



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30th, 2025

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

SCOTIA

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

God Loved the World
ROCKINGHAM OLD

Edward Miller (1731-1807)

Welcome & Announcements

Votum

* Call to Worship

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven!

Happy are we whose sins are covered!

Joyful are they who know the Lord!

Joyful are we who walk in righteousness!

Blessed are they who acknowledged their iniquity before God!

Blessed are we who confess and repent!

Glad are they who are forgiven!

Glad are we whose guilt is wiped away!

Those who trust in God will know deliverance!

We who trust in the Lord are surrounded by steadfast love!

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous ones! Shout for joy, all you upright in heart! Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 280 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound AMAZING GRACE

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we confess that we have drawn pleasure from the misfortune of others. We have been gleeful when others have failed or fallen short. We feel like we are in constant competition with everyone. And so, we have come to believe that winning in life requires others to lose.

Help us, we pray. Let us rejoice in the success of others. Help us find delight in other people's well-being. Help us find new ways to allow all people to rise together.

~ Silent Personal Confession ~

O Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice! Your transgressions are forgiven! Rejoice! Your sin is covered!
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

Lord Jesus, Think of Me
SOUTHWELL

W. Daman

- 10:00

Order My Steps *Words and music by Glen Burleigh*

*Order my steps in Your word dear Lord
Lead me, guide me everyday
Send Your anointing, Father I pray
Order my steps in Your word
Please, order my steps in Your word
Humbly, I ask Thee to teach me Your will
While You are working, help me be still
Though Satan is busy, God is real
Order my steps in Your word
Please, order my steps in Your word*

*Bridle my tongue, let my words edify
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in Thy
sight*

*Take charge of my thoughts both day and night
Please, order my steps in Your word
Please order my steps in Your word
I want to walk worthy
My calling to fulfill
Please order my steps Lord
And I'll do Your blessed will*

*The world is ever changing
(but Jesus, You always remain the same)
But You are still the same
If You order my steps
I'll praise Your name*

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 of love, make us a new creation. Make us ambassadors for
Christ. Make us ministers of reconciliation. Amen.**

1st Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

p. 139

Heart Song

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

by Geonyong Lee

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile your people.

Children's Sermon

Rev. McCloskey

2nd Lesson

Luke 15:11-32

p. 60

Sermon

Mudita

Rev. McCloskey

We Respond with Gratitude to God

* Hymn (Insert)

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

* Statement of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love
God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's
image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one
community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's
commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death
to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In
everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant
people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God
delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like
a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who
runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

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 (See Insert) There Is Now A New Creation STUTT GART

- * Charge & Benediction

- Postlude Postlude on “Ebenezer” *Gordon Young*
Melody by Thomas J. Williams



Worship Leadership at 8:00am

Preaching: Rev. McCloskey
Pianist: Michael Linke

Worship Leadership at 10:00am

Preaching: Rev. McCloskey
Liturgist: June Coryer
Ushers: Jane Brehm, Laura Bull,
 Sheila Dort & Russ Garrison
Choir Director: Hunter Harville-Moxley
Organist: Michael Linke

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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.

FLOWERS - The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Kristen Shave's birthday by her husband Bill.

EASTER FLOWERS - Donations and dedications for Easter flowers are now being received. Please bring them to the office or place them in the offering plate. They are due by April 10th. After the 10am worship service on Easter, flowers will be delivered to members who cannot be physically with us in worship.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION - Refreshments are available after both the 8am and 10am services. Please come and join us in Brink Hall.

FAITH FORMATION - Today's topic for Lent 4 is *The Lost Sheep Parable*. Youth from K-5th grade are welcome to join Miss Diana for a special time of learning. Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to stay in worship.

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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday	April 13 th	Services at 8:00 & 10:00am
Maundy Thursday	April 17 th	Service at 7:00pm
Good Friday	April 18 th	Service at 7:00pm
Easter Sunday	April 20 th	Services at 6:00, 8:00 & 10:00am

Please join us for a Continental Breakfast in Brink Hall directly following the Easter Sunrise (6:00am) Service.

Our Life in Community

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

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER'S OFFICE HOURS - Rev. McCloskey will be available in his office 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. For pastoral emergencies, please call his cell at (203) 430-1990.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY - There is an opportunity to learn more about “life end procedures”. You are invited to a workshop on April 10th from 12:30 - 3:45 at the Albany Guardian Society in Albany. Please see the bulletin board outside Pastor’s office for more information.

LENT DEVOTIONALS - This year’s Lent devotional entitled “Everything in Between” is still available! You may pick up your copy in the narthex or Brink Hall lobby. Also available, Lent in a bag- activities designed for families.

RENEW LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - This year the group has selected the book, Give Up Something Bad for Lent, written by Rev. James W. Moore. The group continues to meet Tuesdays at 12 noon via Zoom. All are welcome! See Diana Ackner for a copy of the book. For the reading schedule and Zoom link, see Sunny at church or contact at 518-320-4562 or csunnyb@nycap.rr.com.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - Diana Ackner is leading a Lent Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. This study coordinates with this year’s Lent devotional entitled “Everything in Between”. Please contact Diana if you have any questions.

FRCS HAS GONE TO THE BIRDS - Next Saturday, April 5th from 3-5pm we will be hosting Whispering Willow Wild Care for a live bird presentation. The afternoon will also include a craft, bake sale and a raffle.

EASTER EGG HUNT - The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Sunday, April 13th at 11:15. If participating in the egg hunt, please bring 12 filled eggs per child. Kids will be provided a bag to decorate while the eggs are being hidden.

Our Life in Service

MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH: The Mission of the Month for March is Camp Fowler Ministries located near Speculator, NY. One goal of Fowler is to keep the fees affordable for the children who attend. Camp Fowler is an important part of the life of this congregation. We contribute and receive incredible benefits from this partnership.

COMMUNITY MEAL - There will be a Grab and Go lunch on April 9th from 11:00-12:30pm. The menu is soup, sandwich, fruit cup and cookies.

This Week's Calendar

SUN, Mar 30	8:00am & 10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary
	9:15am	Choir Assembles, Chancel
	9:00am & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	11:15am	Communications Committee Meeting, Lounge
TUE, Apr 1	12:00pm	Renew Bible Study, Zoom
	7:00pm	Health and Wellness, Memorial Lounge
WED, Apr 2	9:30am	Backpack Packing, Brink Hall
	7:00pm	Lenten Bible Study, Lakehill Library
	7:00pm	New Members Class 1, Room One
THU, Apr 3	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
SAT, Apr 5	3:00-5:00pm	Live Bird Presentation, Brink Hall
SUN, Apr 6	8:00am & 10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary
	9:15am	Choir Assembles, Chancel
	9:00am & 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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