

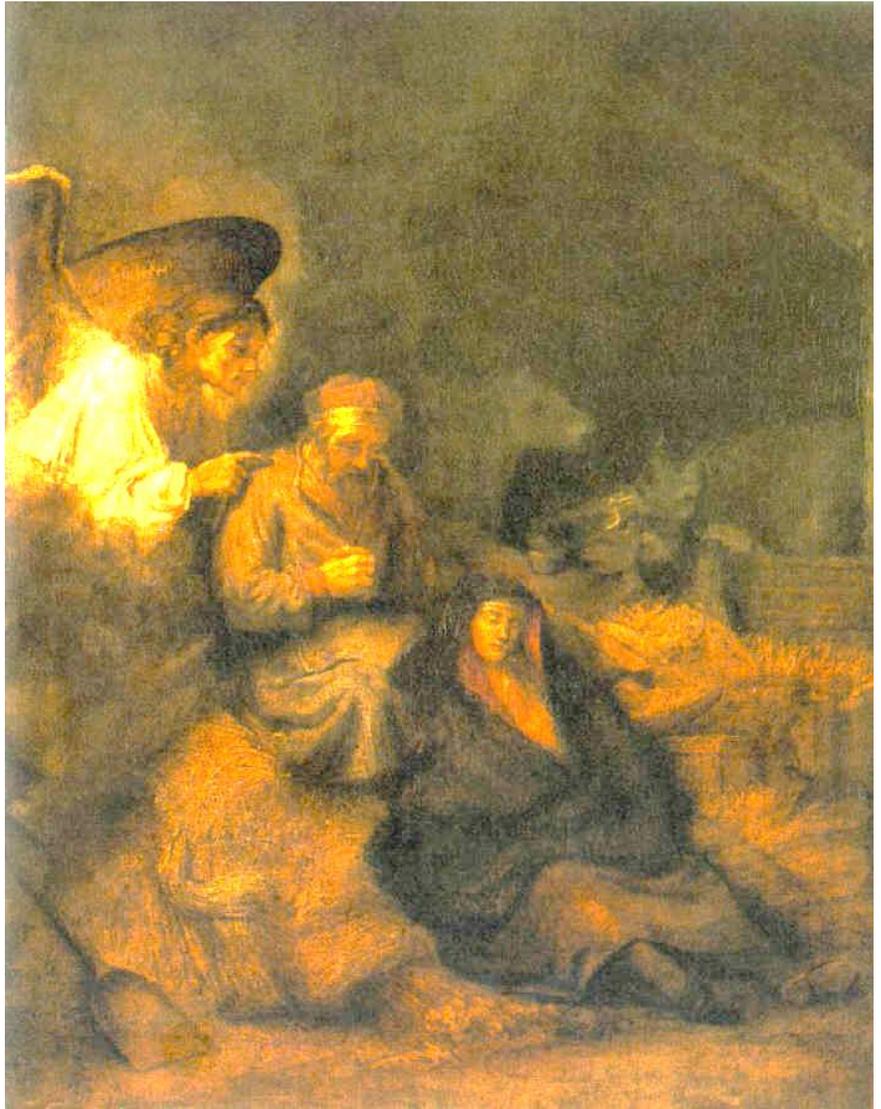
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



The Dream of Saint Joseph by Rembrandt from Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest.

December 18, 2016



First Reformed Church
8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 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 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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Because I Have Given So Much

Let All Rejoice

Companions, All Sing Loudly

P. Landgrave
George Blake

Basque Carol
Arr. Dicie

Companions, all sing loudly
in praise of God on high;
look up and bear each proudly,
the day of days is nigh.
On high 'twas told the story,
that Mary but a maid
should bear the king of glory
in lowliness arrayed.

Say, Mary, of salvation
who brought these tidings nigh?
This news of exaltation,
whence comes it us a-nigh?

The Angel Gabri'l spake us
on entering this house,
that God shall not forsake us
but ransom by his cross.

Believest thou the Angel,
O Mary, tell us true;
what answer gave thou Gabri'l
of joy that for you knew?

The Lord of heaven be praised,
for now and evermore!
Let songs of joy be raised,
come hither and adore. Alleluia.

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson

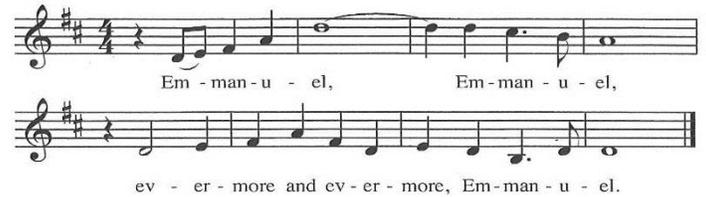
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Pizzolo Family



OneLicense #700-700

*HYMN #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*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

The Ukulele Choir

Soon and Very Soon

Traditional

RECOGNITION

Jamie Ipsen

FIRST LESSON

Mary Jewett

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

Romans 1:1-7 (pg 152)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 1:18-25 (pg 1)*

SERMON Bill Levering

The Dreams of Joseph

*HYMN #48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

As Joseph was a-Walking Traditional
arr. by Ian Brentnall
Margie Halinski, oboe

As Joseph was a-walking
he heard an angel sing:
"This night there shall be born
on earth our heav'nly King;

"He neither shall be born
in housen nor in hall,
nor in the place of paradise,
but in an ox's stall.

"He neither shall be cloth-ed
in purple nor in pall,
but all in fair linen
as wear the babies all.

"He neither shall be rock-ed
in silver or in gold,
but in a wooden cradle
that rocks upon the mould [ground].

"He neither shall be christen'd
in white wine nor in red,
but with fair spring water
as we were christen-ed."

*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 #15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Danish

POSTLUDE Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

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:

*Paul L. Abbey, John Young, Robert Brown,
Clarence Gillespie*

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 Giovanni Gianfagna by Aline Stabler.

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 Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Poinsettia Flower Delivery - Today

Volunteers are needed on today to deliver poinsettia plants to home-bound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards for each recipient, will be available after the service. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our care and joy to church members not able to join us for worship.

Stop by the Giving Tree, Assembly Hall

Take a card with suggested gift items from the tree and purchase a Christmas gift for the Men of City Mission. Place the gift unwrapped under the Christmas Tree. Gifts must be brought in to FRC by **TODAY**. Please bring sizes large to L-XX. Share the joy of giving with the Men of City Mission.

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 24. 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 December 18**, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

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: Dr. Steady Moono President of SCCC

Dec 25: Coffee and Conversation

Singers Needed!

We are looking for singers to make up a High School/Alumni choir for the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Roughly anyone in high school up through age twenty something. There will be three rehearsals TBD. Please contact Jamie Ipsen if you are interested.

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Peg Delaney, piano: Bill Delaney, bass, Tom D'Andrea, drums

Dec 25: Mike Lampkin, piano

Jan 1: Nat Phipps Trio

Offering Envelopes

2017 offering envelopes are at the church office. There are plenty of extras available for those who did not sign up for them.

Faith Bookshop

Christmas season sale in the Bookshop! Books with pink stickers are half price and some are free. Most other items are marked down. You'll find jewelry, framed pictures of the church, special books for children, stocking stuffers and more. It's a jolly preparation for our closing when church renovations begin.

Youth Group Schedule

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Family Service

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 each Sunday morning in room 20 from 9am - 9:55am

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.

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 25: *Poverty* (Welsh Carol)

Stephen Ministry Training

This week the Stephen Ministry Training class will be receiving instruction on how to get a first visit with a Care Receiver off to a good start. As their initial training wraps up this week, we look forward to commissioning these faithful trainees for their one-to-one ministry of compassionate Christian care to those in our congregation and beyond who are going through a difficult time. If you or someone you know fits that description, contact Daniel Carlson or another Stephen Leader.

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.

Christmas Eve Refreshments

The Christmas Eve Reception this year will be held in Assembly Hall. We count on you to bring your delicious holiday finger foods to share following the 9pm service! If you are able to help with set up or clean up, it would be very much appreciated. Contact Gay Doolittle, 588-2801 or Barbara Walton, 346-1943.

Daily Devotional Books

Group V has their Devotional books available again this year. These make great holiday gifts, hostess gifts, and just thoughtful gifts for friends and family. There are copies available in the book shop. These books can be used over, year after year. The quotes come from religious and non-religious sources. If you have any questions, contact Maria G. Todd, 882-6555, who will also have books. The cost is \$7 each or 3 for \$20.

Free Books

The Johnson Memorial Library is weeding out some of their books. Free books will be available on the tables in the hall way near the library.

Christmas Offering

Mother of Mercy Hospice

In 1997, the Mother of Mercy Hospice was opened for terminally ill patients as an extension of the Home Based Care (HBC) services. It was one of the first hospices established in Zambia. HIV/AIDS cases were increasing at an alarming rate and it was becoming difficult for the formal health sector to take care of all the cases. The Hospice operates in a location where the poorest of the poor live. They have a clinic, an education center, and an orphanage. Andy Chestnut and Bill Levering visited the hospice this summer and were impressed by the care they provided. Volunteers from around the world help there.

Christmas Displays at Entrance Area

"And a little child shall lead them"

Take a moment to view this Advent Season's Narthex displays. See the beautifully hand carved ARI Kuolt wooden figures of the David Coons Van Voast Memorial Crèche and other special Christmas items.

Chrismon Tree

The Chrismon Tree has been donated and decorated by Gay Doolittle and Carolyn Jones-Assini. More details about the tradition can be found in First Things and a brochure in the Dirk Romeyn room. It is given in remembrance of Carol Welch, who supplied the Chrismon Tree for so many years. Gay and Carolyn also want to honor two respective family members: Marjorie Doolittle and Russell Vernon Jones, who were both born on December 25th. They wish to also thank Tom Burgoyne and Gary Nelson, who helped transport and set it up.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

Family Service – 5pm

See the story of Jesus' birth lived-out by children and youth. Infants and children are welcome to this service that has all the magic of Christmas.

Music of the Season – 8:30pm

This year the Chancel Choir will present *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest* by Conrad Susa accompanied by harp, marimba, and piano. There will also be duets by Andrew Janack and Mary McGuinness.

Carols and Candles Service – 9pm

Our traditional Christmas celebration will include the warm hope of tiny candles and familiar songs. Plan on bringing treats and staying to chat with friends. Gay Doolittle and Barbara Walton are looking for helpers for this.

Jazz Christmas Service – 11pm

This year our late service will feature quiet jazz renditions of classic carols. The Peg Delaney Trio will be playing but we will still have *Silent Night*, candles, and a communion opportunity.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

10am Informal Worship

Join our regular celebration with no sermon! We will sing carols and rejoice without neckties.

“You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one.” — John Lennon

“Yes: I am a dreamer. For a dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that he sees the dawn before the rest of the world.” — Oscar Wilde, *The Critic as Artist*

“There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure.” — Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

“All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream.” — Edgar Allan Poe

“Hold fast to dreams,
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird,
That cannot fly.”
— Langston Hughes

“Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.” — Edgar Allan Poe, *Eleonora*

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

“People think dreams aren't real just because they aren't made of matter, of particles. Dreams are real. But they are made of viewpoints, of images, of memories and puns and lost hopes.”
— Neil Gaiman

“I think we dream so we don't have to be apart for so long. If we're in each other's dreams, we can be together all the time.” — A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

“I dream my painting and I paint my dream.” — Vincent Van Gogh

“A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.”
— John Lennon

Sunday, December 18

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
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers, Orff
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 20

10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, December 21

9:30 am Kerygma Conversations
 7:00 pm Short Short Writing Group

Thursday, December 22

7:00 pm Ensemble Practice
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 23

9:30am Chancel Guild Vesting

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Family Service
 8:30 pm Music of the Season
 9:00 pm Carols & Candles Service
 10:00 pm Refreshments
 11:00 pm Jazz Christmas Service

Sunday, December 25

9:00 am Chancel Choir
 10:00 am Worship
 11:00 am Refreshments
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

December 26 & December 27

Church Office Closed

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Bookshop	Christina Jones	
Counting Deacons	Doug Todd, George Trimarco	Linnea D'Andrea, Joan Lindsay
Greeters	Maria Todd	Lyn Gordon
Flower Delivery	Congregational Members	
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Art Casey, Jeanette Davidson, Mary Jewett, Keith Muse, Richard Rose, Maria Todd	Art Casey, Tom Lindsay, James Gonda
Reader	Mary Jewett	George Trimarco
Hospitality	Lian Drisqula & Thomas Zych	
Ushers	Del Pierce (head usher), Mike & Vickie Horan, Doug Todd	Art Shultes (head usher), Jeanette Davidson, Don Davidson, Joan Lindsay, Jim and Sharron McCullough