

*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.

March 20, 2016

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

Welcome to First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and 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. Stop by a welcome table at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-630-0911

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.

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.

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 in the next orientation please fill out a white pew card.

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.

Hearing Assistance



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

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 9:45am until noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

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 upstairs in room 20.

Church School on Communion Sundays

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) youth in grades 3-8 remain in the service to participate in Communion while those in grades K-2 are welcome to go upstairs after the Children's Message for church school activities.

Children's Worship Bulletins

Special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12 are available each Sunday. If the ushers are not handing them out, just ask for one.

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.

Service Online

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

Lost and Found

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex (at the front entrance of the church). If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check this basket.

Palm Sunday

March 20, 2016

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Avery Tunningley

Enter His Courts With Praise! Adam Mason

The Royal Banners James Mansfield

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Bill Levering

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna!**

INTROIT into PROCESSIONAL HYMN

follow the procession as you are able

Kirk Singers, Chancel Choir

Klokken Tower Ringers

Andy Janack, timpani

All Glory, Laud, and Honor Arr. Hal Hopson

Open the doors;
Open them wide;
That the King may now enter.
The King now comes to save us.

Who is the King?
He's the Lord, strong and mighty.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Refrain

*All glory, laud and honor,
To Thee, Redeemer, King.
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.*

**Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son;
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and Blessed One.**

(Refrain)

**The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our prayer and praise and anthems
Before Thee we present.**

(Refrain)

To Thee before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

(Refrain)

**Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.**

(Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OUR NEED FOR GOD

Beginning with silent prayer.

Musical score for the Kyrie eleison hymn. The score is written for a choir and includes two systems of music. The first system has two staves: a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line has two parts: Greek and English. The Greek part is: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. The English part is: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. The second system also has two staves: a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line has two parts: Greek and English. The Greek part is: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. The English part is: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

(from the United Church of Canada)

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is
creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word
made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God. We are called to be the
Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live
with respect in Creation, to love and serve
others, to seek justice and resist evil, to
proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our
judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life
beyond death, God is with us. We are not
alone. Thanks be to God.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Kirk Singers

Riding On the Road to Jerusalem

Frombach/Brooke

Jesus is riding on the road to Jerusalem.

He's riding on the road to Jerusalem.

Sing Hosanna to the King

Palm branches on the road to Jerusalem.

Palm branches on the road to Jerusalem.

Wave the branches to the King.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Sing glory to our King.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

We praise the King of Kings!

We're standing on the road to Jerusalem.

We're standing on the road to Jerusalem.

Sing Hosanna to the King.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy

Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Nancy Wainwright

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (page 565)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Luke 19:28-40 (page 83)

SERMON

Stacey Midge

Peculiar Things in the Service of the Lord

*HYMN

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#89

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ellie Rowland

EASTER OFFERING

One Great Hour of Sharing - PC (USA)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Feast of Palms

Allan Bullard

Come, faithful people, come away,

Your homage to your Monarch pay;

It is the feast of palms today:

Hosannah in the highest!

When Christ the Lord of all drew nigh

On Sunday morn in Bethany,

He called unto his loved ones standing by:

Hosannah in the highest!

“To yonder village go”, said he,

“An ass and foal you there shall see,

Untie them and bring them unto me.”

Hosannah in the highest!

The two upon their errand sped,

And found the ass as he had said,

And on the colt their clothes they spread:

Hosannah in the highest!

They set him on his throne so rude;

Before him went the multitude,

And in their way their garments strewed:

Hosannah in the highest!

They thronged before, behind, around,

They threw palm branches on the ground,

And louder still rose up the joyful sound:

Hosannah in the highest!

For it is the feast of palms today!

Gerard Moultrie

*DOXOLOGY

#592

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND

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

#91

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sicilian Mariners

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

+ + +

Entered into Eternal Rest

Carolyn "Carol" S. Welch – 3/17/16

Calling hours: Tuesday, March 22, 5pm
in Poling Chapel

Memorial Service: Wednesday, March 23,
10:30am in the Sanctuary

Reception at Stockade Inn 12pm
All welcome

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:

Phyllis Demont, Sylvia Ebeling

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

A flower calendar is posted on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary wherein you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the church office of your wishes. 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.

Easter Memorial Flowers - order by March 21

Your family can contribute to remember a loved one or honor a loved one. Please send your suggested donation of \$20 to Chancel Guild c/o Marlene Risseuw and contact the church office with the name of the person the flowers are in honor/memory of. Even if you have donated in previous years, please order by TOMORROW.

Kinderwyk Parents

TODAY and Easter Sunday there will be no staff/volunteers in Kinderwyk. We want to encourage you to bring your entire family into the service and have your young children take part in the fun processional and exciting upbeat music! We want them to see the energetic & exciting side of church. We will have the Kinderwyk building open in case your small one needs a play break, however, you must remain with them while using the facility. We are looking forward to seeing all of our parents and their children together on these two very important family Sundays. Any questions ask Mrs. Blythe.

Church School

TODAY and Easter Sunday, the children will remain in worship.

First Forum

After worship most Sundays at 11:15am in Poling Chapel, suggestions for programs are welcome from any committee or member; simply contact: Amy Brule 785-8201, Peggy King 370-1885, or Joe Doolittle 384-1700.

Today: Mission Trip to Palermo, Italy

Mar 27: Easter Reception; Assembly Hall

Apr 3: First Futures; Fred Daniels & Lisa Etkin

Youth Group Schedule

The youth group is open to all students in grades 6-12, and meets every Sunday night from 5-7pm (unless otherwise indicated) for: discussion, food, learning, fellowship, and service.

Today: Regular Meeting

Mar 27: No Meeting, Happy Easter

Apr 3: Regular Meeting

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5:00 pm

Today: Peg Delaney Trio

Mar 27: Scott Bassinson, piano

Apr 3: Nat Phipps Trio; plus Keith Pray, sax

Music Notes

Kyrie 1987, Dinah Reindorf; arr. 2001 CRC Publications All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

March 24 – 7:30pm

A service of darkening on Maundy Thursday in which the Lord's Supper is celebrated; then a series of readings and a darkening sanctuary create a somber and reflective remembrance of the trials of Jesus.

Good Friday, March 25 – 12pm

At **noon** in our Sanctuary, in the presence of a rough hewed cross, Gospel readers, intercessors, and the Chancel Choir lead us in worship of our crucified and risen Lord.

Easter, March 27 – 10am

On Easter Sunday join us for the grand celebration of Easter Joy including the *Hallelujah Chorus*. A reception in Assembly Hall will follow the service. Plenty of parking at YWCA, Stockade Inn and McDonald Engineering.

Music for Easter

Music for Easter Sunday will include a full complement of voices and instruments including brass quartet and timpani. Anthems will be *Now the Green Blade Rises* and *Christ is Alive!* As is our tradition we will invite people to join the choir for the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Children's Eastertide Festival

Sunday, April 3

Easter Sunday is so busy, we are going to continue the celebration on April 3, after worship. There will be face painting, a bounce house, and an egg hunt. Please feel free to bring friends, since this is open to the community.

Church School Needs Your Help! - TODAY

After worship in Poling Conference Room there will be Easter Eggs to stuff while you sip your coffee or chat with friends. If it's more convenient you can take eggs home and stuff them with candy you purchase. If neither of those is appealing please just bring a bag or two of individually wrapped candy that will fit in eggs and donate it. We are anticipating a much larger group of children for the egg hunt this year and we need to stuff 2000 eggs!! Your help is desperately needed!! Thank you all!

Help With Sweetness for the Easter Reception

Please sign up in Assembly Hall to assist with set-up or clean-up and to bring light appetizers, like deviled eggs, fruit and cheese, and simple desserts or pastries. Several volunteers are needed in order to prepare for this shared fellowship. Contact Taart Baas Karen at karengonda6@gmail.com with any questions.

Help Deliver Easter Flowers

We need volunteers on Easter Sunday, March 27, to deliver Easter flowers to recently-bereaved and home-bound church members. The flowers, an addressed card for each recipient, and a Sunday bulletin will be available for pick up after the service. Members of the Support and Care Committee will be present to assist. Please plan now on participating in this ministry by extending a lovely symbol of God's faithfulness.

Palm Sunday Enthusiasm!

We welcome Jesus this day as our Lord and Savior as we re-enact his entry into Jerusalem. It might be easy to get caught up in the enthusiasm of today. It is much harder to sustain enthusiasm because that means giving of ourselves. We are invited, however, to give of our selves like Christ did for us, to the ministry of love and reconciliation. At the beginning of this Holy Week, let us pledge to be more generous and more giving. And let us pray that our enthusiasm may not wane, but remain strong for the glory of God and the welfare of our community.

Easter Offering to One Great Hour of Sharing

This offering is directed to 3 important causes. The Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger throughout the world and supports ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing. The Disaster Assistance Program provides disaster response locally, nationally, and throughout the world. Self-development of People partners with groups that assist those oppressed by poverty or social systems to help people take charge of their lives. Please share your resources to change lives with this offering on Easter Sunday, March 27.

Avery Presents – April 1

On April 1, 7pm in Poling Chapel we will show the 1927 Silent Movie *The Cat and the Canary* with live organ accompaniment by Avery. This is a haunted house story of murder and deception with plenty of "over acting" to the point of great comedy. The beautiful period sets are reason alone to see this movie, but is it a horror movie or a comedy? You decide!

New Member Class – April 3

Ministers lead a membership meeting which includes a tour of the church and a chat about who we are on the first Sunday of the month. It lasts 90 minutes and is held in the church office at 3pm. Next class is April 3.

WORD Service – April 8

Our congregation is full of stories. **And God has stories of faith for us.** Put this all together, and you have a recipe for a fascinating service.

The Short-Short Writing Group

A writing critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Schermerhorn Conference room at 7pm. Short-Shorts are stories, essays, memoirs, or other non-fiction works told in 1,000 words or less. Contact James for more info, at jgonda12309@gmail.com.

Faith Bookshop

Our selection of donated, gently used books (offered at bargain prices!) is large. Stop in, look them over, & check out the donated jewelry, too.

Horizons Bible Study

No meeting March 22 (Holy Week) or 29. A new study on the Book of Acts will begin on April 5, as usual at 10am in the Poling Conference Room. Come join us. Interested/questions ask Peg Miller

Tuesday Ladies

Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month in the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue. Please call Connie at 393-7061 for more info.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

We finished studying the book of Job. We are now moving into a study of the strange world of the book of Revelation. Come explore the interesting words of this book and what wisdom they give to our life and light they shed on the end of time as we know it. We meet Tuesday's at 7pm in room 22. Hope to see you there!

Stitch Group

Our church PHD* stitch group meets most every Thursday, in Poling Conference room. Work on whatever project you have. For more info, contact Joan Lindsay, 399-3153.

Prayer Shawl Knit Group

We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10am in the home of Ronnie Bartholic, 2305 Almeria Road.

Group VII

Group VII has their next third Friday of the month 10am meeting on April 15 in the Dirck Romeyn room. Daniel Carlson will be presenting on his Doctoral Thesis: *To Serve the World We Touch*.

Palm Sunday, March 20

10:00 am Worship
 11:15 am First Forum
 11:15 am Kirk Ringers & Singers
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers
 5:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, March 21

9:00 am Mens Newsgroup

Tuesday, March 22

10:00 am Morning Prayer
 5:00 pm Calling Hours – *Carol Welch*
 7:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Wednesday, March 23

9:30 am Kerygma
 10:30 am Memorial Service – *Carol Welch*
 1:00 pm Thursday Bells
 7:00 pm Short-Short Writing
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Maundy Thursday, March 24

7:30 pm Breakfast Bible Bunch
 10:00 am Stitch Group
 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae

Good Friday, March 25

12:00 pm Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 26

9:30 am Chancel Guild Vesting

Easter Sunday, March 27

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 10:00 am Worship
 11:00 am Easter Reception
 5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Sunday Volunteers	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Linnea D'Andrea and Dave Hjelmar	Tom Burgoyne & Bill Rochelle
Greeters	Barb and Tom Mancuso	Lisa, Jacob and Julia Etkin
Flower Delivery	Palm Sunday	Easter Flower Delivery
Faith Bookshop	Committee Member	Committee Member
Liturgist	Bill Levering	Daniel Carlson, Stacey Midge, Paige Convis
Preacher	Stacey Midge	Bill Levering
Processing Elders	Art Casey, Mary Jewett, Peggy King, Liz Mastrianni, Del Pierce, Margaret Schadler	Birdie Blackmer, Gay Doolittle, Christine Daniels, Jerry Griggs, Bill Rochelle, Richard Rose,
Reader	Nancy Wainwright	Ellie Rowland
Refreshments	Aline Stabler	Easter Reception
Ushers	Glenn Blinckmann (head usher), Gerry Myers, Crystal Mongillo, Justine Ochal, Karen Gonda	Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Berta & Nat Phipps, Ralph Rosenthal