

**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.



*Ready or not
The game begins
The hiders hide
The seeker seeks*

*Ready or not
Here
God arrives
So soon.*

*99
100!*

December 1, 2019

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

*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 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.

Parking

You may park right out in front of the church in the 'no parking' area' (only) if you have trouble getting around.

Childcare on Sunday

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

Youth Ed & Nurture

Following the Children's Message all children are invited downstairs to the Youth Ed & Nurture Level to participate in Dwell Kids Class (3rd-8th grade) or Young Children and Worship (K-2nd grade); parents pick up their children there at 11:15am.

Children's Music After Worship

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

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders called 'elders' walk in together and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

Helping Others Focus

It will be easier for God to get through if we silence our cell phones. God can always call you later.

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. All are welcome.

Open 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



First Sunday In Advent

December 1, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Prelude No. 21 in Bb Major

Prelude No. 17 in Ab Major

Max Caplan

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Daniel Carlson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Sheila Shea, Phil and Gavin Zollweg

Capo 1

① Eb(D) Ab(G) Eb(D) ② Ab(G) Eb(D) ③

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and

Ab(G) Eb(D) ④ Ab(G) Eb(D)

all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

*HYMN

Prepare the Way

#13

*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.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

Gloria, Gloria

#576

*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

Carol of Joy

Dan Forrest

Green leaves have fallen, withered and dry, Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky; Lengthening shadows, dark closing in; Then through the stillness, carols begin.	O fearful world, to you is the song! Peace with your God, and pardon from wrong. Tidings for sinners burdened and bound. Carol of joy, a Savior is found!
O fallen world, to you is the song! Death holds you fast and night tarries long. Jesus will come, your curse to destroy; Sweet to your ears, a carol of joy.	Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies. Look up, and sad-hearted! Witness God's love; Join in the carol swelling above!
Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; Cold barren hillside shrouded in snow. Deep empty valley, veiled by the night; Hear angel music, hopeful and bright.	O friendless world, to you is the song! All heaven's joy to you may belong! You who are lonely, laden, forlorn, Now unto you, a Savior is found

FIRST LESSON

Romans 13:11-14 (pg 162)

Cathy Lewis

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44 (pg 27)

SERMON

Ready, Steady, Go

Bill Levering

*HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#5

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas gifts for City Mission

Amy Brule

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Perfect Peace

Mark Andrew

The God who puts the stars in place,
Whose hand created Heaven and earth,
Has made the heart of man to yearn
For perfect peace, Peace, perfect peace.

To him Almighty God will grant Him
Perfect peace, His perfect peace

The one who puts his trust in God.
Whose mind is stayed on things above,

To him Almighty God will grant his peace
Perfect peace, Peace, perfect peace.
In the midst of trouble, in the dark of despair
Fill us with Your perfect peace

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

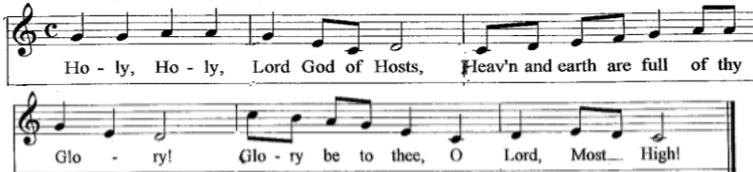
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION AND PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

SANCTUS (*unison*)

Carl Steubing



DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Gluten-free bread is available from the roving minister

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#2

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Traditional

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:

Donald Lemon, Maurice B. Tracy Eulia Arnds, Edgar Pitzer, Mary Frances Case, Robert S. Crandall, Robert Bruce Crandell, Katherine Rozendaal, Arthur E. Peterson

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.

Giving Memorial Flowers for Christmas

Each year the church is decorated with plants and greens during the holiday season. To remember your loved ones in the bulletin on December 15 the donation is \$20. Even if you have donated in previous years, you must place a new order for 2019. Call the church office or 1streformedpub@gmail.com no later than December 11 to make arrangements. Send payment to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, 12309

Green Steps: Happy Holiday Habits

This holiday, give the gift of an experience like concert or museum tickets. Or donate an animal to a rural African family on someone's behalf, ensuring a sustainable livelihood. Lend a small sum to people in underdeveloped communities through Kiva.org to break the poverty cycle. Give a gift that brings joy to others.

Advent Festival - Today

All ages gather in Covenant Hall for a covered dish dinner, fellowship, and crafts. For dinner at 5pm, bring a seasonal favorite food to share. After our meal, we will make advent wreaths from natural materials and hand dipped candles! We will conclude at 7pm with a brief liturgy around our candlelit wreath.

Breakfast with Saint Nicholas - Dec 8

No matter your age or faith tradition, join us Sunday, December 8 from 8:30-9:45am for a complimentary Dutch breakfast of pancakes, oatmeal, fruit, and chocolate sprinkle sandwiches followed by crafts and a visit from the just and generous Sinterklaas, telling stories and giving gifts!

Christmas Flower Delivery

Volunteers are needed on Sunday, December 15 to deliver poinsettia plants to homebound 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 support to church members not able to join us for worship.

Volunteers Needed for SICM Dinner

First Reformed Church is hosting the annual SICM dinner December 3 at 6pm. We need to provide the desserts. If you can donate dessert, please email Ellie Rowland at erowland@nycap.rr.com and bring your donation to the church kitchen anytime on December 3 before 6pm.

Benefit Dinner for MoonCatcher Project

You are invited to a Lasagna Dinner to benefit the MoonCatcher project on Dec 11 at 6pm. Cost is a free-will donation. Please email erowland@nycap.rr.com or call the church office to make reservations.

“There are two things we should always be 1. raw and 2. ready. When you are raw, you are always ready and when you are ready you usually realize that you are raw. Waiting for perfection is not an answer, one cannot say "I will be ready when I am perfect" because then you will never be ready, rather one must say "I am raw and I am ready just like this right now, how and who I am.” – C. JoyBell C.

“People tend to find books when they are ready for them.” – Neil Gaiman

“Opportunity doesn't make appointments, you have to be ready when it arrives.” – Tim Fargo

“Good things seldom catch people flat-footed, they locate those working hard and smart.” – Vincent Okay Nwachukwu

“Always remember that negative feelings and undue grudges will swallow you up, so be ready to forgive someone who, at any point in time, angered you.” – Dr Prem Jagyasi

“Prior Preparation Prevents Poor Performance.” – British Army

“Her heart was pounding in anticipation and a queer kind of excitement. She was ready. Was that the same as happy?” – Simone St. James, The Broken Girls

“If liberty is abused, get ready for an awkward result” – Sunday Adelaja

“Opportunities are never lost; they go to someone who’s awake and ready to host them attentively.” – Vincent Okay Nwachukwu

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Birdie Blackmer	Committee Member
Candle Lighters	Sheila Shea, Phil and Gavin Zollweg	Jaclyn, Kevin, Dylan, and Carson Weber, Carol and George Leitze
Children & Worship	Jeanette Davidson	Jeanette Davidson
Counting Deacons	Lian Drisgula, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Sarah Bachorik, Dave Hjelmarr
Dwell Kids Teacher	James Gonda	Dave Pizzolo
Flower Delivery	Connie Young, Marilyn & Don Leach	Cynde Schwartz, Christina Jones
Forum	Coffee and Conversation	2 nd Sunday Potluck
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Tim Olsen, solo piano
Kinderwyk	Kristin Lion, Claire Hughes	Alexis Wisniewski, Natalie Pizzolo
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Art Casey, Jeanne Shoulder, Barbara Walton	Laura Lee, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Tom Lindsay, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose, Ellie Rowland
Reader	Cathy Lewis	Gene Rowland
Refreshments	Amanda Potter	Bring a dish to share
Ushers	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Gabby Pizzolo, Julia Etkin	Matt & Christina Jones, Florence Reed, Aline Stabler, Philip Zollweg

Coming Up

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

Sun, Dec 1	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk Childcare	Forest Nursery
	10am	Worship/Communion	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Dwell Kids' Class	Mountain room
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	River room
	11:15am	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
	3pm	Introductions to the FRC	Church Office
	5pm	Advent Festival	Covenant Hall
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary
Mon, Dec 2	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
Tue, Dec 3	11:30am	Support & Care	Mohawk – Pres.
	6pm	SICM Dinner	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Writing Critique Group	Mohawk – Lunn
Wed, Dec 4	7:30am	Retirement Roundtable	Mohawk – Lunn
	9:30am	Kerygma Conversations	Mohawk – Pres.
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	1pm	Retirement Roundtable	Mohawk – Lunn
	7pm	Stockade Strummers	Poling Chapel
	7pm	Membership & Fellowship	Mohawk – Pres.
Thu, Dec 5	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton room
	7pm	Chancel Choir	Choir room
Sun, Dec 8	8:30am	Breakfast With Saint Nicholas	Covenant Hall
	9am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	Music Level
	9:45am	Kinderwyk Childcare	Forest Nursery
	10am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Dwell Kids' Class	Mountain room
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	River room
	11:15am	2 nd Sunday Potluck	Covenant Hall
	11:15am	FRC Orff-estra	Choir room
5pm	Jazz Vespers	Sanctuary	