

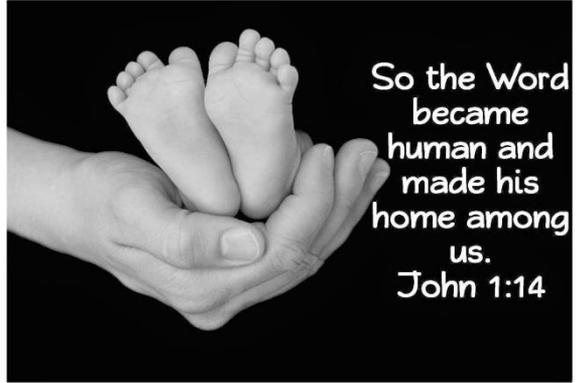
**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

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.



**So the Word
became
human and
made his
home among
us.
John 1:14**

January 5, 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



Second Sunday After Christmas Day

January 5, 2019

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE

Rêverie

Max Caplan

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daniel Carlson

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

Medieval Gloria

Vijay Singh

Kevin Kenny, recorder

Catherine Kenny-Wilkerson, percussion

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

#36

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

O Holy One, despite your arrival as Emmanuel, we mostly focus on our ambitions, diversions and fears. We neglect attending to your presence and purpose in our waking and dreaming. Forgive us and guide us by your Spirit in the way of Christ our Light. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*unison*)

Gloria, Gloria

#576

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 (*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 our 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

With Wondering Awe

Rachel P. Mohlman

With wond'ring awe the wisemen saw
The star in heaven springing,
And with delight, in peaceful night,
They heard the angels singing:

And still is found, the world around,
The old and hallowed story,
And still is sung in ev'ry tongue
The angels' song of glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to his name!

The heav'nly star its rays afar

By light of star they traveled far
To seek the lowly manger,
A humble bed wherein was laid
The wondrous little Stranger.

On ev'ry land is throwing,
And shall not cease till holy peace
In all the earth is growing.

FIRST LESSON

Jerimiah 31:7-14 (pg 734)

Cathy Lewis

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

John 1: 1-18 (pg 91)

SERMON

Word

Bill Levering

*HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

#49

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christina Jones and James Gonda

Youth Mission Trip

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

English Noel

King Henry VIII, arr. Liebergen

Kel Szydagis and Catherine Kenny-Wilkerson, percussion

Kevin Kenny, recorder

Sing noel, come sing we all noel.
Celebrate this joyful time of year!
Sing noel, come sing we all noel.
Lift a song for everyone to hear!

Hear music ring!
O raise your voice in song!

O raise your voice!
Let all rejoice with us the whole day long;
Now dance and sing!

Sing noel, come sing we all noel.
Hand in hand we join in great delight!
Sing noel, come sing we all noel.
Dance and sing together day and night!

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

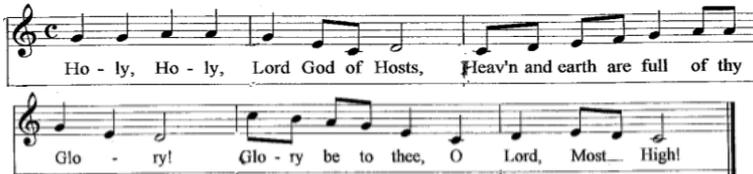
SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION AND PRAYER

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

What Child Is This

#53

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

+ + +

Music Notes

Today's singers are members of the Thursday Musical Club, which has been directed by Julie Panke since 2003. The group presents two concerts a year and is in its 107th season.

Offering Envelopes

2020 Offering Envelopes are available in the church office. There are extra available if anyone needs them.

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:

James Caufield, Priscilla Brightly, Barbara Stroebel, Charlotte King, Albert Lawrence, Maude Dunlap, Frederick Arnds, Helen Gallagher, Walter Betka, Nancy Beekman, Ruth Scholtz, Clarence Countermine

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.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

Sign up for flowers in the church office where you can 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 - Buying Healthy Rugs

When buying a new rug, preserve safe air quality in your home with natural fibers like wool, sisal, jute, seagrass and organic cotton. Beware of chemical treatments such as stain resistance and fire-proofing, etc. which are toxic.

Sunday Volunteers	This Week	Next Week
Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Children & Worship	Mary Carlson	Dave Hjelm
Counting Deacons	Gay Doolittle, Brandon Stabler	Bill Rochelle, Fred Daniels
Dwell Kids Teacher	Dave Pizzolo	Bill Potter
Forum	Illuminating Community Solar II by Dan Gleason & Creation Care Team	No First Forum
Jazz Vespers	Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass	Dave Gleason, piano
Kinderwyk	Alexis Wisniewski, Liz Gleason	Alexis Wisniewski, Jaclyn Weber
Liturgist	Daniel Carlson	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Joanne Arnold, Brad & Cathy Lewis, Vickie McGowan-Horan	Birdie Blackmer, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Laura Lee, Del Pierce, Richard Rose
Reader	Cathy Lewis	Ellie Rowland
Refreshments	Fellowship	2 nd Sunday Potluck
Ushers	Mike Horan, Hannah Bachorik, Sarah Bachorik, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Ralph Rosenthal	Tom Burgoyne, David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Karen Gonda, Julia Etkin

Coming Up

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

Sun, Jan 5	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	Rooftop Room
	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	First Forum	Poling Chapel
	11:15am	Children's Music	Rooftop Room
	3pm	Introductions to FRC	Church Office
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
Mon, Jan 6	6pm	Community Yoga	Covenant Hall
	6:30pm	Creation Care	Library
Tue, Jan 7	11:30am	Support & Care	Mohawk – Pres.
	6pm	Yoga with Karen	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Writers Critique Group	Mohawk – Lunn
Wed, Jan 8	7:30am	Retirement Roundtable	Mohawk – Pres.
	9:30am	Kerygma	Mohawk – Pres.
	11:30am	Wednesday Lunch	Covenant Hall
	1pm	Retirement Roundtable	Mohawk – Lunn
	2pm	Staff Meeting	Church Office
	6pm	Membership & Fellowship	Mohawk – Pres.
	6:30pm	Square Dancing	Covenant Hall
	7pm	Adult Ukulele	Poling Chapel
Thu, Jan 9	7:30am	Breakfast Bible Bunch	Mohawk – Lunn
	10am	Stitch Group	Walton Room
Sat, Jan 11	8:30am	Saturday Breakfast	Covenant Hall
Sun, Jan 12	9am	Choir Rehearsal	Music Level
	9am	Ukuleles For All Ages	Rooftop Room
	9:45am	Kinderwyk Childcare	Forest Nursery
	10am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Dwell Kids' Class	Mountain room
	10:15am	Young Children and Worship	River room
	11am	2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch	Covenant Hall
	11:15am	Children's Music	Rooftop Room
	5pm	Jazz Vespers	Covenant Hall
	5pm	Youth Group	FRC Schenectady

“Words can be like X-rays if you use them properly -- they’ll go through anything. You read and you’re pierced.” — Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language
And next year’s words await another voice.”
— T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*

“Words are pale shadows of forgotten names.
As names have power, words have power.
Words can light fires in the minds of men.
Words can wring tears from the hardest
hearts.” — Patrick Rothfuss, *The Name of the Wind*

“So Matilda’s strong young mind continued to grow, nurtured by the voices of all those authors who had sent their books out into the world like ships on the sea. These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You are not alone.” — Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

“Some people have a way with words, and other people...oh, uh, not have way.” — Steve Martin

“She had always wanted words, she loved them; grew up on them. Words gave her clarity, brought reason, shape.” — Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*

“I believe that words are strong, that they can overwhelm what we fear when fear seems more awful than life is good.” — Andrew Solomon, *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*

“I believe in the magic and authority of words.” — René Char

“We live and breathe words.” — Cassandra Clare, *Clockwork Prince*

“Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak knits up the o-er wrought heart and bids it break.” — William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*

“I would hurl words into this darkness and wait for an echo, and if an echo sounded, no matter how faintly, I would send other words to tell, to march, to fight, to create a sense of the hunger for life that gnaws in us all.” — Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

