



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
SCOTIA

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

**Bold** invites you to join in the reading.

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

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## We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus  
Based on “STUTTGART”

*Edward Broughton*

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

\* Call to Worship

Praise the Lord with songs of rejoicing!

**God is gracious and abundant in mercy!**

The Lord builds us up!

**God gathers in the outcasts and heals the brokenhearted!**

Great is our Lord and abundant in power!

**God’s understanding is unsearchable!**

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden and casts out the wicked!

**Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving!**

God scatters the proud and sends the rich away empty!

**The Lord crowns the lowly and champions the meek!**

Extol the Lord! The God of our salvation!

**For the Lord gives us strength and blesses us beyond measure!**

God grants us peace and fills us with finest wheat!

**The Lord has fulfilled every promise!**

Let us rejoice in God’s wondrous love! Let us worship God!

\* Hymn #2

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, we confess our complicity in systems of injustice and oppression. We confess that we have often chosen what is comfortable over what is right. We know, O God, that you stand with the lowly, the humble, the marginalized, the poor and the outcast. We confess that in standing against these we have also stood against you. Empower us to change our ways. Have mercy on us!**

*~ Silent Personal Confession ~*

O Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Magnify the Lord and rejoice! For God is our Savior! 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 - 8:00

Once in Royal David's City  
"IRBY"

*Henry J. Gauntlett*  
(1805-1876)

- 10:00

From the Manger

A quiet town called House of Bread, a newborn baby falls asleep.

A bed of hay beneath his head, Immanuel begins to dream.

For all creation to be fed, Hope from the ground to the breaking of bread.

CHORUS:

From the manger hope grows. He will be God with Us.

From the manger hope grows. Bread of Life, Jesus.

A starry sky breaks forth with light. The angel says, Be not afraid.

Heavenly hosts are singing praise, You'll find him as the angel said

Peace from the heavens to the breaking of bread. *Chorus*

From grassy field to Jesus' side, A humble shepherd runs back home.

Forever changed one holy night, Compelled to make these wonders known.

From pastures green all will be fed. Joy from the fields to the breaking of bread. *Chorus*

Mary's baby closely held, Wrapped up in sweet expectancy.

Now the Messiah is unveiled, Embodied for the world to see.

So all creation can be fed, Love will be found in the breaking of bread. *Chorus*

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 Power of the Powerless, help embrace your justice. O Hope of the Hopeless, help us embrace your truth. Amen.**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

Micah 5: 2-5a

p. 671

Heart Song

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

*by Geonyong Lee*

**Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile your people.**

Children's Sermon

Rev. McCloskey

2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson

Luke 1:39-56

p. 43-44

Sermon

From the Lowly

Rev. McCloskey

### **We Respond with Gratitude to God**

\* Hymn #600

Song of Mary

MORNING SONG

\* Statement of Faith

Accra Confession

**We believe that God is a God of justice. In a world of corruption, exploitation and greed, God is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, the exploited, the wronged and the abused. God calls for just relationships with all creation.**

**Therefore we reject any ideology or economic regime that puts profits before people, does not care for all creation and privatizes those gifts of God meant for all.**

Prayer 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.**

## We are Sent Out to Serve God

\* Hymn (Insert)                      Canticle of the Turning                      JESUS CHRIST ADVENT

\* Charge & Benediction

Postlude                                      People, Look East!                                      *Kristina Langlois*  
Based on “BESANCON”, a French carol



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### **Worship Leadership at 8:00am**

Preaching: Rev. McCloskey

Pianist: Michael Linke

### **Worship Leadership at 10:00am**

Preaching: Rev. McCloskey

Liturgist: Diana Ackner

Ushers: Sheila Dort, Debbie Perretta,  
Bill & Kristen Shave

Choir Director: Hunter Harville-Moxley

Organist: Michael Linke



## **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.

**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.

**FAITH FORMATION** - December's theme: "From the Manger." Today grades 6-12 are encouraged to stay in worship. Grades K-5 can choose to stay in worship or go up with Miss Diana for a time of learning.

**NURSERY CARE** - Nursery care for children, infant through 4 years old, is available every Sunday from 9:30am to 11:30am. The nursery is located in the first room on the right as you exit the sanctuary down the education wing. There are toys, games, books and a changing table and diapers. Parents are welcome to stay in the nursery with their little one(s) if they would like. We ask that a parent stay with babies younger than six months old.

**CHRISTMAS EVE** - There are two opportunities for you to celebrate Christmas Eve here at First. First, at 5:30pm will be our youth-led Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary. Then our Musical Prologue will begin at 7:30pm with our Traditional Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service beginning at 8:00pm. All are welcome!

**NEXT SUNDAY** - We welcome the Rev. Dr. Viki Brooks to the pulpit. Rev. Dr. Brooks is a retired Presbyterian minister who served as a chaplain at Union College for 20 years. This congregation has been blessed to have had her as a part of our worshipping community for some time now. We thank her for her willingness to preach and give Pastor Christopher an opportunity to rest and be with his family for the holidays.

### **Our Life in Community**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** - will be open this week Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00am-1:00pm. The office will be closed on Wednesday in recognition of Christmas Day.

**PASTOR CHRISTOPHER'S OFFICE HOURS** - Rev. McCloskey will be available in his office on Tuesday and Thursday 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](mailto:pastorchristopher@firstreformedscotia.org). For pastoral emergencies, please call his cell at (203) 430-1990.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025** - Slots still available! We'll be joining together in the comfort of Chi Rho Lodge at Camp Fowler January 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. The cost for 2025 will be \$170 per person. If we don't get 24 women the cost will go up. Cost includes meals, room & board. This time together will include faith focused discussions, games, crafts, fun and more! See Miss Diana for more information. Sign up is in narthex.

**LIVE NATIVITY** - Join us at First Reformed Church of West Glenville (2172 West Glenville Road) TODAY December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm for a live nativity. All are welcome. Dress for the outdoors. Refreshments will be served.

### **Our Life in Service**

**MISSION OF THE MONTH: SCOTIA RELIEF** - Scotia Relief is a community organization that promotes the practice of neighbors helping neighbors in the Scotia-Glenville community. Assistance is provided in the form of vouchers for resources including food, clothing, heating fuel, and school supplies.

**DONATIONS NEEDED** - The Community Cupboard needs mens' and womens' heavy socks, gloves, hats and scarves. The Backpack Program needs children's hats and gloves. Please put donations in the Community Cupboard container in the lobby outside of Brink Hall.

### **This Week's Calendar**

<b>SUN, Dec 22</b>	<b>8:00am &amp;10:00am</b>	<b>Worship Service in the Sanctuary</b>
	9:15am	Choir Assembles, Chancel
	11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
<b>TUES, Dec 24</b>	5:30pm	Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary
	7:30pm	Musical Prologue, Sanctuary
	8:00pm	Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service, Sanctuary
<b>SUN, Dec 29</b>	<b>8:00am &amp;10:00am</b>	<b>Worship Service in the Sanctuary</b>
	11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall

### **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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