

***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.*



*January 8, 2017*



***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 after the Epiphany

January 8, 2017

\*The congregation may stand.

## PRELUDE

Eric Marczak, flute  
John Norton, keyboard

*Warrior's Honoring Song* Eric Marczak  
*The Immigrant Song* B. Kean and J. Madden  
*Temor en Los Montana* Eric Marczak

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

## INTROIT

*Canon for Epiphany* Shirley McRae

\*HYMN *Morning Has Broken* #469

## \*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

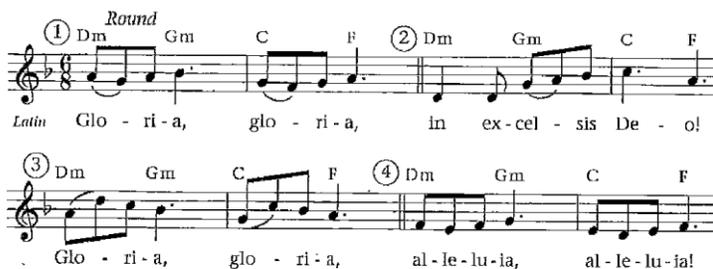
**Almighty God, who makes all things new,  
in this new year we need your help to heal  
our division, break bad patterns, and show  
us new ways of living that lead to a better  
life. Give us wisdom and courage,  
we pray.**

## \*GODS FORGIVING LOVE

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*Gloria, Gloria*

*Round*



Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

*from Our Song of Hope*

**Our only hope is Jesus Christ.  
After we refused to live in the image of  
God, He was born of the virgin Mary,**

**sharing our genes and instincts,  
entering our culture, speaking our  
language, fulfilling the law of our God.  
Being united to Christ's humanity,  
we know ourselves when we rest in Him.**

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

## ANTHEM

*Down to the River to Pray*  
arr. Sheldon Curry

## FIRST LESSON

Gene Rowland

Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.** *Isaiah 42:1-9 (pg 670)*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SECOND LESSON

*Matthew 3:13-17 (pg 3)*

## SERMON

*Righteousness* Bill Levering

## \*HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus* #306

## COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*The Level Plain (Magh Seola)* Gerard Fahy

## \*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

*O God of Every Nation* #289

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Twofold Amen*

Greek

**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:

*Barbara Stroebel, Charlotte King,  
Albert Lawrence, Maude Dunlap,  
Frederick Arnds, Helen Gallagher,  
Walter Betka, Dr. Ming Lee*

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.

**New Stephen Ministers – Today**

Today, our congregation commissions seven new Stephen Ministers: Berta Phipps, Nat Phipps, Sharron McCullough, Matt Jones, Karen Gonda, Bill Clock, and Joanne Bedell. These gifted and skilled members will increase our congregation's caring ministry to those who are experiencing a crisis or are going through a difficult time in life. If you would like a compassionate, trustworthy, faithful, skilled, and Christ-centered Stephen Minister to walk with you through one of life's many rough places, please contact Daniel Carlson or any of other Stephen Leaders: Maria Todd, Vernetta Thuener, Joanne Bedell, Lisa Etkin.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Jan 15:** Martin Luther King Sunday,  
Dialog with Justice Action Council  
Joe Doolittle

**Jan 22** Nurturing Father's Program –  
Wales Brown

**Jan 29:** Choices People Make to Join Church –  
Rev. Jon Norton

**Unity Day – Today**

The second Sunday in January has been set aside each year to honor unity between FRC & UPC. Everyone is invited to join this celebration today following worship in Assembly Hall and Poling Chapel. Savory and sweet refreshments will be served. Enjoy fellowship and music.

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

**Today:** Dave Gleason, piano

**Jan 15:** Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass;  
Tom D'andrea, drums

**Jan 22:** Scott Bassinson, piano

**Jan 29:** Azzaam Hameed, piano

**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.

### **Post-Worship Hospitality Needs**

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, 399-0499, gaysdoolittle@gmail.com or Barbara Walton, 346-1943, waltonbl@aol.com

### **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.

### **Kirk Ringers, Singers, and Orff**

Kirk Ringers, Singers, and Orff will meet from 11:15am to noon in room 20 (at the top of the stairs) each Sunday. We have loads of special music planned and lots of participants are needed! 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, 399-6848.

### **Faith Bookshop**

How can you help the Bookshop prepare for its upcoming move? Buy now, so there's less inventory to pack up! You'll find the sale prices on books and other merchandise enticing. Also, while you're sipping your coffee in Assembly Hall, look over the freebies on the Bookshop's legendary blue cart.

### **Youth Group**

In addition to the mission trip, the entire youth group, from grades 6-12, meets once or twice a month for service and fellowship activities. The two this month are:

**Jan. 22:** We will be serving our very own pancake breakfast, as a fundraiser for this and future year's mission trips. Meet at church at 8am to start making breakfast, which will be served from 8:30-10am before the worship service.

### **Book Return**

Return any library books you have at home in the next two weeks.

### **Library Move**

The Johnson Library will start to pack its book collection the second week of January (10<sup>th</sup>). If you think you can help, please contact Ruth Roinos 399-6915 or e-mail rroinos@gmail.com. If you prefer, you can also call the church office to volunteer. Your help will be very appreciated. P.S. Refreshments will be provided.

### **Lenten Devotional Booklet**

You are invited to make a contribution to this year's Lenten Devotional booklet. A poem, a drawing, a response to a Bible verse, or a short piece about an idea you'd like to share with the congregation. Sign up outside of Assembly Hall and send your submission by email to karengonda6@gmail.com or drop it off at the church office. Our deadline is February 19. Please, conclude whatever you write with a short prayer.

### **Labor-Religion Coalition Interfaith Service**

New York remains the most unequal state in the country, with more than 3 million people living in poverty including a quarter of our children. The need for people of faith and conscience to unite for justice is great. **Monday, January 9** is the start of the new legislative session in New York. Join the Labor-Religion Coalition that evening at 7pm at Congregation Ohav Shalom (113 Krumkill Rd, Albany) or via online livestream ([bit.ly/4AllNY](http://bit.ly/4AllNY)) for an interfaith service, calling on New York to be a leader in promoting social and economic justice. For more information, contact Joe Papparone - [jpaparone@labor-religion.org](mailto:jpaparone@labor-religion.org) 518-290-0268

### **Horizon Bible Study – Jan. 10**

The Horizons Bible study group will resume on January 10 at 10 am in the Poling Conference Room. We will focus on the Old Testament books of I and II Samuel, using a study guide from the Interpretation series. Anyone interested is welcome to participate. Contact Peg Miller for more information.

### **TLC (Tuesday Lunch Club) – Jan. 10**

After the historic downtown Nicholaus building became uninhabitable, Thai Thai Bistro had to find a new home. Closed for 8 months, they have now reopened in Shoprite Square, Niskayuna, on the Balltown Road side between Smashburger and the Dollar Store. The latest reviews have been quite positive and I can't wait to try their Pad Thai (the most popular dish in Thailand). Join the FRC table at 12pm, January 10. Let Gay Doolittle know in person, cell at 399-0499, email gaysdoolittle@gmail.com, or, surprise us by just showing up. Get to know your fellow congregants even better and have a great lunch besides.

### **Word Service – Jan. 13**

Famous Storyteller Kent Busman will be holding forth at the WORD service January 13 at 7pm. Avery will be at the piano and Abby and Bill will be adding spice and sparkle.

### **Short-Short Writing Group Jan. 17**

The FRC Short-Short Writing Critique Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7pm in Assembly Hall. Short-Shorts are fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, essays, and travel pieces told in 1,000 words or less. The mission of the group is to help one another improve as writers.

### **Friendly Church Visitors – Jan. 17**

Are you interested in extending the church's care by making an amicable visit to one of our home-bound members once a month? If so, please plan on attending our initial meeting and training on January 17 at 11:45am or contact Vickie McGowan-Horan (852-0113) or Pastor Daniel Carlson.

### **Tuesday Ladies – Jan 17**

The Tuesday Ladies meet every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Our next meeting on January 17 will be our salad supper meeting. All ladies welcome to chat and get to know each other while we enjoy dinner at 6pm. Hope to see you then. Please call Connie at 393-7061 if you have any questions or for more information.

### **Midmonth Complimentary Dinner - Jan. 18**

On the Wednesday evening nearest the middle of the month a free, nutritious--and often delicious--meal for those who are hungry for good food and fellowship is offered. Come as you are to Assembly Hall, 6pm. No additional food contributions are anticipated, but of course, would be welcome. Participation in the worship that follows is an option for those who wish to stay--but is by no means expected!

### **Midmonth Contemplative Worship**

On the same Wednesday as above at 7pm members and friends gather in the stillness of Poling Chapel to sing a few songs gently accompanied by acoustic guitar; take turns reading a brief portion of Scripture and listening for what the Spirit may be saying; abide quietly in God's loving presence; gather around the Lord's Table where the bread and cup are passed from one person to the next; finally, with hands joined, prayers are offered for those in need. You are invited to contemplative worship.

### **Evening Circle – Jan. 18**

Evening Circle will meet January 18 at Sally Bestgen's home with Jeanette Davidson co-hosting, 2517 Antonia Dr. Niskayuna at 7pm. Shirley Readdean and Mary Pritchard will describe the YWCA's Domestic Violence Program. We will collect purses filled with personal hygiene items for the women in the shelter. Everyone is welcome. Call Ellie Rowland, 250-4302 or sign up in Assembly Hall.

## **Group VII – Jan. 20**

On Friday, January 20 we will meet at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Rev. Daniel Carlson will be our speaker and Mary Jane Dike and Marlene Risseuw.

## **Pancake Breakfast – Jan. 22**

Come to church a little early on January 22. We promise it will be worth it! The Youth Group will serve hot pancakes and sausage from 8:30 until 10am to raise money for their upcoming mission trip to Philadelphia. There is no set fee for this event. The suggested donation is \$10, but are welcome to contribute whatever they are able to pay.

## **Story Sunday – Jan. 22**

A Capital Rep “Assisted Loving” Special Event from 5 to 8 pm, at the Glen Sanders Mansion; Three Spirits: Tell Stories of Assisting and Helping, with Kent Busman, Joe Doolittle and Harlan Ratmeyer. Join us for an evening of fine food, fellowship and super stories as three of the region’s most whimsical and irrepressible storytellers (known to this Congregation) will spin tales sure to take the edge off winter’s chill and bring a warm feeling to the heart. Proceeds will benefit the New Horizons Foundation, a mission outreach to youth in Romania sponsored by the Reformed Church in America and specifically missionaries Rev. and Mrs. Jason White (Maggie Jo Busman) from Schenectady. Jason is a recent graduate of Western Seminary, and was Ordained at Lynwood Reformed.

## **Fellowship Luncheon – Jan 27**

Fellowship Luncheon will be on Friday, Jan. 27 at 11:45am. **“Sing Along” with Nate Phipps** and shake off the winter blues. Join us for good music, good food and good fellowship! Our hostesses are Ellie Rowland and Connie Young. Just bring a dish to share, sit back and enjoy. Remember, Fellowship Luncheon is open to both men and women and all are welcome! Please sign up in Assembly Hall or call Sally Bestgen at 346-0304.

## **We Can’t Take It With Us!**

There is a table upstairs in room 20 filled with items that the church school cannot store/use. It's labeled FREE and will be continually loaded until we have cleaned out the classrooms and supply closet in Poling House. Please come have a look. There might be something you need!!

“We do spiritual ceremonies as human beings in order to create a safe resting place for our most complicated feelings of joy or trauma, so that we don't have to haul those feelings around with us forever, weighing us down. We all need such places of ritual safekeeping.” — Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray, Love*

“For me starting the day without a pot of tea would be a day forever out of kilter.” — Bill Drummond

“The modern habit of doing ceremonial things unceremoniously is no proof of humility; rather it proves the offender's inability to forget himself in the rite, and his readiness to spoil for everyone else the proper pleasure of ritual.” — C.S. Lewis

“Purification and redemption are such recurrent themes in ritual because there is a clear and ubiquitous need for them: we all do regrettable things as a result of our own circumstances, and new rituals are frequently invented in response to new circumstances.” — Susan Cain

“It’s a hard thing to leave any deeply routine life, even if you hate it.” — John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*

“A ritual is the enactment of a myth. And, by participating in the ritual, you are participating in the myth. And since myth is a projection of the depth wisdom of the psyche, by participating in a ritual, participating in the myth, you are being, as it were, put in accord with that wisdom, which is the wisdom that is inherent within you anyhow. Your consciousness is being re-minded of the wisdom of your own life. I think ritual is terribly important.” — Joseph Campbell

**Sunday, January 8**

9:00 am ..... Chancel Choir  
 10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:00 am ..... Unity Reception  
 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers & Singers  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vespers

**Monday, January 9**

9:00 am ..... Men's news Group  
 7:00 pm ..... Klokken Tower Ringers

**Tuesday, January 10**

10:00 am ..... Morning Prayer  
 10:00 am ..... Horizons Bible study  
 11:30 am ..... Standing Committees  
 7:30 pm ..... Consistory

**Wednesday, January 11**

9:30 am ..... Kerygma Conversations  
 2:00 pm ..... Staff Meeting

**Thursday, January 12**

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

**Friday, January 13**

7:00 pm ..... WORD Service

**Sunday, January 15**

9:00 am ..... Chancel Choir  
 10:00 am ..... Worship  
 10:15 am ..... Church School K-5  
 11:15 am ..... Kirk Ringers & Singers  
 5:00 pm ..... Jazz Vesper

| <b>Sunday Volunteers</b> | <b>This Sunday</b>  | <b>Next Sunday</b>  |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Counting Deacons</b>  | Claire Hughes, Lyn Gordon   | Richard Gardner, Claire Hughes  |
| <b>Flower Delivery</b>   | Sally & Jack Bestgen,<br>Linda & Bill Ward  | Katy & Rudy Petersen, Elizabeth Taft  |
| <b>Liturgist</b>         | Daniel Carlson  | Stacey Midge  |
| <b>Preacher</b>          | Bill Levering   | Bill Levering   |
| <b>Processing Elders</b> | Liz Mastrianni, Susan Houpt,<br>Peggy King, Margaret Schadler,<br>Gene Zeltmann,<br>Don & Marilyn Leach | Walt Robb, Phil Falconer, Gay Doolittle,<br>Peggy King,<br>Barbara Walton             |
| <b>Reader</b>            | Gene Rowland  |   |
| <b>Hospitality</b>       | Unity Celebration   |   |
| <b>Ushers</b>            | Tom Burgoyne (head usher),<br>David Bundy, Joe Gotwals,<br>Karen Gonda, Berta & Nat Phipps              | Bill Clock (head usher),<br>Ray Bostick, Jacob Etkin,<br>Kay Koroma, Nancy Wainwright |