

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 5, 2010
Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist

Dietrich Buxtehude

Largo, Trio Sonata No. 2

J. S. Bach

Fuga Supra il Magnificat

J. S. Bach

10:00 a.m.

+ + + The Approach to God + + +

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #476 *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!* Lyons

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Almighty and merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, or strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us for the sake of your Son and guide us by the presence of your Spirit so that we would live in love. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(From the Baptist Confession of 1689)*

God has provided the human will by nature with liberty and power to act upon choice; it is neither forced, nor determined by any intrinsic necessity to do good or evil.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING *Piano Jazz*

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Chris Fernandes
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (page 186)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Philemon 1-20 (page 215)*

SERMON *Our Choice, God's Choice or "Whatever"* Bill Levering

+ + + **The Response to the Word** + + +

*HYMN *I Give You Freedom* The Whippoorwill Song

I set the boundaries of the ocean vast,
Carved out the mountains from the distant past,
Molded all people from the miry clay,
Breathed in them life, but they went astray.

CHORUS:

*I own the cattle on a thousand hills,
I write the music for the whippoorwill,
Control the planets with their rocks and rills,
But give you freedom to use your own will.*

I hold the waters in my mighty hand
Spread out the heavens with a single span,
Make all creation tremble at my voice,
But my own people come to me by choice.
chorus

If you want me to, I'll make you whole,
I'll only do it, though, if you say so.
I'll never force you, for I love you so,
I give you freedom - Is it "yes" or "no"?
chorus

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Piano Jazz*

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 592)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #538 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* Sicilian Mariners

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Toccata in F Major* Dietrich Buxtehude

*The congregation may stand.

Welcome

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a little white pew 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 Huntley Garden.

Service Online

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

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.

Caring for Children During Worship

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

Church School

Children will remain in the service today to worship with the congregation. Church School will resume Sunday, September 19.

In Memoriam

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of Norma Knapp Peterson by her daughter, Ann Peterson. We are grateful that these flowers, which represent our prayers and praise, will be taken to church family members to recognize a special need or celebration.

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.

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: *James Pontius, Charlotte Ramsey, and Richard Shuey*. 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.

+ + +

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 9 at 7:30pm, preparing for Sunday 12. New voices are always welcome!

Communion Class for Third Graders

An introductory class to Communion in our church will be offered to third graders and any older children who haven't attended previously. This class will be taught during the regular church school hour Sept 12, 19 & 26. On October 3 the children will participate with our congregation in the Communion service. Please call Jamie Ipsen 399-6848 if you have a third grader or a child who is interested in joining our class.

WANTED! - Church School Teachers

All Grades - All Sessions - We have an exciting new, lectionary-based, curriculum this year which awaits your enthusiastic touch! Please call Jamie Ipsen 399-6848 should you need further info.

Music for Children!

We have several opportunities for children to participate musically here at First Reformed. Please call Jamie Ipsen 388-6848 if you have a child interested in one or more of the following:

- High School Choir
- Youth Orchestra (must have two+ yrs on current instrument)
- Christmas Musical (singing not required)
- Kirk Ringers (Bell/Chime choir - grades 3-6)
- Carol Choir (grades K-2)

Faith Bookshop

After a summer's break, the Bookshop is taking book orders again. Forms for placing an order are on the Bookshop desk, and, as always, book orders receive a 30% discount.

Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

Today – Jazz

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

September 12 – Jazz

Yuko Kishimoto, piano

September 19 – Jazz

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

September 26 - Jazz

Ray Alexander, piano

Interfaith Dialogue

"The Future For Interfaith Dialogue: Why You Should Care" is Rev. Dr. Christopher DeGiovine's sermon title at the opening convocation of St. Bernard's School of Theology. All are welcome to this event on Wednesday, September 8, at St. Vincent de Paul, 900 Madison Ave. Albany. A flyer is posted on the Refrigerator Door with more information.

First Presbyterian Anniversary

Our neighboring congregation on Union Street is celebrating 250 years of ministry this year and has issued an invitation to their Gala Banquet on Friday, September 10. Reservation forms may be obtained by calling 374-4546. A small poster on the Refrigerator Door has further details.

Church Wide Picnic

On Sunday, September 12 everyone is invited to share in a delicious start of the new church school year. We will be gathering for our annual welcome back picnic following Worship! Drinks, hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dish according to the letter of your last name: A-H dessert and I-Z a side dish of your choice. Hope to see everyone there!

Youth Groups

The Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will begin meeting on September 12. This first gathering will be a picnic for both groups and their parents, from 5-7pm. While the youth have fun after dinner, the parents will have an informational meeting. All youth in grades 6-12 and their parents are welcome. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Group VII

Our first meeting will be on Friday, September 17 at 11:30am for a luncheon at the Edison Club. Please contact Veronica Bartholic (393-7679) if any questions.

Tuesday Ladies Group

All Ladies welcome! Our first gathering will be on September 21 at 7:30pm at Connie Young's home (1400 Keyes Ave.) Please call Connie (393-7061) if any questions.

Recruiting Stephen Ministers

Applications are available for those who wish to serve as Stephen Ministers. The application process includes a interview with our Stephen Leaders, and upon acceptance, a thirty hour training session starting in early October at First Reformed, Scotia. A job description and application may be picked up at the cool Stephen Ministry bulletin board, next to Faith Bookshop. For further information contact Stephen Leaders, Linnea D'Andrea (371-8313) or Daniel Carlson (377-2201).

Kerygma Bible Study

Wednesday, September 15, 9:30-11am, begins a new fourteen week class on the Gospel According to Matthew, led by Daniel Carlson. No prior experience is necessary to participate in this lively and welcoming group. Required resource books will be available for perusal and/or purchase in the Faith Bookshop by September 12, and thereafter in class.

Midnight Run

On December 10, we will be making another Midnight Run to New York City, to distribute meals, clothes, blankets, and toiletries to people living on the streets. We are now collecting these items in our brand new donation room on the third floor, which is run by Heather Chestnut. We are in need of the following items:

- Sweatshirts and hoodies, especially in large sizes
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Travel-size toiletries
- New socks and underwear (mostly mens)

You can bring your donations directly to the third floor, or leave them in the bin in the entryway near the office. If you are interested in participating in the Midnight Run, please talk to Stacey.

Schenectady Damien Center

AIDSWalk 2010 is coming up on Sept. 26, and the Schenectady Damien Center needs your help! We are looking for walkers to help raise funds for our meal program, which provides nutritious meals for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. AIDSWalk is a great service project for adults and youth! To register, see your SICM delegate for materials. Questions? Contact Dan Butterworth at 374-2683 or damiencenter@sicm.us. See you at the Walk!

Save the date - October 17

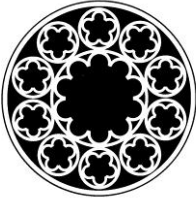
Downsizing? Out of space? Looking for a good home for books you'd like to share with and pass on to others? Then donate your books to our book sale where, of course, you'll pick up more; directly after church service on October 17. Assembly Hall will be transformed into an autumn setting. Bring the books to the cloak room opposite Assembly Hall. One provision however: no text or computer books please! Because we need the week before this event to set it up, please donate your books by October 10. The sale is a lovely fall festival that we have enjoyed for many years.

We'll need people to help with sorting, setting up, helping on sale day, and providing refreshments. At our last sale the goodly number of volunteers made quick work of the Saturday set up. If you want to help sort, set up, sell, and clean up? Please call Linda Witkowski at 374-7904.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Caroline Welch, Darwin Brudos	Fred Daniels, Darwin Brudos
Faith Bookshop	Rae Forster	Linda Witkowski
Flower Delivery	Elaine Springsted, Ann Bish, & Ann Hicks	Karen & Rob Dickson, Ginny Laumeister
Greeters		
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Darwin Brudos	Linda Witkowski, Rachel Hewitt, Bill Rochelle, Rob Dickson, Carrie Brooks, Keith Muse
Reader	Chris Fernandes	Rae Forster
Refreshments	Betty Bumgarner, Gay Doolittle	Church Picnic
Ushers	Caroline Welch, William Faulkner, Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Jeanne Shoulder	Douglas Todd, Darwin Brudos, Carol Troost, Elsa Hjelmar, William Faulkner

Calendar for the Week of September 5, 2010

Sunday Sept. 5	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Worship, Sanctuary Refreshments & Conversation, Huntley Garden Vespers, Poling Chapel
Monday Sept. 6	Labor Day	Office Closed
Tuesday Sept. 7	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Wednesday Sept. 8	12:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	Belles, Poling Conference Room Archives Group
Thursday Sept. 9	10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Stitching Group, Poling Conference Room Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Sunday Sept. 12	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Worship, Sanctuary All Church Picnic Vespers, Poling Chapel



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.

September 5, 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