

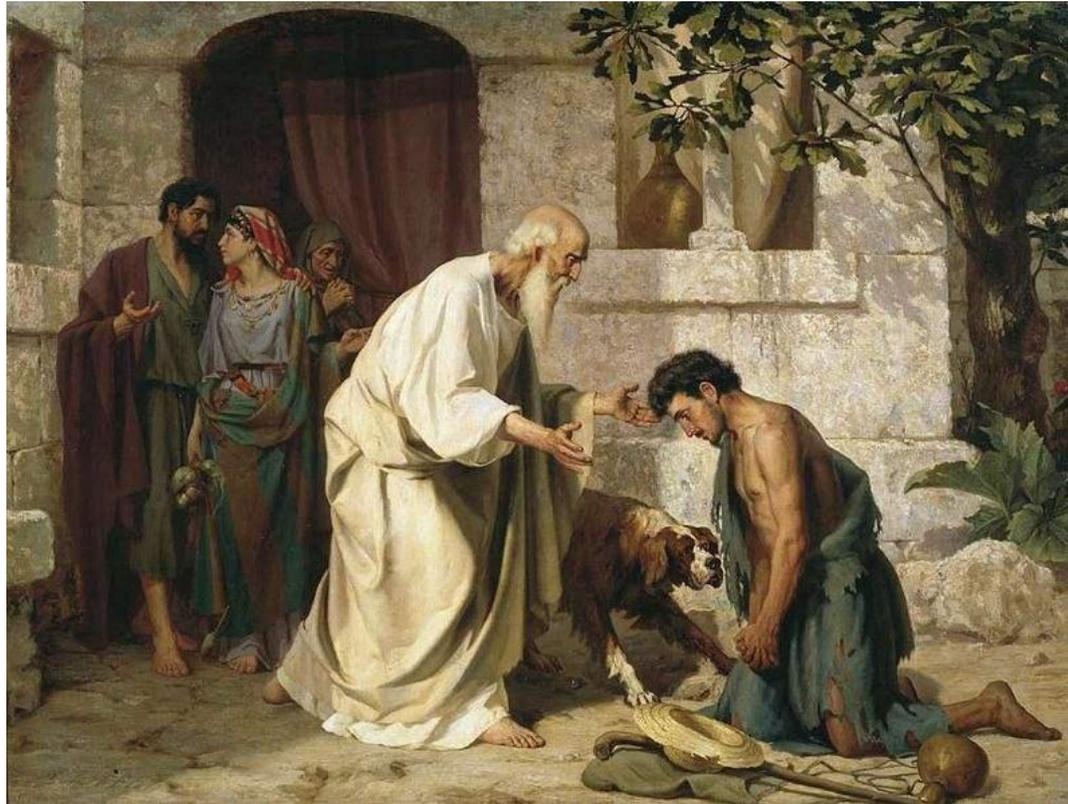
**The Covenant of Our  
Congregation  
Adopted in 1962**

*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 6, 2016*



**First Reformed Church**  
8 North Church Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305  
(518) 377-2201 [www.1stReformed.com](http://www.1stReformed.com)

## Welcome to First Reformed Church

*We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.*

If you are a first time visitor we hope you feel at home here. Please fill out a little white pew card and place it in the offering plate and join us after the service for coffee and refreshments. Stop by a welcome table at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

### Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911

### Parking

You may park in **any** of the lots around the church or the Stockade Inn on Sunday mornings.

### 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.

### Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders we call 'Elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the mission of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

### Joining the Congregation

To become a member of the congregation, there is a one-time orientation, a meeting with the governing board, and a reception in worship. If you are interested in the next orientation please fill out a white pew card.

### Communion

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

### Hearing Assistance



We have a hearing aid loop system that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

### Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 9:45am until noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

### Church School

All children in grades K-8 are welcome to join in our Church School activities by leaving immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children at 11:15am upstairs in room 20.

### Church School on Communion Sundays

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) youth in grades 3-8 remain in the service to participate in Communion while those in grades K-2 are welcome to go upstairs after the Children's Message for church school activities.

### Children's Worship Bulletins

Special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12 are available each Sunday. If the ushers are not handing them out, just ask for one.

### After Worship

Typically after worship, people stop for a chat and a cookie in Assembly Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in.

### Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is at [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com) one or two days following the service.

### Lost and Found

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex (at the front entrance of the church). If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check this basket.

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2016

\*The congregation may stand.

## PRELUDE

Avery Tunningley

Fanfare  
Prayer  
Sortita

Lani Smith

Leon Boellmann

Chester Nordman

10:00 a.m.

## GREETING

Daniel Carlson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

## INTROIT

*Behold the Lamb*

Hal Hopson

## \* HYMN

*Gather Us In*

Marty Haugen



1 Here in this place — new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - tory,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way — here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day,  
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



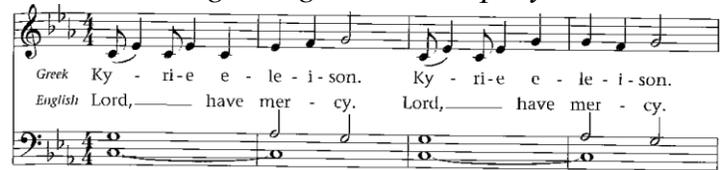
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peop - les to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire — of love in our flesh and our bone.

## \*OUR NEED FOR GOD

*Beginning with silent prayer...*



Greek Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
English Lord, — have mer - cy. Lord, — have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Lord, — have mer - cy. Lord, — have mer - cy.

## \*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

*(from the United Church of Canada)*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is**

**creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word**

**made flesh, to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the**

**Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live**

**with respect in Creation, to love and serve**

**others, to seek justice and resist evil, to**

**proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our**

**judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life**

**beyond death, God is with us. We are not**

**alone. Thanks be to God.**

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

## MUSICAL OFFERING Klokken Tower Ringers

*Beautiful Savior*

arr. Sandra Eithun

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,

Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

## FIRST LESSON

Nancy Davidson

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (pg 181)*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SECOND LESSON

Rev. Peter Ciaccio

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-23 (pg 78)*

SERMON *Neither Son* Bill Levering

\*HYMN #298  
*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Lamb of God* German Chorale, 1540  
Arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy!  
Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Patient still and lowly,  
Thyself to scorn didst offer;  
Our sins by Thee were taken,  
or hope had us forsaken:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!

\*DOXOLOGY #592  
*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MUSICAL OFFERING  
*"Insieme/We're Sharing"*

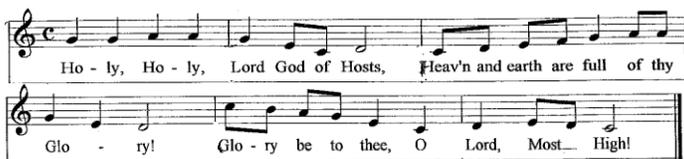
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
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



COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

**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 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* #281

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE  
*Twofold Amen* Traditional

POSTLUDE

*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*  
Sicilian Mariners

+ + +

**Prayers of the People**

Requests for prayer may be noted on a pew card and placed in the offering plate. We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve their country, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanksgiving members of our church who entered into eternal rest in previous years about this time:

*Peter Ipsen, Daniel Thuener, Roy Stratton, Len Garver*

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please contact the church office.

**Celebratory or Memorial Flowers**

A flower calendar is posted on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary wherein you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the church office of your wishes. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for two bouquets. You may send your check payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

### **In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of LeRoy Jewett by his family.

### **Chancel Guild Spring Meeting - TODAY**

After worship in the Dirck Romeyn room.

### **Easter Memorial Flowers**

Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseuw and contact the church office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor/memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please order by Mon. March 21.

### **Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm**

**Today:** Nat Phipps Trio

**Mar 13:** 'Azzaam Hameed

**Mar 20:** Peg Delaney Trio

### **Music Notes**

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### **First Forum**

After worship most Sundays at 11:15am in Poling Chapel, suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact: Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

**Today:** Genghis Khan, Islam in Schenectady

**Mar 13:** Rev. Phil Grigsby, Hunger in Schenectady

**Mar 20:** Mission Trip to Palermo, Italy Presentation

### **Youth Group Schedule**

The youth group is open to all students in grades 6-12, and meets every Sunday night from 5-7pm (unless otherwise indicated) for: discussion, food, learning, fellowship, and service.

**Today:** Regular Meeting

**Mar 13:** *Mission Shareholder's Dinner*

**Mar 20:** Regular Meeting

### **New Member Class - TODAY**

Dr. Levering leads a membership meeting which includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are today. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm.

### **Kirk Ringers and Singers**

Kirk Ringers and Singers will meet from 11:15 to noon in room 20 (at the top of the stairs) each Sunday. Any child of Church School age is invited to join us.

### **Orff**

We have been blessed with a beautiful ensemble of ORFF instruments that must be played! Join us in the Music Office at 9am each Sunday morning! No experience is needed as we learn songs and accompaniments for worship. Contact Jamie Ipsen, 399-6848, with questions.

### **Laughter is Brightest Where Food is Best -Irish Proverb**

This explains the convivial mood in Assembly Hall each Sunday after service! Kudos to all the faithful volunteers who provide refreshments. If you have never volunteered in this capacity, please consider signing up in March and beyond.

### **Church School**

During the Lenten Season we've been considering activities children can engage in to be more aware of Christ's care and extend that care to others. It's fitting to discuss these things at home as well as sharing other family Lenten practices. On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, the children will remain in worship.

### **Help With Sweetness for the Easter Reception**

Please sign up in Assembly Hall to assist with set-up or clean-up and to bring light appetizers, like deviled eggs, fruit and cheese, and simple desserts or pastries. Several volunteers are needed in order to prepare for this shared fellowship. Contact Taart Baas Karen at karengonda6@gmail.com with any ??

### **Horizons Bible Study**

We meet every Tuesday at 10am in the Poling Conference room. The March Bible study on Luke is stretching out its lessons as follows: March 8, chapter 7; March 15, chapter 8. No meeting March 22 (Holy Week) or 29.

### **Tuesday Evening Bible Study**

Hope to see you at the new Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7pm led by Paige Convis in Room 22. We are beginning in the book of Job.

### **Stitch Group**

Our church PHD\* stitch group meets most every Thursday, in Poling Conference room. Work on whatever project you have; finish something old, or make something new. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153. \*Projects Half Done.

### **The Women's Group – March 7**

We will meet at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn room.

### **Stories for Racial Healing – March 8**

Join us at Temple Gates of Heaven, on Tuesday at 7pm for a continuation of the conversation designed to deepen understanding of the nature of racism in our society. Participants are invited to share stories of racism experienced or perceived and to reflect upon the lessons. Contact Joe Doolittle [aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com](mailto:aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com) or 588-2801.

### **The Short-Short Writing Group – March 9**

A writing critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Schermerhorn Conference room at 7pm. Short-Shorts are stories, essays, memoirs, or other non-fiction works told in 1,000 words or less. Contact James for more info, at [jgonda12309@gmail.com](mailto:jgonda12309@gmail.com).

### **WORD Service – Hope – March 11**

Our congregation is full of stories. **And God has stories of faith for us.** Put this all together, and you have a recipe for a fascinating service.

### **Men's Breakfast – March 12**

The group will meet next on Saturday, at 8am in Assembly Hall. Wayne Brule and Bob Clark will provide the breakfast meal, to be followed by an outstanding program. Our speaker will be **Karen Johnson**, Vice Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature, former Mayor of the city of Schenectady, and current Campaign Director for Proctors Theatre. She will share with us her insights into the "state of the community", and the role played by Proctors in restoring the city's image and sense of itself.

### **Mission Shareholders Dinner – March 13**

If you have not purchased a mission share but wish to attend the dinner, it's not too late; shares are \$25 and available from Stacey or at the door. The youth will show pictures and tell stories about their adventures, while providing a meal inspired by their time in Palermo - which means it will be delicious! Join us next Sunday at 6pm.

### **Tuesday Ladies - March 15**

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Please call Connie at 393-7061 for more info.

### **Divorce: Survival and Support - March 17**

Katina Saxton, LMSW, will present on the experience of divorce and how to care for those amidst and in the aftermath of this crisis. This Stephen Ministry sponsored talk will be held Thursday, March 17, from 6:30-8pm, and is open to anyone within the congregation and beyond; no registration required.

### **Group VII – March 18**

Group VII has their next third Friday of the month 10am meeting on March 18 in the Dirck Romeyn room. The program will be *First Futures Building Campaign* presented by Del Pierce.

# Lenten Schedule

**Wednesdays, through March 16**

6pm ~ Dinner

7pm ~ Lenten Programs

8pm ~ Lenten Evening Worship

*Childcare will be available in Kinderwyk.*

## Dinner

Dinners will be simple-but-hearty meals with provisions for vegetarian and vegan diners. To help cover the cost of the dinners a free will offering (\$5 per person/\$10 per family) is requested from those able to contribute.

## Lenten Evening Worship

Following class and before heading home, join others for an abbreviated service of song, communion, and prayers.

## Programs

### *Jesus in Jerusalem*

A book study led by Covenanter and Pastoral Intern, Paige Convis, *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem*. Books available \$11.

### *Science and Religion*

**March 9, 16:** *Faith & Physics: Duet or Duel?*

Union College Visiting Professor of Science and Religion, Kirk Wegter-McNelly leads this exploration.

### *History Class*

Presented by the Archives & Historical Concerns Committee. Charting Our Historical Voyage; Five Notable Ministers of our Congregation.

**March 9:** Author and Daily Gazette Reporter Bill Buell will discuss his research on the life of our 19<sup>th</sup> minister, the Rev. George R. Lunn, D.D. in *The Socialist Takeover of Schenectady*

**March 16:** Phil and Jane Falconer, who served on the 1993 Dorchester 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Committee, will share the life of our 21<sup>st</sup> minister, the Rev. Clark V. Poling: *Minister, Family Man, Friend and Chaplain*.

## Lenten Series For Kids

Join the Wonderful Wednesday Wackers in the music office after dinner each Wednesday during Lent. Adam Mason and Jamie Ipsen will be teaching the group rhythms, riffs, and improvs using the Boomwhackers and Orff instruments. They hope to perform several spiritual and contemporary songs at the completion of the series. Regular attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. No musical experience is needed.

## Holy Week

### **Palm Sunday - March 20**

This celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem marks the beginning of Holy Week. Music on this joyous day will feature youth and children at **10am**.

### **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae - March 24**

First Reformed has long celebrated a service of darkening on Maundy Thursday in which the Lord's Supper is celebrated; then a series of readings and a darkening sanctuary create a somber and reflective remembrance of the trials of Jesus. The service begins at **7:30pm**.

### **Good Friday - March 25**

At **noon** on Good Friday, in the presence of a rough hewed cross, Gospel readers, intercessors, and the Chancel Choir lead us in worship of our crucified and risen Lord.

### **Easter Sunday - March 27**

On Easter Sunday join us for the grand celebration of Easter Joy at **10am** including the Hallelujah Chorus. Plenty of parking at YWCA, McDonald Engineering, and Stockade Inn.



**Sunday, March 6**

- 10:00 am ..... Worship/Communion
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:00 am ..... Refreshments
- 11:00 am ..... Chancel Guild Meeting
- 11:15 am ..... First Forum
- 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers & Singers
- 3:00 pm ..... New Members Class
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

**Monday, March 7**

- 9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup
- 11:00 am ..... Womens' Group
- 7:00 pm ..... Klokken Ringers

**Tuesday, March 8**

- 10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am ..... Horizons Bible Study
- 6:30 pm ..... Standing Committee Meetings
- 7:00 pm ..... Evening Bible Study
- 7:30 pm ..... Consistory Meeting

**Wednesday, March 9**

- 9:30 am ..... Kerygma Conversations
- 1:00 pm ..... Thursday Belles
- 1:00 pm ..... Archives

**Wednesday, March 9, continued**

- 2:00 pm ..... Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm ..... Lenten Dinner
- 7:00 pm ..... Lenten Classes
- 7:00 pm ..... The Short-short Writing Group
- 8:00 pm ..... Lenten Service

**Thursday, March 10**

- 7:30 am ..... Breakfast Bible Bunch
- 10:00 am ..... Stitch Group
- 7:30 pm ..... Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, March 11**

- 7:00 pm ..... WORD Service

**Saturday, March 12**

- 8:00 am ..... Men's Breakfast

**Sunday, March 13**

- \*Daylight Savings/Spring Ahead\***
- 9:00 am ..... Chancel Choir
- 10:00 am ..... Worship
- 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5
- 11:00 am ..... Refreshments
- 11:15 am ..... First Forum
- 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers
- 6:00 pm ..... Mission Shareholder's Dinner

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Gay Doolittle and William Martin	Lyn Gordon and Joan Lindsay
Greeters		
Flower Delivery	Maria Todd Cynthia Hamilton	Karlyne & Nelson Drimalas Christine & Fred Daniels
Faith Bookshop	Committee Volunteer	Committee Volunteer
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Christine Daniels, Brad Lewis, Cathy Lewis, Keith Muse, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton, Gay Doolittle, Gene Zeltmann	George Davidson, James Gonda, Don & Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay, Maria Todd
Reader	Nancy Davidson	Christine Daniels
Refreshments	Gay Doolittle	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	George Davidson (head usher), Kip Arnold, Joanne Arnold, Adam Kerwin, Bill Martin	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay Berta & Nat Phipps