

***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.



December 9, 2018

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

Welcome to First Reformed

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.

After Worship

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

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.

Non-Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911

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.



Hearing Assistance

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

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 please fill out a white pew card.

Restroom

If you are looking for a first floor handicap accessible restroom the Mohawk House is open.

Child Care on Sunday - Kinderwyk

Childcare for infants through Pre-k is available from 9:45am until noon downstairs in Friendship Hall.

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 in the Walton House. Children participating in communion on the first Sunday of the month will return to service.

Service Online

A live stream of the worship service as well as some of the past services can be found at 1stReformed.com.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Wayne Hawkins, piano

GREETING

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Bachorik Family

Capo 1

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

*HYMN

Prepare Ye

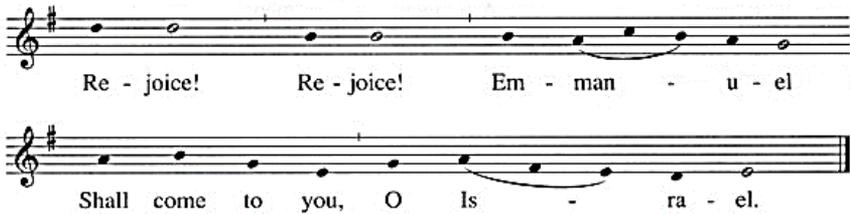
f Pre - pare ye - the way of the Lord!
Pre - pare ye - the way of the Lord!

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

God of all time, we are stuck in empty patterns of our past and long to embrace new insights, hope, and joy. God of right now, move us beyond petty distractions, and focus us on your presence in our lives. Help us act to bring about your peace.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)



*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (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

Dan Gleason, Percussion; Dan Ertel, bass

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

David Clydesdale

The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Ev'ry valley shall be filled, and ev'ry mountain be made low.
The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

The crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough places plain.
And all flesh shall see, and all flesh shall see
The salvation of our God!

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4 (pg 889)

Amy Brule

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Liam Battjes

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:1-6 (pg 60)

SERMON

Our Response to Warning

Bill Levering

*HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

#10

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Swinging Gloria

Angerman and Barrett

Gloria in excelsis Deo (Glory to God in the Highest)
Soli Deo gloria, (Unto God alone be the glory)
Et in terra pax hominibus (And on earth Peace to men)

*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

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

#20

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

#583

POSTLUDE



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:

Sally Hahn, Marguerite Carr, Ethel Avery, Harold W. Lapham, Dee Gravink, Adeline Graham, Peg Norton

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.

Give Christmas Memorial Flowers

Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. Your loved ones will be remembered in the bulletin on Dec 16. The donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for Christmas 2018. Please call 518-377-2201 or email, 1streformedpub@gmail.com no later than Thursday, Dec 13, to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309.

Poinsettia Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Dec 16 to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound church members. The plants, along with addressed cards, will be available after the service. This is a meaningful opportunity to extend our care and support to church members not able to join us for worship.

All FRC/UPC Choral Alumni

Our 5pm Christmas Eve service we are looking to have as many First Reformed and UPC alumni who grew up in our choirs to stand and sing together. In past years, we have had a choir consisting of our recent alumni and we would like to expand our possibilities! This year we would like to include ALL of our past youth members in singing a song together. Please call Jamie Ipsen 518-399-6848 or let the church office know if you will be attending the 5pm service so she can get music to you and notify you of rehearsals.

Narthex Display Cases

The Narthex display cases during Advent and Christmas will feature two beautiful displays of nativity scenes. One, will contain the Van Voast family crèche which has been displayed during past advent seasons. The other display case will contain a display designed by Kathy Petersen. Kathy has a vast collection of miniatures depicting the holy land that tell the whole story of the nativity. She has a family tradition of turning a room in her house over to the display of the nativity during advent and Christmas. The Narthex display case will feature a smaller version of her collection. Please take the time to view both beautiful displays during advent and Christmas.

Post-Worship Hospitality Needs

Please consider hosting our post-worship fellowship a couple of Sundays during the year. The sign-up sheet and instructions are in Dirck Romeyn room.

Christmas gifts for the Men of City Mission

Suggestion cards can be taken from the small Christmas tree in the Dirck Romeyn room. Buy new gifts and bring them back unwrapped and place them by the tree Dec 2-16. Warm clothing and coats are suggested. Contact Amy Brule with any questions.

Support and Care

We are looking for those interested in grocery shopping for the homebound in our midst. We invite you to consider helping with this supportive ministry. Give Daniel Carlson, 518-346-6416 or Barbara Walton, 518-346-1943 a call if you feel moved to care in this way.

Johnson Library

There are two new books on the library shelf. The first is a new book by Doris Kearns Goodwin, it is *Leadership in Turbulent Times*. She uses four presidents to show how they recognized leadership qualities in themselves and used them. The second is *The Library Book*, by Susan Orleans. It is the story of the 1986 devastating fire at the Los Angeles Public Library and explores the mystery of how it happened. She introduces you to the many people who worked to save parts of its collections and restore it to its important role in the community. There is also a collection of Advent and Christmas books to explore.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Nancy Wainwright	Martha Winchester
Church School	Sarah Bachorik, Tom Mancuso	Liam Battjes, Tom Mancuso
Counting Deacons	Dick Gardner, Gay Doolittle	Joan Lindsay, Christina Jones
Flower Delivery	Gay Doolittle, Karen & James Gonda	Poinsettia Flower Delivery
Jazz Vespers	Dave Gleason, piano; Mike Lawrence bass; Brian Patneau, sax; Ben O'Shea, trombone	Nat Phipps, piano; Keith Pray, sax
Kinderwyk	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Liz Gleason	Dorothy Linder Mitchell, Elsa Hjelmar
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Vickie McGowan- Horan, Walt Robb, Bill Rochelle, Maria Todd, Jeanne Shoulder	Gay Doolittle, Peggy King, Don & Marilyn Leach, Phil Falconer, Tom Lindsay
Reader	Amy Brule	Cynde Schwartz
Ushers	Bill Clock, Nancy Wainwright, Alden Brown, Adam Kerwin	Art Shultes, Joan Lindsay, Joanne & Hendrick Arnold, Jeanette & Don Davidson
Sign up for any of these important jobs at 1streformed.com		

Coming Up

More information is in the newsletter at the back of the sanctuary

Dec 9	8:30am	St. Nicholas Breakfast	Dirck Romeyn
	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11:15am	First Forum - Poor Peoples' Campaign	Mohawk - Lunn
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Balcony
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
Dec 11	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk - Pres.
	11:30am	Stephen Leaders	Hope room
Dec 12	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk - Pres.
	6pm	Fellowship Meal	Dirck Romeyn
	7pm	Contemplative Worship	Sanctuary
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Dirck Romeyn
Dec 13	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Dec 16	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11:15am	Church Poinsettia Delivery	Mohawk - Lunn
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Balcony
	11:15am	Open Hearts	Mohawk - Lunn
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
	6pm	J-Walkers Christmas Party	Mohawk - Lunn
Dec 18	10am	Horizons Bible Study	Mohawk - Pres.
	7pm	Short Short Writing	Mohawk - Lunn
Dec 19	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk - Pres.
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Mohawk - Pres.
Dec 20	7:30pm	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Dec 23	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Mezzanine
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Friendship Hall
	10:15am	Church School	Walton House
	11:15am	First Forum	Mohawk - Lunn
	11:15am	FRC Orff Group	Balcony
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary