deceased family members & beloved Rev. Dr. Hugh Nevin

The Easter Lilies in the Chancel
given to the Glory of God
and in Memory or Honor of loved ones
by members of the congregation

Given By:	**In Memory Of:**
Mary Rogers	Christy D'Ambrosio
	Bob Rogers & Avery
Harriet B. Seeley	Mary & Jay Seeley
	Dan Carroll
	Brenda Biggs
Brenna Sharp	Josh Bombeck
Rachel Smith	Dwight C. Smith, Jr.
	Ellie & Randy Rice
Sharon & Joe Steffens	My sister Debbie
Bob & Linda Stevens	Dorothy & George Stevens
	Beatrice Langelier
The Williams Family	Divinia Ariarasah

Announcements

Next Sunday, April 12, the **Adult Education Class** will host a discussion about the current use of the bible and the Christian faith by our government as a reason to start a war with Iran.

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches, FPC's **April** donation is razors and bar soap. All items must be new and unopened. 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 Easter and the Easter season (4/5-5/23). White symbolizes days and season of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ.

Inquirer Classes

Interested in learning more about First Pres and about becoming a member? Attend a class to find out more on April 12, April 26 or May 3 from 9:15-10:15am in the church Library

Questions- contact Pastor Miriam
mleupold@firstpresalbany.org

Saturday, April 18, 9:30am-12:30pm

Labyrinth Workshop

Come to a workshop **introducing** people to the labyrinth and the spiritual practice of walking it. Pastor Miriam, a trained labyrinth facilitator, will facilitate. Come find out more about this ancient spiritual tool and have the opportunity to walk on the First Pres canvas labyrinth.

For more information contact Pastor Miriam 518-449-7332 or mleupold@firstpresalbany.org

First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

First Presbyterian Church * 362 State St * Albany, NY

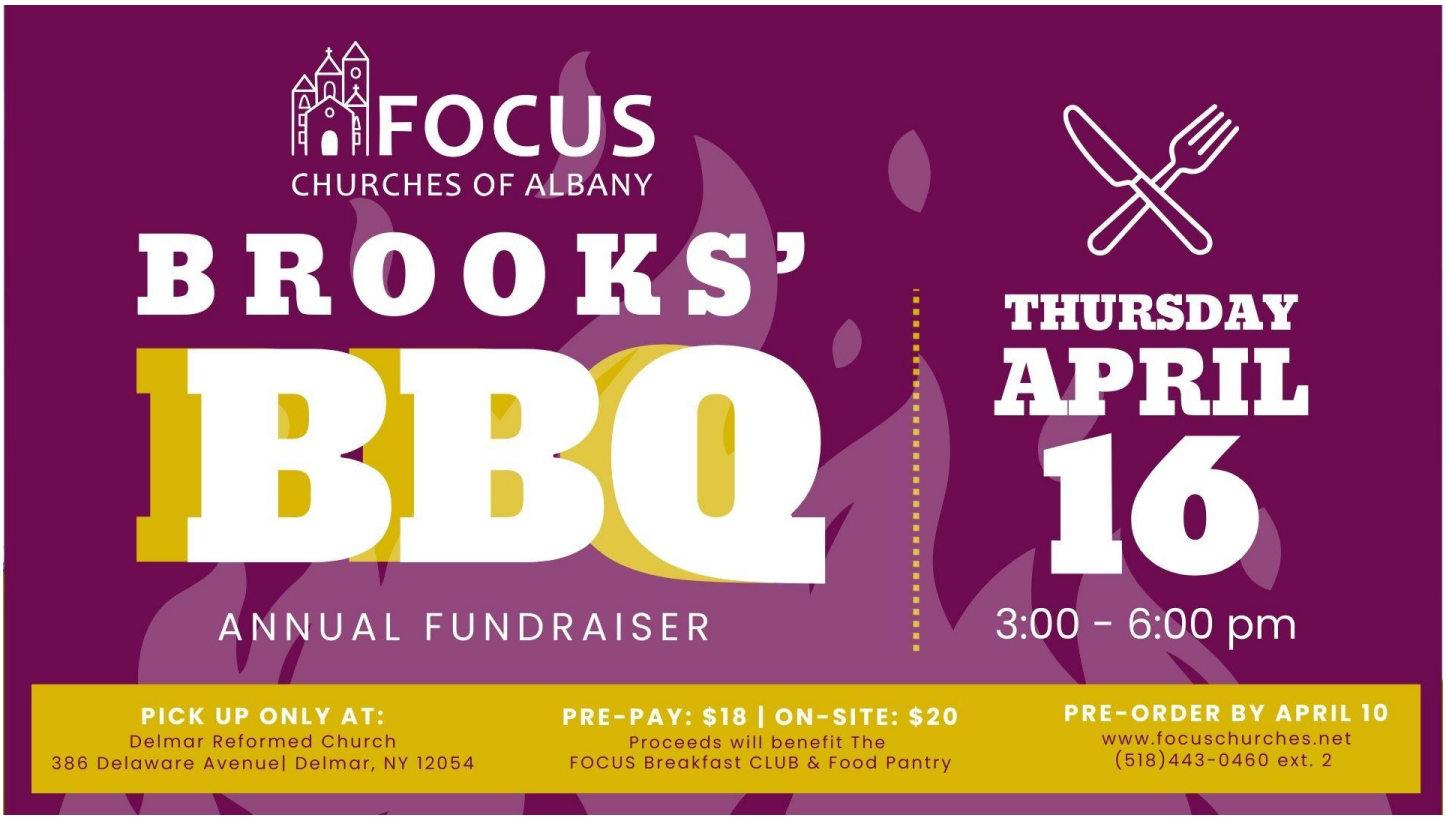
Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany
Spring Gathering
Thursday, April 30, 2026 - 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Program: 2026 World Day of Prayer Service
Rest for the Weary

"I Will Give You Rest: Come." Matthew 11:28–30
Written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria.

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative that encourages women to be aware of other countries and cultures and encourages a sense of belonging.

Details:
- Registration fee of $10.00 will be collected at the door.
- At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut St (parking lot); 518-436-8544
- Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverage are provided.
- A freewill offering will be received.



The 45th J.U. Miller Memorial Albany CROP Hunger Walk is Coming Soon and We Need YOU!

Please Join the FPC Action Care Team

Are you looking for a way to move the needle against hunger?
Please join the Outreach and Mission Committee for the
45th Albany CROP Hunger WALK, the sixth largest in the United States!

When: May 1, 2026, check-in starts at 12:30 pm; Opening ceremony – 1:10pm; Walk begins at 1:30pm

Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Hackett Boulevard Albany, NY12208

How: Join our First Pres Action Care Team as a walker or be a sponsor by signing up today in Assembly Hall!

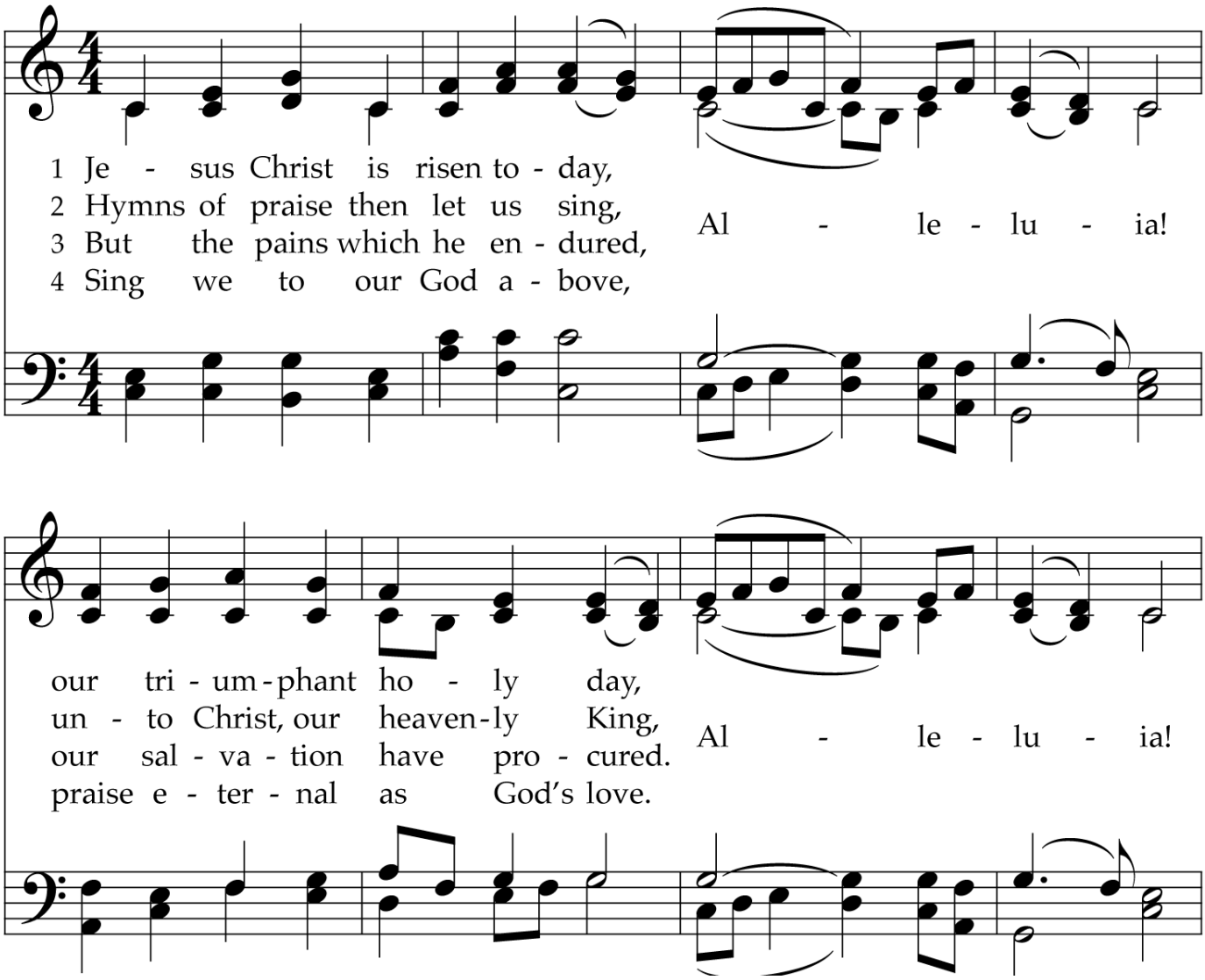
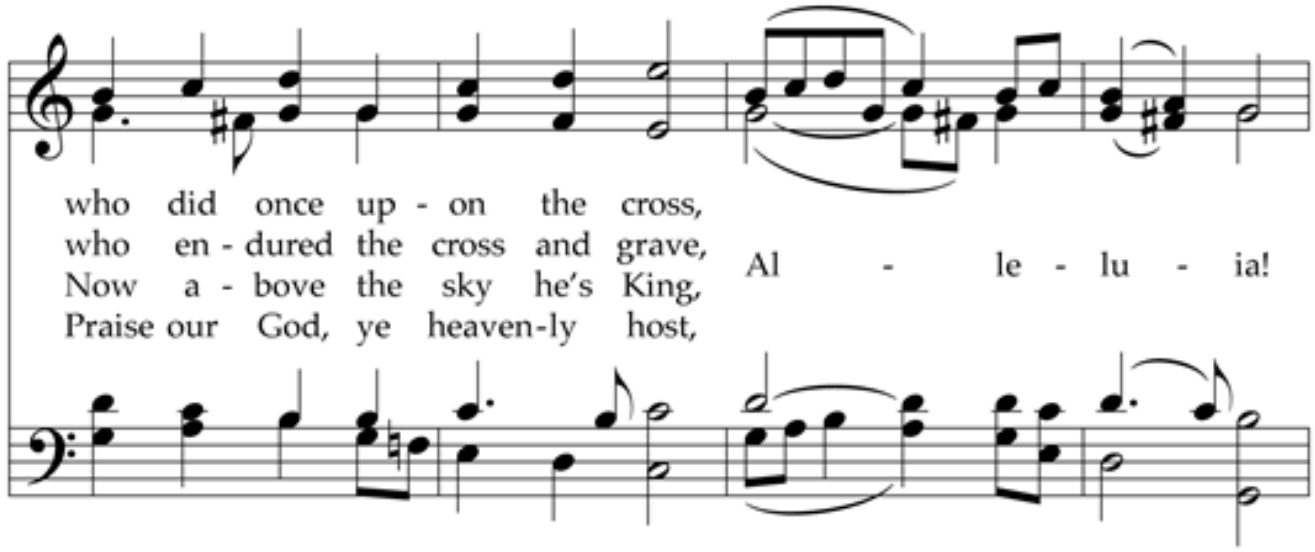
For more information, go to **https://capareacc.com/crop**

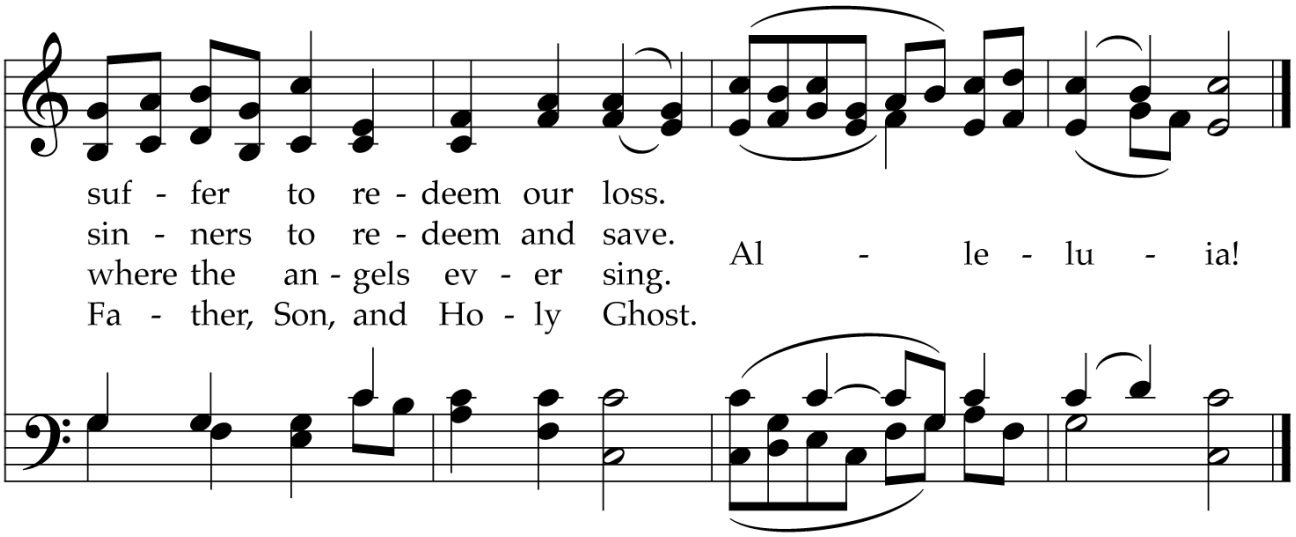
THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, 4/5	11:45am Fellowship Time
Monday, 4/6	Church Office Closed 7:00pm Festival Celebration Choir
Tuesday, 4/7	1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Luke 10 Meeting
Wednesday, 4/8	5:30pm Capital Campaign Steering Committee meeting 7:00pm Dads' Small Group
Thursday, 4/9	8:00am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Washington Park Neighborhood Association Meeting 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 4/11	11:00am Outreach & Mission Committee Retreat
Sunday, 4/12	9:15am Nursery Open 9:15am Inquirer's Class 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 YouTube 11:45am Fellowship Time 12:15pm Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee meeting

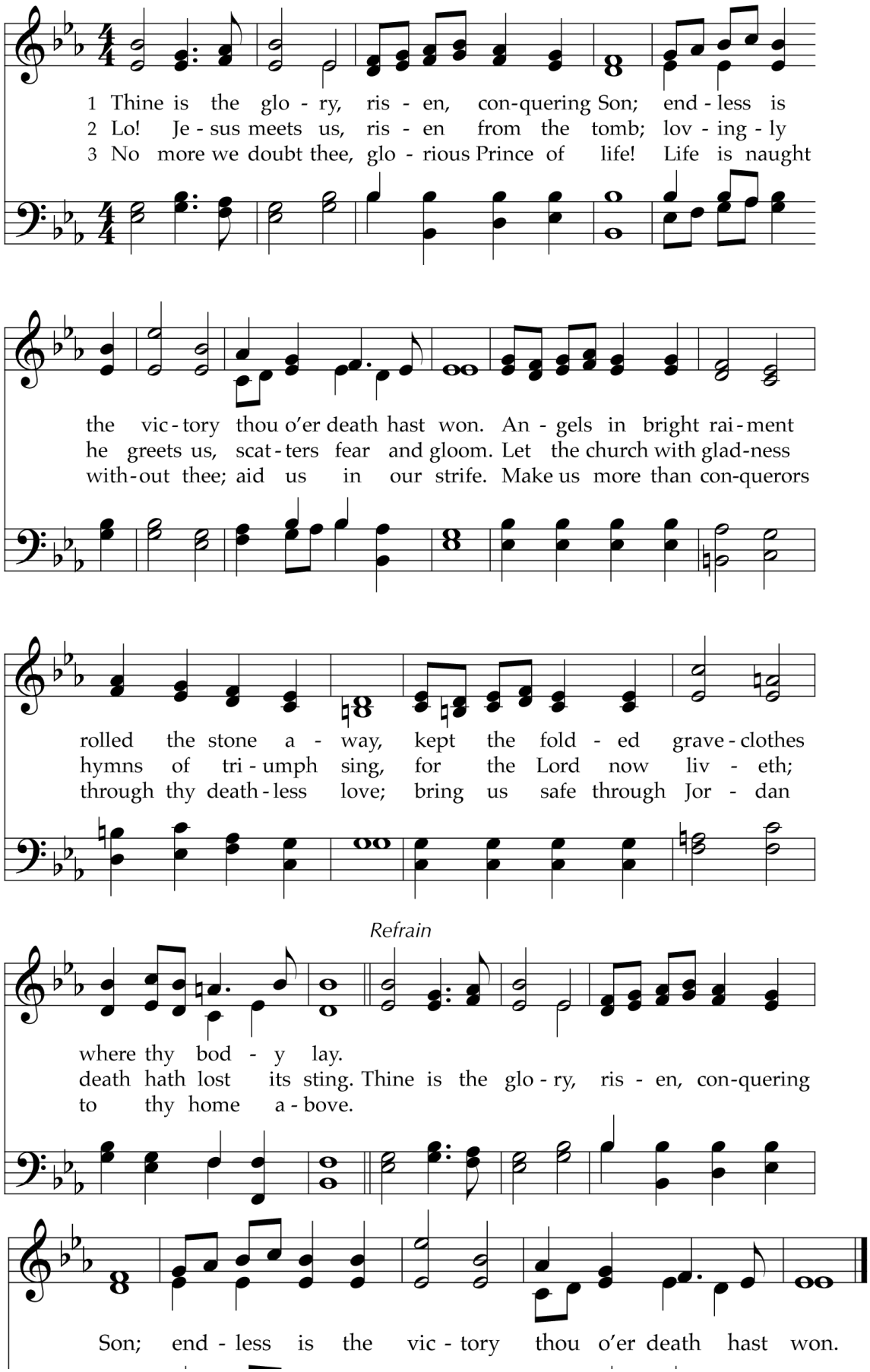
AA Group Meetings everyday at 5:30pm
NA Group Meeting Thursdays at 7:30pm
HA Group Meetings Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30pm

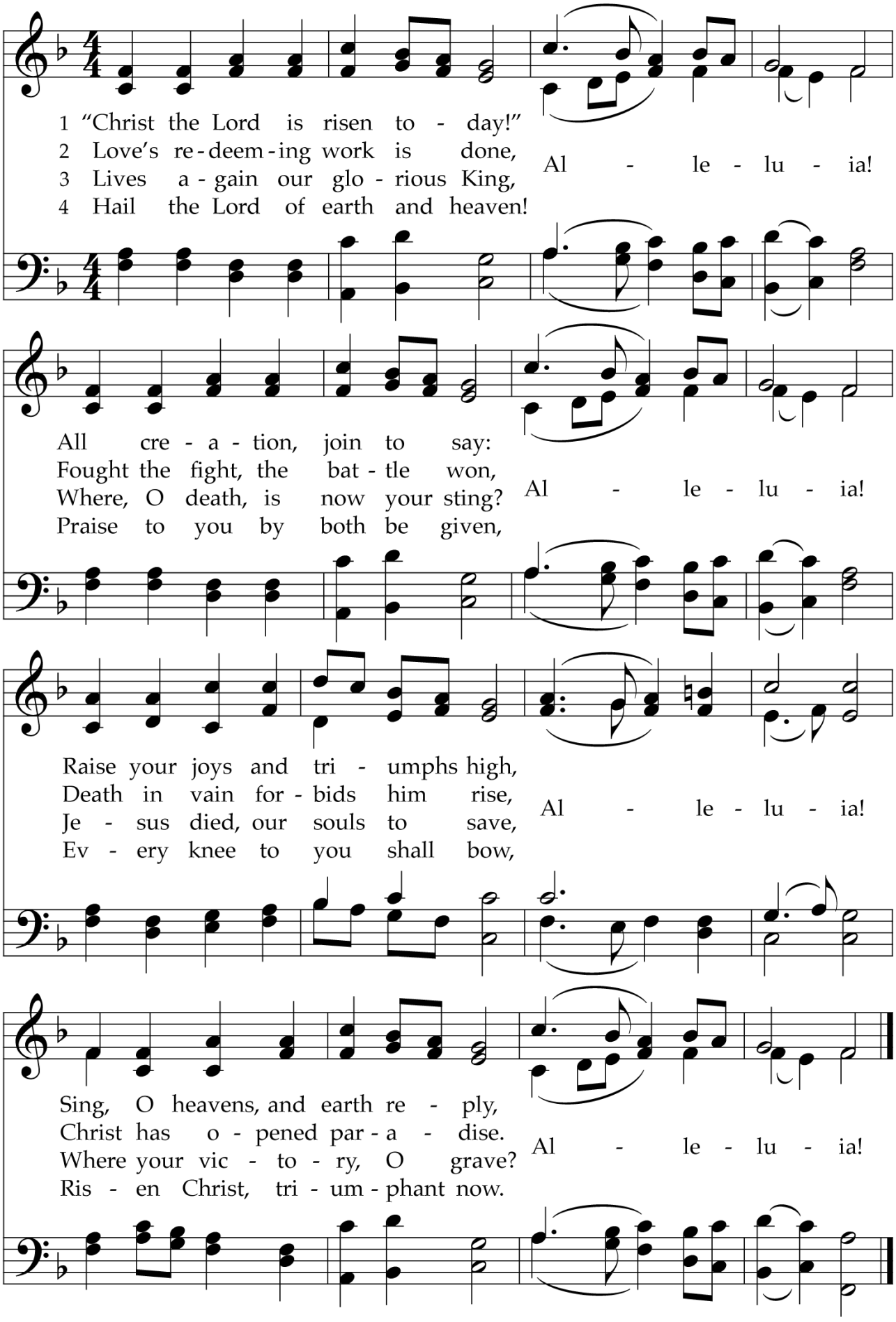
232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



who did once up - on the cross,
who en - dured the cross and grave,
Now a - bove the sky he's King,
Praise our God, ye heaven-ly host,
Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
sin - ners to re - deem and save.
where the an - gels ev - er sing.
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
Al - le - lu - ia!

238 Thine Is the Glory



245 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

Officers of First Presbyterian Church

Deacons currently serving on the Board of Deacons

Heidi Iyok – Hospitality Team
Kathie Keck – Hospitality Team
Ellen Kemp – Flower Team
Steve King – Care Team
Alan Northrup – Flower Team
Susan Pearson – Care Team
Alison Stewart – Hospitality Team
Alison Stonbely – Care Team

Elders currently serving on Session

Mirabelle Beck – Stewardship Committee Chair
Ellen Eisenbraun – Clerk of Session, Christian Education Committee Chair
Debbie Fagans – Anti-Racism Committee Chair
Kevin Fuscus – Property Committee Chair
Lori Hylton – Outreach and Mission Committee Chair
Annette Johnson – Nominating Committee Chair
Sarah Lansaw – Administration Committee Chair
Kelsey Mayo – Membership Committee Chair
Lillie McLaughlin – Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee Chair
Jerry Nathan – Nominating and Social Justice & Peacemaking Committees member
Amy Robinson – Finance Committee Chair
Roseline Takor – Worship Committee Chair

First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

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Fax: 518.472.0449 • info@firstpresalbany.org
firstpresalbany.org

Glenn D. Leupold, Co–Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co–Pastor
Denise Relf, Youth Director • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music • Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist