

**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 13, 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.

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2016

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Nat Fossner, oboe  
Avery Tunningley, piano

*Oboe Concerto in d minor*

Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751)

*Adagio*

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

INTROIT Kirk Singers  
*Come, Let Us Gather* Traditional

\* HYMN *Morning Has Broken* #469

\*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  
judgment 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

ANTHEM Nat Fossner, oboe

*In the Shadow of Your Wings* John Leavitt

Gracious God be merciful,  
O my God be merciful.  
My soul is crying out to you.  
My only refuge Lord is you, God most High.  
In the shadow of your wings,  
'neath the shadow of your wings,  
my soul finds rest from my deep distress.  
My soul hides there  
till this darkness passes by.  
I cry to God on high  
whose purpose is fulfilled for me.  
He reaches down to save  
and reproaches him who threatens me.  
Gracious God be merciful,  
O my God be merciful.  
My soul finds love and truth in you.  
No other place of safety, Lord, but you.  
In the shadow of your wings I hide,  
O my God most high.

Phil Speary based on Psalm 57

FIRST LESSON Christine Daniels

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit  
**Amen.** *Psalm 126 (pg 572)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *John 12:1-8 (pg 106)*

SERMON *What the Bible Says* Bill Levering

\*HYMN *What Wondrous Love Is This* #85

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*The Ground from the Sunrise Mass* Ola Gjeilo

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Hosana in highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in name of Lord.  
Hosana in highest.

Lamb of God, who takes away sins of world,  
Grant us peace.

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 #539  
*Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE  
*Twofold Amen* Danish

POSTLUDE  
*Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing*  
Sicilian Mariners

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### 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:

*John Hillers*

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 Risseeuw, 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 F. David and Elenora Schweizer by Tod Schweizer.

### 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 Risseeuw 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.

### Music Notes

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Ola Gjeilo, composer of today's Offertory, is a young Norwegian composer. *The Ground* is the last movement of a full length mass. It is a 'chorale' with the vocal parts in the style of J.S. Bach to which he adds a very 'active' accompaniment. He named it *The Ground* to give listeners a sense of having arrived at the end of the mass, having reached a kind of peace and grounded strength, after the long journey.

### 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.

### **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:** Rev. Phil Grigsby, Hunger in Schenectady

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

**Mar 27:** Easter Reception – Assembly Hall

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

**Today:** ‘Azzaam Hameed

**Mar 20:** Peg Delaney Trio

**Mar 27:** Scott Bassinson, piano

### **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:** *Mission Shareholder's Dinner*

**Mar 20:** Regular Meeting

**Mar 27:** No Meeting, Happy Easter

### **Kinderwyk Parents**

This year, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday there will be no staff/volunteers in Kinderwyk. We want to encourage you to bring your entire family into the service and have your young children take part in the fun processional and exciting upbeat music! We want them to see the energetic & exciting side of church. We will have the Kinderwyk building open in case your small one needs a play break, however, you must remain with them while using the facility. We are looking forward to seeing all of our parents and their children together on these two very important family Sundays. Any questions, please ask Mrs. Sarah or Mrs. Blythe.

### **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.

### **Mission Shareholders Dinner – TONIGHT**

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 **TONIGHT** at 6pm.

### **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](mailto:karengonda6@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **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, 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.

### **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 15, chapter 8. No meeting March 22 (Holy Week) or 29.

### **Johnson Library**

New books on the display table this morning include *A Time to Live: Seven Tasks of Creative Aging*, by Robert Raines, who explains how to make later years rich and rewarding. Andrew Carnegie's thoughts on wealth, poverty, public good and capitalism are contained in a booklet, *Gospel of Wealth Essays*. Susan Stryker has written a book, *Introduction to Transgender History*. Contemporary literature is mined for a collection of stories about life and faith in *Listening for God*, edited by Pamela Carlson and Peter Hawkins. "Living the last chapter with love" is the topic of *A Faithful Farewell*, by Marilyn Chandler McIntyre.

### **Faith Bookshop**

Our selection of donated, gently used books (offered at bargain prices!) is large. Stop in, look them over, & check out the donated jewelry, too.

### **Tuesday Evening Bible Study**

Led by Paige Convis in Room 22 at 7pm. 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.

### **Prayer Shawl Knit Group**

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 10am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic, 2305 Almeria Road.

### **New Member Class**

Dr. Levering leads a membership meeting which includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are on the first Sunday of the month. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm. Next class is April 3.

### **WORD Service**

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. Next service April 8.

### **Help Deliver Easter Flowers**

We need volunteers on Easter Sunday, March 27, to deliver Easter flowers to recently-bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers, an addressed card for each recipient, and a Sunday bulletin will be available for pick up after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. Please plan now on participating in this ministry by extending a lovely symbol of God's faithfulness.

### **Children's Eastertide Festival-Sunday, April 3**

Easter Sunday is so busy, we are going to continue the celebration on April 3, after service at 11am. There will be face painting, a bounce house, and an egg hunt. Please feel free to bring friends, since this is open to the community.

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"If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin." — Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle*

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God." — Mother Teresa, *A Simple Path: Mother Teresa*

"We are not rich by what we possess but by what we can do without." — Immanuel Kant

"Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime." — Aristotle

"Poverty is the worst form of violence." — Mahatma Gandhi

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

# 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 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 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.

## 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**.

### **Labyrinth Palm Sunday Walk**

Beginning at 11:30 am on March 20, Scotia's First Reformed Church welcomes all who wish to walk the labyrinth they shall set up in Brink Hall. Additional opportunities to engage this ancient christian practice will be available during Holy Week; contact FRC Scotia (370-4751) for further details.

### **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 13**

10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am ..... Refreshments  
 11:15 am ..... First Forum  
 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers & Singers  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers  
 6:00 pm ..... Mission Shareholder's Dinner

**Monday, March 14**

9:00 am ..... Mens Newsgroup  
 7:00 pm ..... Klokken Ringers

**Tuesday, March 15**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
 10:00 am ..... Horizons Bible Study  
 12:00 pm ..... Creation Care Committee Mtg.  
 7:00 pm ..... Evening Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 16**

1:00 pm ..... Thursday Belles

**Wednesday, March 16, continued**

6:00 pm ..... Lenten Dinner  
 7:00 pm ..... Lenten Classes  
 8:00 pm ..... Lenten Service

**Thursday, March 17**

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

**Friday, March 18**

10:00 am ..... Group VII

**Sunday, March 20**

9:00 am ..... Chancel Choir  
 10:00 am ..... Worship/Palm Sunday  
 11:00 am ..... Refreshments  
 11:15 am ..... First Forum  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers & Youth Group

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	Lyn Gordon and Joan Lindsay	Linnea D'Andrea & Dave Hjelmar
<b>Greeters</b>	Bill & Linda Ward	
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Karlyne & Nelson Drimalas Christine & Fred Daniels	Palm Sunday
<b>Faith Bookshop</b>	Committee Member	Committee Member
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Stacey Midge
<b>Processing Elders</b>	George Davidson, James Gonda, Don & Marilyn Leach, Tom Lindsay, Maria Todd	Art Casey, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Margaret Schadler
<b>Reader</b>	Christine Daniels	Nancy Wainwright
<b>Refreshments</b>	Ellie & Gene Rowland	Aline Stabler
<b>Ushers</b>	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette & Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay Berta & Nat Phipps	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal