



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
SCOTIA

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28th, 2024

Bold invites you to join in the reading.

* invites you to rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Variations on an Original Tune

Alfred V. Fedak (b.1953)

Warmly

Moving gently

Peacefully

Reflectively

Joyfully

Welcome & Announcements

Votum

* Call to Worship

Happy are those who worship the Lord!

We gladly praise God's name!

God promises that the upright will be blessed!

O Lord, make us more righteous!

Let us be gracious, merciful, and understanding!

Give us the strength, O Lord, to be generous and just!

The righteous will never be moved; they will stand tall forever!

Our hearts are secure in the Lord!

Be not afraid!

Our hearts are steady! We will not be afraid!

Let us care for the poor and the needy!

O Lord make us more loving!

There is no fear in love! And God's perfect love casts out all fear! Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 471

O Praise the Gracious Power

CHRISTPRAISE RAY

v. 1-5 & 7

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

O Lord, who set the foundations of the earth, we confess our fear. We are afraid! So much seems uncertain. Our world shakes beneath our feet. And we do not know how much longer we can stand. We are set on edge; we worry without end. Come to our aid!

Help us again trust in you for you have made tomorrow. You have seen and you know. Strengthen our feet and let us rest upon the solid rock, who is your Son Jesus Christ. By your perfect love, O Lord, cast out our fear.

~ Silent Personal Confession ~

O Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Do not be afraid! God's perfect love casts out all fear! Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Summary of the Law

Passing of the Peace

Peace be with you!

And also, with you! (Please greet those around you)

Call to Gratitude

Offering

Offertory

His Eye Is on The Sparrow

arr. Mark Hayes

Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely,
And long for heav'n and home.
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy.
I sing because I'm free.
For his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted,
Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him;
From care He sets me free.
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy.
I sing because I'm free.
For his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He's protecting
And I know He's loving,
And I know He watches me.

Response

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

We Proclaim the Word of God

Unison Prayer for Illumination

**O Spirit, send us out in love. Send us to the outcast and the rejected.
Perfect our love, we pray. Abide with us. Amen.**

1st Lesson

Acts 8:26-38

p. 96-97

Song of Praise

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

by Donald Fishel

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen lord!
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name!**

Time With Children

Rev. McCloskey

2nd Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

p. 188-189

Sermon

There Is No Fear In Love

Rev. McCloskey

We Respond with Gratitude to God

* Hymn No. 366

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

ST. CATHERINE

Service for the Reception of New Members

Preparation

Presentation

Questioning

Do you promise to love, encourage, and support these your sisters in faith
by teaching the gospel of God's love,
by being an example of Christian faith and character, and
by giving the strong support of God's family
in fellowship, prayer, and service?

We do.

Profession of Faith

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Blessing & Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, we ask that you continue to strengthen and sustain Margaret, Sandra and Deborah.

By your Holy Spirit, daily increase in them your gifts:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the reverence of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence,

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who has taught us to pray, saying:

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.

Welcome

By the Holy Spirit all are called to ministry and mission:

To witness to Jesus as Savior and Lord, and

To love and serve all!

We are ambassadors for Christ!

We are the salt of the earth!

We are the light of the world!

Welcome sisters in Christ!

With joy and thanksgiving, we receive and welcome you. Join with us as in shared mission and ministry. Let us together bear witness to the gospel to the ends of the earth! We rejoice that we are all one in Christ Jesus. Alleluia! Amen!

We are Sent Out to Serve God

* Hymn No. 536 Lord, Make Us More Holy African-American Spiritual

* Charge & Benediction

Postlude Prelude on “Thaxted” *Eric Thiman (1900-1976)*



About today’s keyboard music:

Although it’s not immediately apparent, both our 10 AM prelude and postlude pieces incorporate references to celestial bodies and phenomena. Al Fedak’s Variations, published in 2011, are based on a melody he composed a dozen years earlier. The theme, a hymn tune he named CALLAHAN in honor of a longtime friend, was written as a setting for the Richard Leach text “Jesus Is the Sunlight,” whose final stanza appears below.

Jesus, you are sunlight:
may the church, like Mary,
be a rainbow shining to reveal your presence:
that the world may know you.
Alleluia!

The postlude, by Eric Thiman (pronounced “Tea-man”), is an arrangement of the famous “Jupiter” theme from THE PLANETS, a large orchestral suite composed by Gustav Holst during World War I. Almost immediately, Holst’s melody, renamed THAXTED, began to be used as a hymn tune, and has been sung to a variety of religious and patriotic texts. It was recently included in the new Presbyterian Hymnal GLORY TO GOD as a setting for the words of Psalm 67: “O God, Show Mercy to Us.”

Copyright information:

Fedak: Variations ©1999/2011 Selah Publishing Co., Pittsburgh, PA
Thiman: Thaxted ©1962 J. Curwen & Sons Ltd., London, UK



Worship Leadership

Preaching: Rev. McCloskey
Liturgist: Laura Taft Bull
Ushers: Nancy Paser & Ellen Schultz
Choir Director: Susan Hermance-Fedak
Organist: Al Fedak

Announcements:

Our Life in Worship

WELCOME! We are so glad that you have joined us this morning to worship God! We strive to be a warm and welcoming community of Christian people who seek to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. You are encouraged to introduce yourself to the pastor and to those around you.

IF YOU ARE VISITING US FOR THE FIRST TIME - We encourage you to fill out a visitor card which you can find in each pew with the offering envelopes. Once completed these can be given to an usher so we can contact you. If you would rather, there is also a QR Code on the narthex bulletin board, which will allow you to digitally submit to us the same information. We also have a welcome bag for you, please speak to an usher to receive one.

LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS - are available for those who need them. Speak to an usher if you would like to try one.

FLOWERS - You can enhance worship by providing flowers for the sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone or some event special to you. Suggested donation is \$50. To reserve a Sunday, please call the church office at 518-370-4751 or sign up in the narthex.

RESTROOMS - There is one restroom just off the narthex. Other bathrooms are through the door on the right-hand side of the sanctuary then to the left or down the long hall to the right.

NURSERY - A nursery for children infant through 4 years old is the first room on the right as you exit the sanctuary down the education wing. The nursery is staffed from 9:30am to 11:30am. We ask that a parent stay with babies younger than six months old.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - All youth will meet upstairs with Miss Diana from now through June as we have started to work on Youth Sunday on June 9th.

USHER TRAINING - following 10:00am worship today April 28th, Rev. McCloskey will lead usher training for those who have been serving or wish to serve as an usher. This training will include a review of how to pass the offering plate as the plan is to begin doing so in May.

Our Life in Community

THE CHURCH OFFICE - is open this week from 9:00am-1:00pm, Monday through Friday.

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER'S OFFICE HOURS - Rev. McCloskey will be available in his office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-4:00pm for anyone who would like to drop by. If you would like to schedule an appointment with him outside of this time please email him at pastorchristopher@firstreformedscotia.org. For pastoral emergencies, please call his cell at (203) 430-1990.

THE RENEW BIBLE STUDY - Meets Tuesdays at 12 noon via Zoom. The discussion for April 30th will use the scripture reading *The Power of Prayer*. The Renew Bible study will begin studying The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul by Adam Hamilton on May 7th. In this 6 week study, we will follow Paul as he spread the gospel through what is now Greece and Turkey. Come explore with us as Hamilton shows how indispensable Paul was to both the early Christians and to our world today. Books are available online. For assistance or to obtain the Zoom link, contact Sunny Baldwin at 518-320-4562.

HUDSON-MOHAWK CHORALE SPRING CONCERT The congregation is cordially invited to hear the Hudson-Mohawk Chorale's spring concert, entitled "Love Is a Verb", on Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 pm, performed here. Sue Fedak is the conductor and Al Fedak accompanies on piano and organ. Tickets are \$25 at the door, college students are \$10 with ID and children 17 and under are free. A reception will be held in Brink Hall following the concert. Come and enjoy a variety of songs about love in this hour-long concert!

Our Life in Service

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH: April's Mission Of The Month is The Community Lunch Program. This program has been running for six years. It consists of a sit down luncheon on the last Saturday of each month along with a bagged Grab And Go lunch on the second Wednesday. There is a dedicated group of volunteers to assist with the meals of which Mark Holley is the coordinator. This valued mission offers these meals at no cost to our guests. Through Mark Holley's vision, to feed the people of our community facing challenging times, the Community Luncheon offers a comfort meal, support and encouragement to our neighbors. The program relies on the proceeds of fundraising along with the generous donations from people like you in order to function. Please consider supporting the Community Luncheon program this month. Thank you!

THE SCOTIA FOOD PANTRY - The basket in the Narthex receives our weekly food donations for the Scotia Food Pantry located in the CityView Church on Mohawk Ave. We thank Norma Hamm for delivering the food for April. Please consider volunteering for one of the upcoming months. Sign up sheets are in the narthex and the lobby.

COMMUNITY MEAL - On April 27th there will be a spiral ham, macaroni and cheese and broccoli dinner served from 11:00am-12:30pm.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - Give hope this spring! Give blood! There will be a blood drive here at First Reformed on April 29th from 12:00-5:00pm. It is not too late to sign up! You can help to save a life. Call 800-RED CROSS or register online at redcrossblood.org. and enter sponsor code ReformedChurchofScotia.

CROP HUNGER WALK - May 5th @ 12:00pm. WE NEED WALKERS AND DONORS! We can't fight hunger alone! We will gather with others in our community at the Trinity Community Center 705 Curry Road in Rotterdam to fight hunger both here and around the world. Please see Miss Diana for more details or sign up online at crophungerwalk.org/schenectadyny to be a walker, a sponsor, or both. Our team name is First Reformed Church of Scotia. Thanks for helping feed the hungry both in our community and throughout the world! Miss Diana will be available in Brink Hall following the service.

This Week's Calendar

SUN, Apr 28	8:00 & 10:00am	Worship Service, Sanctuary
	9:20am	Choir Assembles, Chancel
	11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	11:15am	Usher Training, Sanctuary
MON, April 29	12:00pm	Blood Drive, Brink Hall
TUES, Apr 30	12:00pm	Renew Bible Study, Zoom
	6:30pm	Design/Delivery Team Meeting, Lounge
WED, May1	9:30am	Backpack Packing, Brink Hall
THUR, May 2	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
SUN, May 5	8:00 & 10:00am	Worship Service, Sanctuary
	9:20am	Choir Assembles, Chancel
	11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	12:00pm	Crop Walk, Trinity Community Center

Our Congregation's Covenant

*First Reformed Church of Scotia is a fellowship of people,
each called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit
to be disciples of Jesus Christ,
and instruments of his presence in the world.*

*We sustain our fellowship through worship
and the celebration of the sacraments, through prayer,
and through the encouragement of each other's spiritual growth.*

*Our shared task is to follow Christ in mission and ministry
in our lives, our homes, our community, and our world so loved by God.*

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