

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 19, 2021
First Presbyterian Church
Albany, NY

Called by God to reduce the widening gap between rich and poor

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Adagio in C, BWV 564

J.S. Bach

*During the prelude, visitors please fill out a yellow visitor card
and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering box at the end of the service.*

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

One: Friends, Christ has crowned our lives with bounty,
with gifts immediately recognized as well as gifts slowly perceived over time.

**All: Whether we see them or not,
Christ continually graces our lives.**

One: Therefore draw near to him in joy!
Give him praise and thanks!

All: Let us worship God whose gifts shower our lives in splendor!

***Hymn No. 611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
(Only Soloist Singing)

HYMN TO JOY

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee; earth and heaven re - flect thy rays;
3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py chor - us which the mor - ning stars be - gan.

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, o - pening to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - brok - en praise.
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing all in heav - en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife.

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
Joy - ful mus - ic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

The Word

New Testament Lesson James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a (N.T., pp. 230 & 231)

Lee Helsby

One: The gospel of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1

Owen Gilbo

One: The word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Laudate Dominum
Deborah Rocco, *soprano*

Mozart
Vesperae Solennes
De Confessore

Praise the Lord all nations, praise him all ye people
for his merciful kindness is great toward us,
and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 9:30–37 (N.T., p. 45)

One: The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The MVD

Glenn D. Leupold

Our Response

*Hymn No. 487

These Treasured Children
(Only Soloist Singing)

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



1. These trea - sured child - ren pres - ent now are bound to us — by sa - cred vow;
2. Our an - cient sto - ry we shall tell, till these our child - ren know it well
3. We long to trust as chil - dren do and so en - trust our days to you;
4. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, help us be a nur - tur - ing — com - mu - ni - ty;
5. Then, ten - der God, each child em - brace; God give them bless - ings, grant them grace.



with love, we make a heart - felt claim to wel - come them in Je - sus' name.
with - in their ous and minds and hearts, for this is where their jour - ney starts.
in their young lives we clear - ly see a les - son in hu - mi - li - ty.
em - pow - er us to re - a - lize God's king - dom through our child - ren's eyes.
Sur - prise them, God, with won - ders still, and gent - ly guide them to your will.

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

Offering receptacles are located in the back of the sanctuary. You make place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at firstpresalbany.org/donate or scan the QR code to the right (turn on your cell phone camera and hold it over this box/the QR code to donate online).



Prayer of Dedication

The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)

Invitation

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 Thanksgiving Prayer

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 with these spoken responses)

One: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

One: ...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 partakes of their individually-wrapped communion elements. The bread is under plastic wrap on the top. The juice is in the cup and reached by pulling back the plastic wrap.

Prayer after Communion (Unison)

Lord God, we give you thanks for feeding us in this sacrament. Be with us as we live our lives as those who carry you in our hearts and minds. Be with us as we live as those who have been brought into community. Be with us as we lead people out from the margins and into your love. Be with us as we depart with the sweet taste of salvation still on our lips. Amen

The Sending

*Hymn No. 623

I've Got Peace Like a River
(Only Soloist Singing)

PEACE LIKE A RIVER



1. I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
2. I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a
3. I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an



riv - er, in my soul. _____ I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a
foun-tain, in my soul. _____ I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a
o - cean, in my soul. _____ I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an



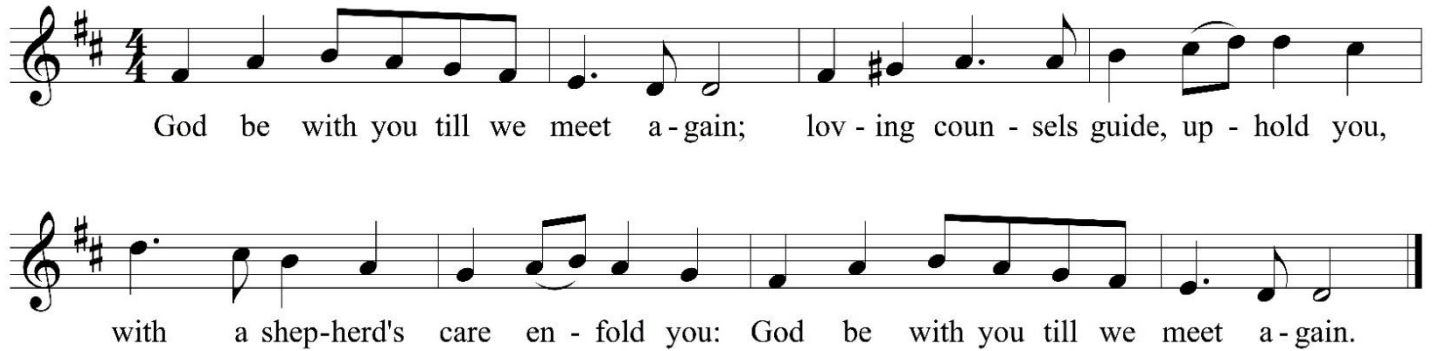
riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my soul. _____
foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my soul. _____
o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my soul. _____

*Benediction

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

***Responsive Hymn No. 541 v.1** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*
(Only Soloist Singing)

RANDOLPH



God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you,
with a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a-gain.

Postlude

Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins

*We ask that everyone leave the building following the ushers instructions.
Please join us in the parking lot for Fellowship Time, weather permitting.*

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Serving you today is Usher/Greeter Team G:
Carol Bullard, Yousaf Mathias & Eric Weinhold

Serving you today as offering counters: Jeff Durgée & Ron Geuther

Serving you on September 26 is Usher/Greeter Team A:
Joanne Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, David Hannay,
Ann Hannay, Amy Jenal & Kathie Keck

Serving you on September 26 as Scripture Readers are:
Betsy Hadden & Kendra Smith-Howard

Serving you as offering counters on September 26: Owen Gilbo & David Hannay

Welcome Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.



We welcome children to our worship services.

Nursery care for children age birth through kindergarten is not currently provided. We hope to provide care in the near future as guidelines allow.

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.

The First Presbyterian Church

“is a house of prayer for all people.” (Isaiah 56:7)

We welcome persons of differing abilities of all economic and ethnic groups of any sexual orientation

To share with us the joy, the power, the challenge of God’s good news in Jesus Christ.

Revised by Session
November 16, 2004

Sunday Morning Education Schedule

(through October 31)

9:00–9:45 Adult Education via zoom

9:00–9:45 Virtual Youth Group via zoom

9:15–9:45 Sunday School for Kindergarten through Grade 5 via zoom

The zoom links are available in the Thursday eblast(email).

Contact info@firstpresalbany.org to be added to the eblast list.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

- Sunday, 9/19** 9:00am Adult Education via Zoom
9:00am Virtual Youth Group
9:15am Children’s Education via Zoom
10:30am In-Person Worship Service and
Live Streaming Worship Service on Facebook
11:30am Outside Fellowship Time
- Tuesday, 9/21** 9:00am Men’s Bible Study via zoom
7:00pm Session Meeting
- Thursday, 9/23** 7:00am Men’s Bible Study (Rose Room)
- Saturday, 9/25** 12:00pm Committal of Ashes; Fran Kamp

Announcements

In-person worship reminder with COVID-19 case numbers going up again locally, it's especially important to follow the direction from Session that social distancing be maintained during in-person worship. This means maintaining at least a 6-foot distance between people in the pews, unless they live in the same household.

A Message from the Stewardship Committee
for your contemplation of Stewardship
Come and See, Together



We sing our faith as a congregation, as a choir. We sing hymns, old and new, telling the stories of Christian faith through the seasons of the church year, and during the events of our lives. Our voices raise in praise and thanksgiving to God and in prayers of petition in times of troubles. The great choral tradition is sung by the choir, the organ and instruments add their glorious sound to worship, and the harmonious ringing of the bell choir is added on

special occasions.

In addition, the Minister of Music and choir participate in “First Friday in Albany” at the church providing leadership and refreshments for a program of music and arts and crafts for the church and surrounding community.

Your pledges support all of this ministry of music—the Minister of Music, the organist, the soloists, the instrumentalists, the bell ringers and their director, plus the costs of new choral music, equipment and upkeep. Music is one way in which the message of faith is delivered and the call to service is inspired in our hearts. Join, every voice, and sing.

Glenn D. Leupold, Co–Pastor
Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist
Jamie Mamone, Office Administrator
Fred Boehrer, FOCUS Exec. Dir.



Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co–Pastor
Molly Dowell Baum, Youth Director
Kevin Goolsby, Custodian
Carlie D’Annunzio, Financial Administrator

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