

Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2010
Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Variations on "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" (1974)
Chorale, Five Variations Don McAfee

10:00 a.m.

+ + + **The Approach to God** + + +

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Turn Unto the Lord* Eric Thiman

*HYMN #510 *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* Quebec

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Prayerful silence...

Greek Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.

Silent prayers...

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #579 *Glory Be to the Father* Gloria Patri

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Brief Statement of Faith*)
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *Agnus Dei* Brian Lewis
High School/College Singers
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis pacem.
(Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Grant us peace.)

+ + + **The Word of God** + + +

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord of love, help us to hear your Word. Amen.

FIRST LESSON *Nehemiah 9:1-3 (page 437)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*HYMN #77 (vs 2-4, choir will sing vs 1)
Forty Days and Forty Nights Aus Der Tiefe Rufe Ich

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 17:14-21 (page 19)*

SERMON *Hungering for God* Bill Levering

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Cantique de Jean Racine* Gabriel Fauré
Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, harpist

O divine Word above, our hope and consolation,
Eternal light of the heav'ns and the earth:
The peaceful night is past; our voices greet the morning;
Look down, O Lord, and hear the people's prayer!

Inspire us, lord, we pray with the pow'r of thy Spirit,
That hell may flee, that hell may flee before thy mighty word.
From slumber waken us, our weary souls reviving,
That we may never forget all thy laws!

Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on thy congregation
Now gathered here in the sight of thy throne;
Receive the hymns they offer to thy eternal glory;
Renewed by thy gifts may they go forth in peace!

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 592)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*sung in unison*)

Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

Please come down the right side of each aisle in a reverent manner beginning from the back. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake prayerfully. Return back using the same aisle. Those who, for any reason, desire to receive communion in the pew will be served after those who come forward. Gluten-free unleavened bread is available in the middle aisle.

+ + + **The Response to God** + + +

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN #504 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* Union Seminary

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*
Union Seminary

*POSTLUDE *Fugue in C minor* Johann Sebastian Bach

*The congregation may stand.

Welcome

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a little white card and place it in the offering plate. If you are interested in becoming a member, please speak with one of the ministers after the service. We are eager to know and serve you. Everyone is invited to enjoy fellowship and refreshments after the service in Assembly Hall.

Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is online at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

Caring for Children During Worship

Childcare for babies through age four is available between 10:00 and noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

Need Help?

Large print bulletins and audio receivers are available to assist you. Please ask an usher. Special bulletins for children are also available. Restrooms are located out the front right doorway of the sanctuary.

Kinderwyk needs more help!

Please consider assisting on a Sunday of your choice to care for our children. Contact Sarah Bachorik (357-2014) or talk to one of the ministers to participate in this important ministry.

Church School

Children in **grades 3-8** will remain in the service today to participate in communion. Children in **grades K-2** are invited to come upstairs for a special lesson after the Children's Message.

Prayers of the People

Requests for prayer may be noted on a pew card and placed in the offering plate. As part of our prayers this morning we remember with thanksgiving members of this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time: *Roy Stratton, Daniel Thuener*. If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

+ + +

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

If you would like to order celebratory or memorial flowers for the chancel, please call the church office. You may send your check for \$30 payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – Jazz

Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

March 14 – Chamber

Joseph Angelo DiTata, Clarinet; Diane Baltazar, Oboe

March 21 – Jazz

Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea; drums

March 28 – Organ

Elinore Farnum, Organist

Sowing Seeds of Peace and Hope

Today at 2-4pm, the Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area will present a program of stories, music and dance from various religious traditions at Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Avenue, Schenectady (excellent for families with school-age children). A free will offering to benefit Children at the Well youth interfaith storytelling project. For more information, please call (518) 374-0637.

Johnson Library

On the Johnson Library display tables this morning: Described as "road signs" on the pilgrim's path of faith, is Henri J.M. Nouwen's *Show Me the Way* containing readings for each day of Lent. Thankfulness for our many blessings can be expressed from entries in, *Saying Grace: Blessings for the Family Table*, edited by Sarah McElwain. Marian Wright Edelman has written *Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children*.

On the Children's table is *Bible Time with Kids: 400+ Bible-Based Activities to Use with Children*, by Cindy Dingwall. Isaiah pesters everyone, asking "where is heaven", in Sandy Eisenberg Sasso's book, *For Heaven's Sake*. Instructions on how to color and decorate Easter eggs is found in *Easter Eggs for Everyone*, by Evelyn Coskey.

Faith Bookshop

On sale today: winter caps with the church logo and one-of-a-kind scarves hand knit by Ronnie. On display for purchase: books of particular interest during the Lenten season.

Richard Foster's Categories of Spiritual Disciplines

Spirituality is more than prayer. Thirty years ago, the Quaker scholar Richard Foster developed categories of spiritual discipline that millions have found useful:

The Inward Disciplines: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study

The Outward Disciplines: Simplicity, Solitude, Service

The Corporate Disciplines: Submission, Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration

Norton Levering's Spiritual Triggers

Time, Location, Posture, Sensation, Person, Decision, Object

Take a look at the Narthex Cases

Thanks to Tom D'Andrea the Narthex cases now have exhibits about our weekly Vespers. One window is on Jazz and the other on Chamber and Classical music. Have you an idea for the windows? What's your committee doing? If you would like to design a case or cases contact Laura Linder at 882-6866 or 281-4764.

Music Highlights for Lent and Easter

Anthems by the Chancel Choir during Lent will include some more reflective works to complement Dr. Levering's sermons dealing with "Spiritual Tools." Today harpist Leah Kidwell-Fernandes will accompany the choir for the *Cantique de Jean Racine* by *Gabriel Fauré*, written when he was only nineteen years old. Another prayer/anthem will be offered on March 21: the Prayer of St. Columba by Richard Shephard. In this anthem we pray that God be "a bright flame" before us, a "guiding star" above us, a "smooth path" beneath us, and "kindly shepherd" behind us. Palm Sunday on

March 28 will feature our children's choirs and a new anthem by the Chancel Choir, written by Craig Courtney and accompanied on the conga by Tom D'Andrea. A brass quartet will accompany our hymns and anthems on Easter Sunday, April 4, including *Easter Proclamation* by John Ferguson and *Now Is Christ Risen, Alleluia!* by Johann Sebastian Bach.

God and Human Suffering

Those participating in the Wednesday am Kerygma class or the Wednesday pm Lenten study should read through chapter 2 before class this week as well as the first and second dialogues in the appendix. Contact Daniel with any questions.

Damien Center Open House

After many months of preparation, the Schenectady Damien Center has finally moved to its new and permanent home at 615 Nott Street! To celebrate, we are inviting clients, volunteers, donors, SICM members, and interested community members to join us for an Open House on March 16, from 3 to 6pm. Visitors will be able to tour the new building, read about current and upcoming programs, and view presentations about the face of HIV/AIDS today. An official Chamber of Commerce dedication ribbon-cutting will take place at 4:30pm. We hope you can join us during this exciting time!

Share Food and Fellowship

The soup is on every Wednesday of Lent! Come on down for food and fellowship at 6pm. You needn't sign up for dinner – just show up, if you wish to be fed both in body and soul. A basket is provided for contributions to offset the cost of meal preparation.

LENT @ FRC

Wednesday Lenten Series starts at 6pm with a simple supper of soup (vegetarian or meat), salad, bread, and desert. At 7:15pm the learning begins: Stacey teaches Music as a Spiritual Practice; Bill leads a Preacher's Preview for the Sunday's scripture and sermon; Daniel guides a discussion on God and Human Suffering, based on the book of the same title (available in the bookshop for purchase; reading required each week). At 8:30pm a brief service of prayer, silence, and communion in our sanctuary chancel is offered.

During the Sundays within Lent, Bill Levering will be preaching on the disciplines of meditation, fasting, and prayer. Several of the First Forums following worship will feature a prominent presenter, from the community, who will speak on the sermon theme of that Sunday. Today, Franciscan Brother, Philip Hira, originally from Pakistan will speak about fasting within the Christian and Muslim faiths.

Childcare for Lent will be provided in Kinderwyk from 7-9pm each Wednesday evening.

Scripture Reading Training

People interested in reading scripture in worship should plan on attending a short training session Sunday, March 14 after worship. Our congregation values the participation of all in worship.

Group VII

On March 19 at **9:30am** in the Dirck Romeyn Lounge, Elaine Springsted will present a program on The Lord's Prayer. Co-hostesses: Nancy Wainwright and Mary Jewett.

Lenten Retreat with Daniel Carlson

In light of last week's sermon and service focusing on the command to be still, here's a warm invitation to come away for a few days to a beautiful place with plenty of silence for meditation and prayer!

Fowler has set aside Chi-Rho House for a contemplative retreat. Each day there will be an opportunity to share in spoken and sung, morning, noon, and evening prayer. Indoors, comfortable space for reading, journaling, informal conversation, music, and handwork around the blazing hearth is available. Outdoors, Fowler's wooded trails await trekking by boots, show shoes, or skis. For those who wish, opportunities will be provided for individual pastoral conversation with Daniel, the retreat leader. A light breakfast, lunch, and full dinner will be provided daily. Each participant will have their own room and private bath, unless otherwise requested, thus allowing for a greater opportunity for mediation and prayer as well as limiting the size of the group to no more than a dozen.

The retreat has been structured to allow for those who are interested to attend for either the weekend (Friday evening-Sunday, \$80), the start of the week (Sunday-Tuesday morning, \$80), or both (Friday-Tuesday, \$140). Participants will include those from other churches within the Albany Synod. Daniel may be contacted for further details, including financial

assistance. To register visit www.campfowler.org or call the Fowler office 631-6789.

Good Friday Service Project

After our Good Friday worship service, on April 2, we will have the opportunity to reflect on Christ's call in our lives by serving our community. We will spend the afternoon volunteering at the Damien Center, working on their new facility on Nott Street. If the weather is nice, we will be cleaning up the backyard and preparing it to be a pleasant gathering area in the spring and summer. If it's not so nice outside, we will focus our work on continuing the indoor renovations. If you would like to join us in this service project, please contact Stacey by March 30 so that we can have enough equipment and work prepared for the group.

Mission Shareholders' Dinner

Thank you to all who made our Mission Trip to Brooklyn possible! The Mission Shareholders' Dinner will be held on March 21 at 6pm. Come and join us for good food, pictures, and stories from our time working with the Greenpoint Reformed Church food pantry and soup kitchen.

Easter Flowers

Each Easter, members of Chancel Guild adorn our church with beautiful Easter Flowers. Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20.00 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309 and contact the Church Office with the following information:

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Even if you have donated in previous years please place an order for 2010 by March 29. Thank you.

Christian Seder on Holy Wednesday

Our congregation will be getting a deeper understanding of Jesus' Last Supper with an experience of the Seder meal. We will have a Seder led by Dr. Levering on Holy Wednesday, March 31. The Seder is in the context of a meal, so folks should arrive at 6:30pm with a big dish to share or bring a pizza or something like that. We will try to be done by 7:30. Children are welcome and encouraged to attend.

VBS

Thanks to all who helped make "Let's Make a Rainbow" VBS a wonderful experience for the kids who attended. Mark your calendars for April 5th - 9th for the next exciting Vacation Bible School. We'll be making a VBS video production (take off on CBS) of Jesus' parables. Kids and helpers age 5 - 95 welcome! Register with the church office 277-2201 or phone Jamie Ipsen for information 399-6848.

Easter Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Easter Sunday, April 4 to deliver Easter plants to bereaved families in our church. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. Volunteers simply need to pick up a plant to be delivered. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend our care and concern to church family members - please join us. Please contact Linda Ward at 377-2377 should you wish to volunteer.

Home Furnishings Program

Need of the month:
 Toasters and Pot holders
 Always Needed: BEDS!
 Also: Drinking glasses
 Flatware and kitchen utensils
 Queen sheets and blankets

Please help us to help others!
 Call 346-2444, office hours: 10-2,
 Monday-Thursday Program
 Coordinators: Jamie Doriguzzi and
 Michelle Miller. Visit us on the Web at
schenectadyhomefurnishings.org

Calendar for the Week of March 7, 2010

Sunday
 March 7
 9:15 a.m. High School/College Singers, Music Office
 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Communion, Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee, Assembly Hall
 11:15 a.m. First Forum, Poling Chapel
 11:30 a.m. Kirk Ringers and Singers, upstairs - Room 20
 3:30 p.m. Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
 5:00 p.m. Vespers, Poling Chapel
 5:00 p.m. JHYG, Mezzanine
 7:00 p.m. SHYG, Mezzanine

Monday
 March 8
 9:00 a.m. Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room
 7:00 p.m. Klokken Ringers, Poling Conference Room

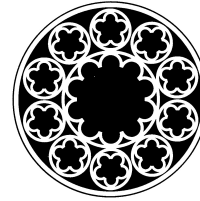
Tuesday
 March 9
 9:00 a.m. Women's Group, Walton Conference Room
 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Standing Committees, Various Locations
 8:00 p.m. Consistory, Assembly Hall

Wednesday
 March 10
 9:30 a.m. Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
 1:00 p.m. Archives Group, Archives Room
 6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner, Assembly Hall
 7:15 p.m. Lenten Classes, Various Locations
 8:30 p.m. Lenten Contemplative Communion, Sanctuary

Thursday
 March 11
 10:00 a.m. Stitch Group, Office Lobby
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Sunday
 March 14
 9:15 a.m. High School/College Singers, Music Office
 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
 11:00 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee, Assembly Hall
 11:30 a.m. Kirk Ringers and Singers, upstairs - Room 20
 3:30 p.m. Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home
 5:00 p.m. Vespers, Poling Chapel

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Joan Lindsay, Chris Van Oort	Tom Lindsay, Jeanne Shoulder
Deacons/Ushers	Cindy Gallagher, Adam Kerwin, Rebecca Draffen-Grande, Elsa Hjelmar, Greg Matusic, Doug Todd	Kendra Adams, Emilio Pagan-Yourno, Nicholas Blinckmann, William Faulkner
Elders	Bill Brooks, Darwin Brudos, Carol DeLaMarter, Sara Erickson, Eric Evans, Rachel Hewitt, Emile Walraven	Bob Beadle, Rachel Hewitt, Peggy King, Linda Witkowski, Eugene Zeltmann,
Faith Bookshop	Ronnie Bartholic	Linda Witkowski
First Forum	Sermon Reflections: Fasting Presenter: Br. Herra	Coffee & Conversation
Flower Delivery	Ronnie Bartholic, Heather & Andrew Chestnut	Mary Jewett, Carol Troost
Greeters	Audrey & Dave Bain	Diane & Peter Ontkush
Head Usher	Communion	Earl Wainwright
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Reader	George Trimarco	Art Hudak
Refreshments	Sara Erickson, Sandy Kominoski	Breitenbach's, Betty Bumgarner



FIRST
REFORMED
CHURCH
SCHENECTADY

THE COVENANT OF OUR CONGREGATION

Adopted by the Congregation in 1962

We do hereby set forth the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing that no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.

March 7, 2010

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street – Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com
Ministers: Daniel Carlson, Bill Levering, Stacey Midge