

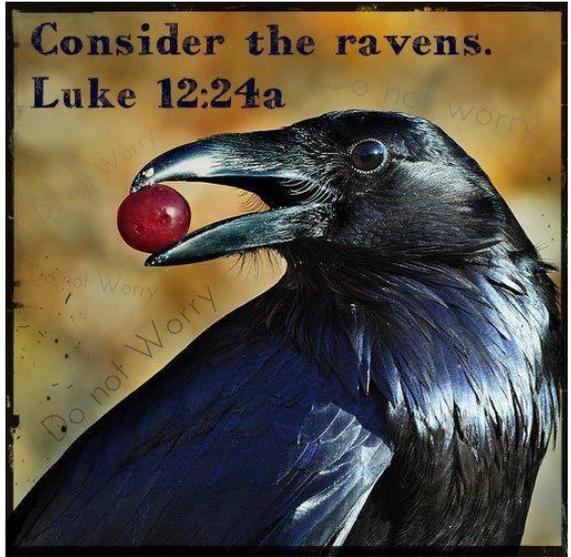
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

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.



**Consider the ravens.
Luke 12:24a**

***Because we put God First,
we are dedicated to caring
for creation,
for human diversity,
for the next generations,
and for each other.***

September 15, 2019

***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 pick up and fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate. After the service please join us for refreshments.

Child Care on Sunday - Kinderwyk

Childcare for infants through Pre-k is available from 9:45am until noon downstairs in the Education Level.

Children's Church

All children in grades K-8 are welcome to join in our Children's Church program in the education level by leaving the sanctuary after the children's message. Parents can pick up their children at 11:15am downstairs in the Education Level.

Children's Music

Music for kids is offered in the upstairs music level between 11:15-12pm.

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.

Service Online

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

After Worship

Typically, after worship, people stop for a chat and a cookie in Covenant Hall 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.

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.



Hearing Assistance

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

Non-Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911



Season of Creation: Animal Sunday

September 15, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Wayne Hawkins

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daniel Carlson

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

God Who Built This Wondrous Planet

John Ferguson

*HYMN

All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir

Bill Staines

Chorus:

*All God's critters got a place in the choir,
Some sing low, some sing higher;
Some sing loud on the telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, (or paws, or fins, or claws),
Or anything they got now!*

**Listen to the bass it's the one on the bottom,
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-toot,
And the old cow just goes moo. MOOOO!**

Chorus

**The dogs and cats they take up the middle,
Where the honey bee hums and the crickets fiddle,
The donkey brays and the pony neighs,
And the old gray badger sighs. SIGHHHH!**

Chorus

**Listen to the top where the little birds singing,
All the melodies and the high notes swinging;
And the hoot owl cries over everything,
And the blackbird disa-grees. CAW! CAW! CAW!**

Chorus

**It's a simple song of living sung everywhere,
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear,
Grumpy alligator and the hog above,
The sly old weasel and the turtle dove. Oooh, Oooh, Oooh.**

***OUR NEED FOR GOD**

O Lord of heaven and earth: we ask your forgiveness for degrading and destroying earth's bounty. Have mercy on us when we selfishly take it's beauty and majesty for granted. Give us a broader vision to see our connection to the creatures who share this planet. Renew us in the waters of baptism, revive us with the winds of your Spirit, and redeem us through Christ the firstborn of all creation. Amen.

***GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)**

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from our Creation Care Resolution*)**

Scripture reveals that God, through Word and Spirit, creates, sustains, loves, and owns the world. We commit to make care of creation a central priority in our congregation, for the blessing of the world, the strengthening of our lives, the transformation of our communities, and the glory of God.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Gavin Edward Muse, child of Lindsey and Keith Muse

***BLESSING AND WELCOME**

Welcome our new sister in Christ.

Joyfully we receive you into the body of Christ. Join with us as we give witness in the world to the good news, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

ANTHEM

Canticle of Creation

Mark Burrows

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini
Great are the works of the Lord
Benedicite, omnia opera Domini
Great are His works, Praise the Lord!

Rivers and streams praise the Lord;
Birds of the air, flocks of the field,
Whales of the sea;

Let all the earth praise the Lord
Mountains and hills: Flowers and forests;
All things that grow on the earth.

Sun moon and stars praise the Lord
Heaven and earth, sunlight and shadows
All give their praise to the Lord.
Great are His works, Praise the Lord

FIRST LESSON

Job 39:1-12, 26-30 (pg 485)

Kristin Lion

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Luke 12:22-31 (pg 74)

SERMON

Consider the Ravens

Bill Levering

*HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

#267

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I Never Saw A Moor

Richard Pearson Thomas
Anastasia Robin Duffy, soloist

I never saw a Moor
I never saw the Sea
Yet know I how the heather
looks and what a wave must be.

I never spoke with God,
nor visited in Heaven
Yet certain am I of the spot as if the
chart was given

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

**Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God’s delighted laugh,
from the tiny roly-poly to the treetop tall giraffe.**

**All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice
As they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker’s voice**

**Earth is full of wit and wisdom, Woven into harmony.
Every creature has a purpose, every flower and bumblebee.
Spiders, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake,
live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make.**

**Earth is full of wit and wisdom: penguin, platypus and snail, cactus,
sea slug, oak and alge, from the microbe to the whale.
In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth:
born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

#585

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:

George Vlahides

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.

First Forum: His 9/11/2001 Story

Dave Pizzolo was inside the Twin Towers (1 WTC, 12th Floor) on 9/11. He'll share his story of this experience including how he made it out alive that day and is open to addressing any questions about the same.

Season of Creation

During September we join a growing number of congregations world-wide in attending to scriptures that emphasize various aspects of Divine Wisdom in Creation and worshiping God with the Oceans, Animals, Storms, and the Cosmos.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

Choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. 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 Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Green Steps

When buying reusable produce bags, be sure to research the company and the bags that you are ordering. Make sure that you are not reducing the use of plastic by substituting bags that are made with child labor, pesticides, unsustainable methods, etc. For more details, look on the FRC website.

Bag Donations

Karen Giuzio is collecting used market and canvas bags for the Presbyterian food pantry. You may drop off bags in the collection bin located near the church office.

Volunteer Guides Needed

Stockade Walkabout

This year's Walkabout is Sat. Sept 28. FRC is getting ready to share transformation of old buildings to new spaces that provide for the needs of members and community in the 21st century. We need a few guides for two hour shifts between 11am-5pm to welcome guests and share our story. Contact Laura Lee lleelinder@gmail.com or Carol DeLaMarter at 518-393-4725 if you can help. If your church group is planning to be a part of this event, let Carol know so that it is included in Walkabout information.

FRC Sole Searchers

On Sat., Sept 21, the FRC Sole Searchers will head to the Saratoga Spa SP for a five-mile loop excursion on mostly easy terrain. Pack a lunch and meet in the church parking lot at 9am. There is a \$10 fee per car to enter the park. RSVP to James @ jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Jane Wilkinson
Counting Deacons	Dave Hjelm, Richard Gardner	Caroline Brooks, Brandon Stabler
Flower Delivery	Kip & Joanne Arnold, Inge-Lise Pangburn	Ellie & Gene Rowland, Carol Troost
Forum	His 9/11 Stories by Dave Pizzolo	BioSoil Farm by Chad Currin
Greeters	Cathy & Brad Lewis	Lisa & Julia Etkin
Jazz Vespers	Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass	Azzaam Hameed, piano; Mike Lawrence, bass; Bob Halek, drums
Kinderwyk	Dave Pizzolo, Alexis Wisniewski	Christina Jones, Natalie Pizzolo
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Bill Levering
Preacher	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, James & Karen Gonda, Brad & Cathy Lewis,	Vickie McGowan-Horan, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Mary Jewett, Marilyn & Don Leach
Reader	Kristin Lion	Marilyn Leach
Refreshments	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Christina Jones, Matt Jones, Aline Stabler	Del Pierce, Lian Drisgula, Christine Lund, Tom Zych

Coming Up

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

Sun, Sept 15	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Education Level
	10am	Worship / Baptism	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	Education Level
	11:15am	Children's Church Pickup	Education Level
	11:15am	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Mon, Sept 16	10:30am	Glen Eddy Group	Glen Eddy
Tue, Sept 17	10am	Horizon's Bible Study	Mohawk – Pres
	7pm	Book Study on Racism	Mohawk – Lunn
		Short Short Writing	Mohawk – Pres
Wed, Sept 18	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk – Pres
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	11:30am	First Things Volunteers	Mohawk – Lunn
	5:30pm	Anti-harassment Workshop	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Music Level
Thu, Sept 19	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	6:30pm	Stephen Ministry	Mohawk – Lunn
	7pm	Chancel Choir	Music Level
Fri, Sept 20	9:30am	Global Climate March/Rally	Parking Lot
Sun, Sept 22	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Chords of Love	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk	Education Level
	10am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	Education Level
	11:15am	Children's Church Pickup	Education Level
	11:15am	Children's Music	Music Level
	11:15am	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
5pm	Youth Group	FRC Scotia	

"I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals."
— Winston S. Churchill

"People are not worried by real problems so much as by imagined anxieties about real problems" — Epictetus

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."
— Anatole France

"Our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strengths." — C. H. Spurgeon

"The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men." — Alice Walker

"To venture causes anxiety, but not to venture is to lose one's self... And to venture in the highest is precisely to be conscious of one's self." — Søren Kierkegaard