

Welcome to First Reformed Church

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 in the room to the left of the front of the sanctuary after the service for coffee and refreshments.

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.

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available between 10am and noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

Church School

Children in grades K-8, who are visiting today, are welcome to join in our Church School activities! Follow the 'crowd' out of the sanctuary immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children at 11:15am in Room 20 on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

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.

Communion

Our congregation usually celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sundays of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

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 and are particularly encouraged to visit the Dirck Romeyn Room to the left of the sanctuary for five or ten minutes.

Joining the Congregation

To be 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.

Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 2, 2011

Is your cell phone on?

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Noel huron (1997)

Partita on "Irby" (1992)

Variations sur "In dulci jubilo" (1992)

Denis Bédard

John A. Behnke

Denis Bédard

10:00 a.m.

+ + + **The Approach to God** + + +

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

Arise Your Light Is Come!

Festal Song

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #292 *All Beautiful the March of Days*

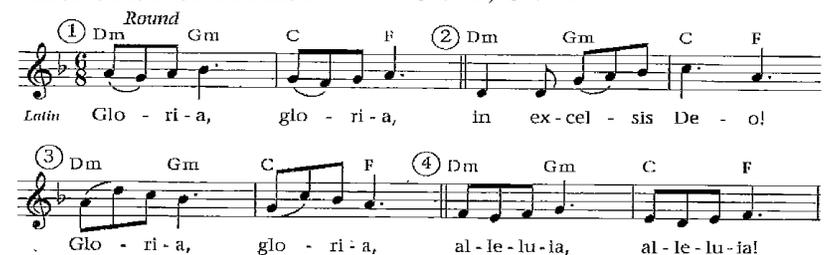
*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Gracious God, you provided a star and scripture to magi seeking Jesus long ago. We confess that we are often lost, yet rarely do we look for your leading within and beyond us. In our waking and sleeping attune us to your Spirit's presence and guidance so that we may walk in the light of our Lord. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria, Gloria



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!

Text: Luke 2:14

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

© 1979, Les Presses de Taizé (France), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(adapted from the Belhar Confession)*

God has been revealed as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. In a world full of injustice and enmity, God stands with the destitute, the poor and the wronged. We as the church therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need. The church strives against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *Look Up and Wonder* Iona Community

Look up and wonder at the stars which fascinate creation.
Are these not fit to fill God's heart with gladness and elation?
Yet God forsakes the boundless skies for earth and incarnation.

Look round at worldly wealth and skill, at intellect and labor.
Are these not fit to handle heav'n and guarantee God's favor?
Yet God forsakes what we pursue to meet the humblest neighbor.

Look down on makeshift dwelling place for animal or stranger.
Is this not fit to distance God from trouble, dirt, and danger?
Yet God forsakes a better home to hallow mess and manger.

Christ must be cradled, not in stars or fame or worldly treasure;
Instead God chooses those whose hearts hold things that none can measure.
In justice, kindness, love and peace Christ finds his place and pleasure.

+ + + **The Word of God** + + +

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Nancy Wainwright

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

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 60: 1-3 (page 690)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 2: 1-12 (page 2)*

SERMON *In a Dream* Daniel Carlson

*HYMN #68 *What Star Is This* Puer Nobis Nascitur

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *O Morning Star* Wie Shcon Leuchtet

O Morning Star, how fair and bright Thou beamest forth in truth and light! O Sovereign meek and lowly! Thou root of Jesse, David's Son, my Lord and Savior, Thou hast won my heart to serve Thee solely! Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine, and make Thee there an alter! Fill me with joy and strength to be Thy member, ever joined to Thee in love that cannot falter! Toward Thee longing doth possess me; turn and bless me; here in sadness eye and heart long for Thy gladness.

words and music, Philipp Nicolai; harmonized, Johann Sebastian Bach

*DOXOLOGY #592 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION Bill Levering

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

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 *(sung in unison)* Carl Steubing

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
Glo - ry! Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord, Most High!

COMMUNION

+ + + **The Response to God** + + +

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

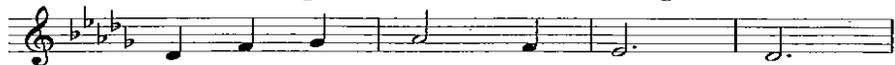
us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Kathleen Thomerson HOUSTON
Kathleen Thomerson



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.



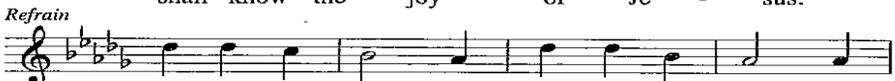
I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-ous-ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text and tune copyright © 1970 CELEBRATION (Administered by THE COPYRIGHT COMPANY, Nashville, TN). All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by permission.

Published 2000 by MorningStar Music Publishers of St. Louis
1727 Larkin Williams Road, Fenton, MO 63026. Printed in U.S.A.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Dresden

*POSTLUDE *In dir ist Freude* Johann Sebastian Bach

*The congregation may stand.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

If you would like to order celebratory or memorial flowers for the chancel, please call the church office. You may send your check for \$30 payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Prayers of the People

Requests for prayer may be noted on a pew card and placed in the offering plate. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanksgiving members of this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time: Mildred Altvater, James Caufield, Almy Coggeshall, Burton Dearing, Esther Eveleth, Charlotte King, Albert Lawrence, Barbara Stroebel, Thomas Taft and Doris Willard. If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

Post Service Refreshments

There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall to bring goodies of any sort to share at Post Service with everyone. Please bring your food around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter. I hope that everyone would share in this important ministry. Thank you

Vespers Every Sunday, 5 p.m.

Today – Jazz
Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums
January 9 – Jazz
Yuko Kishimoto, piano
January 16 – Jazz
Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Faith Bookshop

Contributions can still be made to the Sr. Minister's Emergency Fund by purchasing a donated Christmas decoration. This project will continue in the Bookshop through January 9. Several new children's books have come in, including *Of Thee I Sing, A letter to My Daughters* by President Obama.

God In The News–Adult Bible Study

This discussion Group, led by Lynne Gilgore, considers current news topics from a vantage point of faith. Are there echoes of the biblical stories in today's newspaper headlines? How does scripture inform contemporary issues? How are we, as Christians, called to respond? Come hear what your neighbors have to say. Add your voice to the conversation. Join one week or every week—each class stands alone. Bring coffee and a friend to the Mezzanine (upstairs by office) following the worship hour.

Youth Groups

Jan. 2 - No meetings - Winter Break

Jan. 9 - Junior High at 5pm, Senior High at 7pm in Friendship Hall

Jan. 14 - Junior High overnight

Jan 16 - Junior High at 5pm, Senior High at 7pm in Friendship Hall

Jan. 23 - Junior and Senior High participate in Chili Cook-off and Auction. Senior High youth should plan to be at church by 4pm to help set up for the auction.

Jan. 30 - Junior High at 5pm, Senior High at 7pm in Friendship Hall

Stitch Group

We will resume on Thursday, January 6 at 10am in the Poling Conference Room.

2011 Adult Forum

Jan. 2 - Coffee & Conversation. Share results of 2010 & resolutions for 2011

Jan. 9 - Shelter Box – Shelter and lifesaving equipment in times of disaster by John (Jack) Fadegon, (member of Niskayuna Reformed Church www.shelterbox.org)

Jan. 16 - Commentary on Schenectady's Civil Rights by Ralph F. Boyd, Sr. Founding member of Legacy and Future Schenectady NAACP, and Schenectady Patron

Jan. 23 - Stacey Speaks

Jan. 30 - Ministry at Glendale - Madelyn Thorne, Director of Sharing Faith - Pastoral Care Stimulating Minds and Hearts

M&M Women's Bible Study

On Tues. Jan. 4, Jan 18, Feb. 1 and Feb 15 from 6:30-8:30pm at Lisa Ettkin's home, 186 Droms Road, Glenville.

Help to Bake Epiphany Cakes!

On January 4 at 7pm we'll be baking delicious La Galette des Rois cakes in the Friendship Hall kitchen in preparation for the Epiphany Party (see below). If you're interested in helping, call Heather Chestnut (346-7887).

Epiphany Party January 5

What better way to celebrate the conclusion of our 12 days of Christmas than an Epiphany Party? The Bobok family will host this year's celebration of Christ's visit from the Magi this Wednesday, January 5, 6-8:30pm at their home, 1345 Hawthorn Rd. Niskayuna. La Galette des Rois Epiphany cakes will be provided; please bring an appetizer and beverage to share. Everyone is invited: young, old, family, friends, strangers, even enemies. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall for those who wish to commit ahead. All are welcome by the King to come for the feast, sing a few carols, hear the story, process with the Magi, follow the star, share in the house blessing, and gather around the warmth of the blazing bonfire! Questions...contact Bill Brooks (399-3717) or Daniel Carlson.

Lenten Devotional?

We're still celebrating Christmas! We know...we know BUT Wales Brown and I, Linda Witkowski, coordinators for the upcoming devotional, want to give you sufficient time to consider what you want to contribute: a response to Scripture (provided by Rev. Carlson) a poem (your own or another) that you think just right for the season, art work (we had quite a few in last year's edition), or an idea that you've wanted to share with our congregation – all kinds of choices.

So – the choice is yours and how you want to respond is up to you. If you want to do something other than scripture comment, simply select a day, cross out the Scripture, and write your name under the writer column.

The church office, during the week, will have a signup sheet. Every Sunday, until the 40 days are spoken for, Wales and I will be in front of Assembly Hall with the sheet. Devotionals from previous years will be available to show examples.

If you have questions, especially if you are a new member or have not yet contributed to the devotional, speak to Wales Brown or Linda Witkowski.

We must have these completed by February 18 so that we can distribute them for Ash Wednesday in early March.

Second Wednesday Potluck Supper

Come share the delicious food and warm fellowship of this monthly gather on January 12 in Assembly Hall. Set up starts at 5:30pm for those able to come a little early; at 6 grace will be sung and the supper starts. Clean up starts around 7 as will a bit of four square downstairs. We'll be done in time for the contemplative communion service at 8 in our candlelit chancel. A sign-up sheet is posted in Assembly Hall for those who like to plan ahead; impromptu types may come whenever so moved.

Second Wednesday Communion

Beginning January 12 this lovely, lyrical service will be held on the second Wednesday of the month in coordination with the potluck (see above). The service in the sanctuary begins with the church bell at 8pm, and includes song, silence, Scripture, and the Lord's Supper (with wine or grape juice served). We conclude by about 8:30. Those with questions or concerns may contact Daniel Carlson (377-2201).

New Wednesday Kerygma Session

Begins January 12, 9:30-11am in the Polling Conference room. The topic of our study and discuss has yet to be revealed, what is certain are weeks of warm community and lively engagement with whatever book or resource is chosen. All those who wish to participate this winter session are most welcome! For further information contact Daniel Carlson at the church office.

Wednesday Dialog

On January 19 at noon we are fortunate to have as our speaker, Ralph Boyd, an energetic 91 year old who will recount his life as a minority soldier during WW II, his battle experiences, and his accomplishments as a GE Employee and moving force for many beneficial Schenectady initiatives. He helped start the local NAACP, Carver Community Center, Head Start Program and SCAP. Ralph has been active in many other local organizations and was instrumental in the efforts to create the Baptist Retirement Center rendering quality care for senior citizens. He has been awarded more than 40 citations from many groups in this area including the coveted GE Phillipe Award.

Group VII

On Friday, January 21 we will meet at 11:30am in Assembly Hall. Bring your own lunch. Program by: Lynne Gilgore, Missioner, Co-hostesses: Joan Ipsen and Anne Robb

Chili Cook-Off and Auction

Save the date for our exciting annual youth group fundraiser on Sunday, January 23 at 6pm in Friendship Hall. All proceeds will benefit this year's mission trip to Toronto. If you have a dynamite chili recipe you'd like to enter in the cook-off, or a basket, gift certificate, or other desirable item to donate to the auction, please contact Stacey Midge or one of the senior high youth.

Adult Winterfest January 29

Doug Todd has again graciously offered his farmstead (Fox Hill Farm, 6003 Parkis Mills Rd., Galway) as the location for this annual winter outing for adults in the church. For the adventurous, cross country skiing, skating and snowshoeing will begin at 3pm. The food, beverage, fellowship and laughter indoors begins at 5:30pm with appetizers and drinks; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. To offset the cost of this event, there will be a \$5 charge per person. Please also bring something edible to share: appetizer, side dish, salad, or dessert. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall, or the church office may be called to let us know you're coming. We are also happy to announce that Adirondack folk musician Dan Berggren will play for us in the evening. Childcare will be provided in Kinderwyck during the

event for those who wish; please note this asap on the signup sheet. Carpooling is encouraged to ease our pollution of the planet and parking at the party. Hope to see you there!

Story Sunday

January 9 from 5 to 8pm, at the Glen Sanders Mansion to benefit our South African/Community Hospice Partnership with Tapologo and the Pastoral Care outreach at Albany Medical Center. *Stories to Warm a Winter's Night* with Kent Busman, Joe Doolittle and Harlan Ratmeyer

Join us for an evening of fine food, fellowship and super stories as three of the regions 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.

Cost \$30/person (includes entertainment, dinner, tax and tip)

Menu Selection: Beef Tenderloin Tips, Chicken Alexander, or Pasta Primavera

Sponsor Level: \$50 or more will provide— additional support for 2010 mission trip and support for Tapologo the blog of October's mission trip to South Africa at www.1streformed.com link to international mission and recall Rev Bill Levering and Andy Chestnut's visit over the summer.

Reservations: Joe Doolittle 384-1700 or aldenjoenycap.rr.com

Sponsor support and contributions payable to First Reformed Church, c/o Doolittle, 112 Maplewood Drive, Scotia, New York 12302.

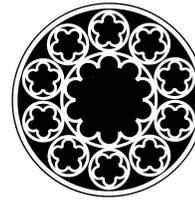
2011 Offering Envelopes

For those of you who signed up on your pledge card to receive offering envelopes they are available at the Church Office. Please see Lyn Gordon on Sunday for pickup or stop by anytime during the week. If you forgot to sign up for envelopes we do have some available.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Becky Draffen-Grande, Darwin Brudos	Jeanne Shoulder, Joe Gallagher
Faith Bookshop	Roberta Blackmer	Committee Member
First Forum	Share results of 2010 and resolutions for 2011	Shelter Box – Shelter and lifesaving equipment in times of disaster by John (Jack) Fadegon
Flower Delivery	Chancel Guild	
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Joanne Bedell	Sarah Bachorik
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Daniel Carlson	Stacey Midge
Procession Elders	Phil Falconer, Emile Walraven, Darwin Brudos, Bob Beadle, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Gene Zeltman, Eric Evans, Christine Daniels	Darwin Brudos, Carolyn Jones-Assini, Gay Doolittle, Peggy King
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Charles Van Wie
Refreshments		
Communion Deacons/Ushers	Leah Kidwell-Fernandes, Carol Troost, Ann Walraven, Joan Lindsay, Dave Bundy, Mike Beals, Rachael Cox	Mike Beals (head usher), Cathy Allen, Robert Allen, Joe Gallagher, Maurice Robbins, William Faulkner, Louis Acquasanta

Calendar for the Week of January 2, 2010

Sunday January 2	9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:20 a.m. 11:20 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office Communion, Sanctuary Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall First Forum, Poling Chapel Adult Bible Study, Poling Conference Room Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20 Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home Vespers, Poling Chapel
Monday January 3		Office Closed 9:00 a.m. Men's News Group, Poling Conference Room 7:00 p.m. Klokken Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday January 4	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Chancel Guild, Sanctuary Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel Antique Group, Assembly Hall
Wednesday January 5	12:30 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
Thursday January 6	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Stitching Group, Poling Conference Room Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall Chancel Choir, Choir Room/Sanctuary
Saturday January 8		Scouts Outing
Sunday January 9	9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:20 a.m. 11:20 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Musical/HS Choir, Music Office Worship, Sanctuary Post Service Refreshments, Assembly Hall First Forum, Poling Chapel Adult Bible Study, Poling Conference Room Kirk Ringers/Singers, upstairs - Room 20 Youth Orchestra, Ipsen's Home Vespers, Poling Chapel JHYG, Friendship Hall SHYG, Friendship Hall



FIRST
REFORMED CHURCH
SCHENECTADY

THE COVENANT OF OUR CONGREGATION

Adopted by the Congregation 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 2, 2010

First Reformed Church

8 North Church Street – Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com
Ministers: Daniel Carlson, Bill Levering, Stacey Midge