

***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.*

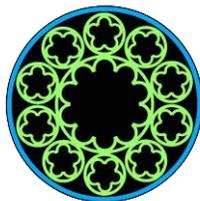
*It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.*

*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.*



*November 27, 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 children 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 usually posted at [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com) after a few days. Live streaming is also available there.

### **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.

**First Sunday of Advent**  
November 27, 2016

10:00 a.m.

\*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Helderberg Madrigal Singers

*Dadme albricias* Anonymous

Pay my boon, and sing for joy,  
For tonight is born our Savior,  
The Messiah promised to us  
Man and God, a Virgin's boy

By His birth, He gives us pardon  
For the sin and wrong we do.  
Born is He, the new Adam.  
Almighty God, what glad tidings!

*Allons gay berrgeres* Costeley, Guillaume  
(c1531-1606)

Let's go gaily, Shepherdesses,  
Let's go gaily, be light, follow me.  
Let's go see the King,  
Who from heaven is born on Earth.  
Let's go gaily ...

*Personent hodie* Anonymous  
(c1580)

On this day earth shall ring  
with the song children sing  
to the Lord, Christ our King,  
born on earth to save us;  
him the Father gave us.

On this day angels sing;  
with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, heaven's King,  
born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.

*Es ist ein rose entsprungen* Michael Praetorius  
(1571-1621)

*La tierra s'esta gozando* Francisco Guerrero  
(1527-1599)

The whole world is rejoicing,  
The heavens all are smiling,  
Gasping, sighing, to see God  
Being born in mortal flesh.

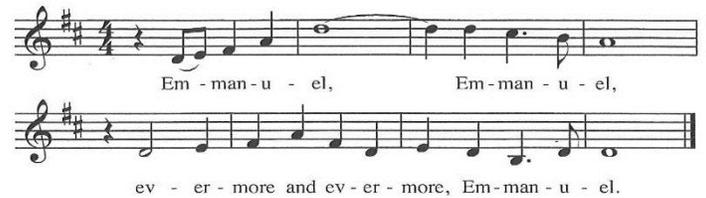
GREETING Daniel Carlson  
The grace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Bachorik Family



\*HYMN (*see insert*)  
*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

\*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)  
**We need you, God. We have denied and avoided our frailties and brokenness. Prepare us for your peace. When we have lost our way, show us your path. When we think we know it all, humble us and show us your truth. When we have lost our hope, remind us of your triumph.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE  
*Gloria, Gloria* #576

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)  
(*From the Brief Statement of Faith*)

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, 'Come, Lord Jesus.'**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Olivia Cox, cello

*Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God* G.F. Handel  
Arr. Hal Hopson

Come, Jesus, holy Son of God,  
They truth unseal,  
Thy love reveal.

Lord, hear Thou in mercy  
our prayer to Thee.

Come, Jesus, holy Son of God,  
Come in Thy might.  
Send forth Thy light.

Lord, hear Thou in mercy  
our prayer to Thee.

Come, Jesus, holy Son of God.  
For Thee we long.  
Hear Thou our prayer.  
To Thee be glory now and evermore.

FIRST LESSON

Barbara Walton

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit  
**Amen.** *Psalm 122 (pg 571)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

*Matthew 24:36-44*  
(pg 22)

SERMON

Bill Levering

*Ignorance and Bliss*

\*HYMN *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* #5

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Ecce virgo concise* Jan P. Sweelinck  
(1562-1621)

Behold the virgin shall conceive,  
and bear a son, and shall call his name  
Immanuel, God with us. Alleluia.

\*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

#452

*O Day of God, Draw Nigh*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Twofold Amen*

Greek

POSTLUDE

Sicilian Mariners

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

+ + +

**Music Notes**

We thank the Helderberg Madrigal Singers for today's music: Martha Bond, Dawn Dana, Dick Dana, Beth Guzzler, Dave Metz, Sarah Johnsen Popiel, Tim Smith.

**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 eternal rest in previous years about this time:

*Leroy Brandt, Elsie Anderson Emory, Virginia Cain, Rev. Dr. Edwin McLane, Harvey Schadler, Jean Sands Brown, Donald Lemon, Maurice B. Tracy, Eulia Arnds, Edgar Pitzer, Mary Frances Case, Robert S. Crandall*

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.

### **In Memoriam**

The chancel flowers today are placed in the sanctuary to the glory of God and in loving memory of her brother David Flewellin and mother Viva Flewellin by Mary Jane Fisher.

### **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 Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

### **Intergenerational Advent Festival - Today**

Gather this evening for the first Sunday of Advent, with those of all ages for a covered dish dinner and seasonal activities. For a meal at 5pm, bring food to share that begins with the letter A (for Advent—any Appetizer will do) or food that is purple or blue (contemporary Advent colors). After our dinner the crafts commence, including the making of lovely Advent wreaths from natural materials! We'll conclude by 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreaths. Those wishing to share a favorite Advent craft or activity may contact Daniel Carlson.

### **Post-service Refreshments in Assembly Hall**

Join us for refreshments after worship in Assembly Hall. Please consider providing treats and hosting our post-worship fellowship by signing up for a couple of Sundays during the year. The sign-up sheet and instructions are in Assembly Hall. Direct any questions you may have to hospitality coordinators Gay Doolittle, gaysdoolittle@gmail.com 399-0499 or Barbara Walton, waltonbl@aol.com/346-1943.

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

**Today:** David Gleason, piano

**Dec 4:** Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

**Dec 11:** Scott Bassinson, piano

**Dec 18:** Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass, Tom D'Andrea, drums

### **First Forum**

Held most Sundays after worship at 11:15am in Poling Chapel. Suggestions for programs are welcome; Contact Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

**Today:** Coffee & Conversation

**Dec 4:** Bill Levering - Christmas Offering to *Hospice Hospital in Africa*

**Dec 11:** Mark Little - *Schenectady Smart City*

**Dec 18:** Dr. Steady Moono President of SCCC

### **Youth Group Schedule**

Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join any or all of our youth group events, and friends are always invited. We have service projects and active social events approximately monthly.

**Today** youth group will attend the Advent Festival at church.

### **Choir invites you to Drop-In for Anthem**

For singers who cannot make it to regular Thursday night Chancel Choir rehearsals, you are welcomed and encouraged to join us on Sunday morning at 9am in the Sanctuary for anthems which may be familiar to you.

**Dec 4:** *Alleluia! Rejoice! The Lord Shall Come* (Liebergen)

**Dec 11:** *Soon and Very Soon* (Schrader)

**Dec 18:** *As Joseph Was a-Walking* (Brentnall)

### **Faith Bookshop**

Although the move is some months away, the Bookshop is preparing for a new location during the church renovations and we are beginning to reduce our inventory. Currently, all books with pink stickers on the cover are half price along with remaining Fair Trade coffee & teas.

### **Breakfast with Saint Nicholas – Dec 4**

No matter your age or faith tradition, join us Sunday, December 4 from 8:45-9:45am for a complimentary Dutch breakfast of chocolate sprinkle sandwiches, strong coffee, oatmeal, and speculaas cookies, followed by a visit from the just and generous Sinterklaas, telling stories and giving gifts!

### **Church School**

Children in grades K-5 are invited to go upstairs for church school after the Children's Message; those in grades 6-8 may choose whether to remain in the service or help out with the younger children. Additional teachers are needed, so if any parents or other adults are willing to volunteer regularly or as a substitute, please contact Shannon Kerwin or the office.

### **New for Kids!**

Learn to play the ukulele (or join us and share your expertise if you already know how to play!) We will be meeting in two groups each Sunday morning in room 20:

**Grades 6-12** - 9-9:30 lesson, 9:30-9:59 practice

**Grades 1-5** - 9:30-9:59 lesson & practice

### **Kirk Ringers, Singers & Orff**

Kirk Ringers, Singers, and Orff will meet from 11:15am to noon in room 20 (at the top of the stairs) each Sunday. Any child of Church School age is invited to join us. No prior experience required. Come and find out what we are all about. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Ipsen.

### **Handbell Ringers**

Klokken Tower Ringers cordially invite you to come and experience the joy of handbell ringing! Our usual rehearsal date is Monday at 7pm in the Poling conference room. Contact Judy Moore at, [jbmnotes@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jbmnotes@nycap.rr.com) with any questions.

### **Horizon Bible Study**

The Horizons Bible study "Who Is Jesus?" will continue on Tuesdays at 10am in the Poling Conference room through Dec. 13.

### **Johnson Memorial Library**

Books may be borrowed for four weeks. On the card in the back of the book, list your name, address, and phone number. Enjoy the library for all it has to offer and please return the books.

### **Stitch Group**

Our church stitch group meets every Thursday at 10am in Poling Conference room. Work on whatever project you have. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

### **First Friday December 2**

Jean Leonard, soprano will offer a program of seasonal music Dec. 2 at 7pm in Poling Chapel. She will be accompanied by Avery Tunningley. Jean sang for us last year and did a wonderful job. Please join us for an evening of great music.

### **Christmas Idea**

It won't cost a penny! For the person who enjoys reading, how about the first three volumes of The Beverwyck, FRC's literary magazine, bundled with a red ribbon? Free copies are in the bookstore.

### **New Member Class**

Interested in a closer relationship with this congregation? Dr. Levering will be leading membership orientation meetings that include a tour of the church and a chat about who we are. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm on the first Sunday of the month.

### **Prayer Shawl Knit Group**

Because of the November holidays, our next meeting will be on December 1 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. All are welcome to join us and if you have any questions please give Ronnie a call at 393-7679.

### **Pledge Update**

Have you made your pledge for 2017? The easiest way to do it is to go online at [1stReformed.com](http://1stReformed.com) and you will see a link on the left. It takes less than 30 seconds.

## **How to Give Memorial Flowers for Christmas**

Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on December 18. The donation is \$20. **Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2016.** Please email, 1streformedpub@gmail.com or call 377-2201 the church office **no later than Thursday, December 12**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

## **Stephen Minister Training Continues**

This week the Stephen Ministry Training class will be considering the subject of Bringing the Caring Relationship to a Close. In this presentation they will be considering how the sometimes difficult process of concluding a caring relationship can instead be transformed into a relationship-strengthening occasion.

## **Thursday Musical Club Christmas Concert**

Join the Thursday Musical Club all women's chorus directed by Julie Panke and accompanied by Elinore Farnum, for a Christmas concert on **Saturday, December 10 at 2:30 pm** in the church sanctuary.

## **Word Service – Dec 16**

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.

## **Spontaneous Nativity Pageant and Potluck**

Bring a dish to share and your sense of adventure, and join us for a potluck dinner followed by a no-rehearsal-needed performance of the Christmas story, starring you! This unique fellowship event will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5pm**. Roles exist for the very dramatic and those who would prefer not to speak publicly, and all ages are warmly invited to participate. Sinatra the camel is likely to make an appearance, and may even be available after the show for photo ops.

## **Group VII – Dec 16**

Our Christmas Luncheon will be on Friday, Dec. 16 at 10am in the Assembly Hall room.

“Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.” — Aldous Huxley, Complete Essays 2, 1926-29

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.” — Walter Cronkite

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.” — Mark Twain

“Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

“The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.” — Daniel J. Boorstin

“There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'” — Isaac Asimov

“It takes a very long time to become young.” — Pablo Picasso

“All things truly wicked start from innocence.” — Ernest Hemingway

“If ignorance is bliss, there should be more happy people.” — Victor Cousin

"You know nothing, Jon Snow." -Ygritte

"There are only two types of people in the world, those who can extrapolate from incomplete data."

**Sunday, November 27 - First Day of Advent**

9:00 am..... Chancel Choir  
 10:00 am..... Worship  
 10:15 am..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am..... Refreshments  
 11:15 am..... Kirk Ringers & Singers, Orff  
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers  
 5:00 pm..... Advent Festival

**Monday, November 28**

9:00 am..... Men's News Group  
 6:30 pm..... Stephen Minister Training  
 7:00 pm..... Klokken Tower Ringers

**Tuesday, November 29**

10:00 am..... Morning Prayer  
 10:00 am..... Horizon's Bible Study

**Wednesday, November 30**

9:30 am..... Kerygma Conversations  
 11:30 am..... First Things Volunteers  
 5:30 pm..... Chat 'n' Chew

**Thursday, December 1**

7:30 am..... Breakfast Bible Bunch  
 10:00 am..... Stitch Group  
 7:00 pm..... Ensemble Practice  
 7:30 pm..... Chancel Choir

**Friday, December 2**

7:00 pm..... First Friday Performance Series

**Sunday, November 5**

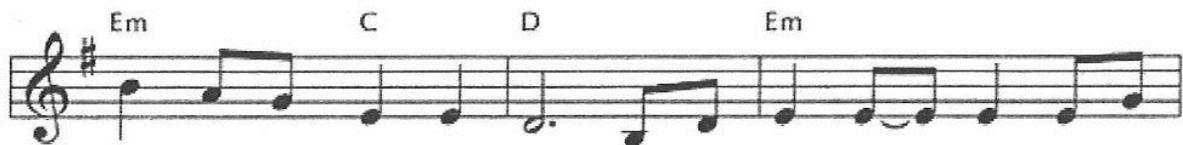
8:30 am..... Breakfast with Saint Nicholas  
 9:00 am..... Chancel Choir  
 10:00 am..... Worship & Communion  
 10:15 am..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am..... Refreshments  
 11:15 am..... First Forum  
 11:15 am..... Kirk Ringers & Singers, Orff  
 3:00 pm..... New Member Class  
 5:00 pm..... Jazz Vespers

<b>Sunday Volunteers</b>	<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
<b>Counting Deacons</b>	David Bundy, Carol Troost	Kim and Tom Burgoyne
<b>Greeters</b>	Mike & Vickie Horan	Ellie & Gene Rowland
<b>Flower Delivery</b>	Ralph Rosenthal, Connie Young	Karen Gonda, David Hjelmar
<b>Liturgist</b>	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
<b>Preacher</b>	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
<b>Processing Elders</b>	Jerry & Joyce Griggs, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Keith Muse, Barbara Walton	Gay Doolittle, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Jeanne Shoulder, Gene Zeltmann
<b>Reader</b>	Barbara Walton	Peg Miller
<b>Hospitality</b>	Barbara Walton	Bachorik Family
<b>Ushers</b>	Glenn Blinkmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Berta and Nat Phipps

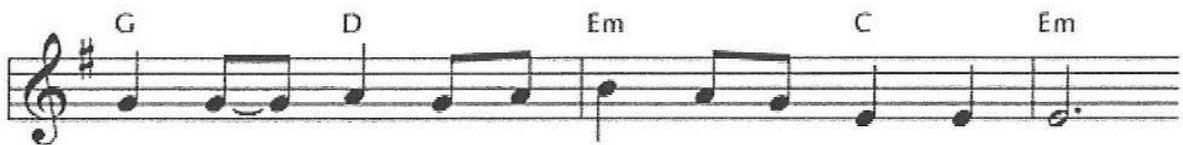
## My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

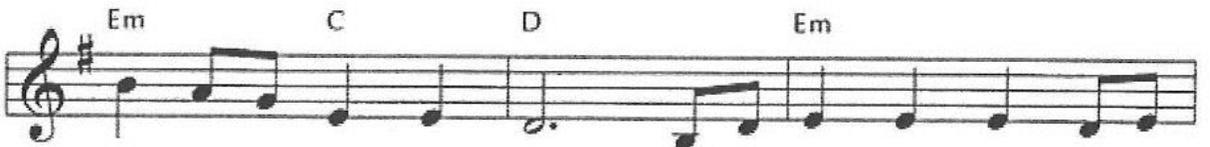


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.