



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

SCOTIA

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**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

We Will Rise Again

*David Haas  
acc. Craig Kingsbury*

Bring Flowers to the Rarest

*Mary E. Walsh*

Welcome & Announcements

Votum

\* Call to Worship

The Lord reigns! Let the earth rejoice!

**Let the coastlands sing and be glad!**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

**God is our never-ending joy!**

Like a mother hen, the Lord is our helper and our sure defense!

**In God we are established forever!**

The Lord protects and guards us like a mother bear!

**God guides the lives of the faithful!**

The Lord rules with righteousness and justice!

**May all peoples follow God's example!**

So let us love the Lord and hate what is evil!

**May our praise reach the ends of the earth!**

Light dawns on the righteous and joy comes to the upright in heart!

**We rejoice in the Lord and give thanks to God's holy name!**

Let us rejoice and worship God!

\* Hymn (See Insert)

God of Great and God of Small

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

Call to Confession

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, you create us all in your image, both male and female. And yet, women have often been treated unfairly and unequally. Women's voices and stories have been silenced. Women have been mistreated and often cast aside. And so as people of faith we reject and denounce all human structures and systems that fail to respect your created order of equality between all who bear your image. We confess our sinful ways that have made us complicit in maintaining this evil. Forgive us, O God. Empower us to change our ways.**

*~ Silent Personal Confession ~*

O Lord have mercy.

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

## Assurance of Pardon

God is our helper and sure defense! In love we are established forever! 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

Bless The Mothers

*by Robert Olsen*

Soloist: Sarah Cordts

- 10:00

Bless The Mothers

*by Robert Olson*

*Bless the Mothers here, Let them know You're near  
Calm their doubts and fears, As they watch and Pray.  
May they know Your word, May Your voice be heard  
May Your strength be theirs each and every day.*

*Be their guide each day as they learn the way of a selfless servant, Lord.*

*Bless the mothers here as we worship You today!*

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 Nurturing Spirit, mother us and help us to grow. Prepare us to be disciples of truth, compassion, and love. Amen.**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson                                      Acts 16:11-15                                      p. 104

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson                                      Acts 9:36-42                                      p. 98

Sermon                                      Yes All Women                                      Rev. McCloskey

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

\* Hymn (See Insert)                      Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth                                      NORWICH

\* 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)	For All the Faithful Women	NYLAND
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\* Charge & Benediction

Postlude                      Fanfare on “Austrian Hymn”                      Gordon Young  
“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”



## Worship Leadership at 8:00am

Preaching: Rev. McCloskey

Pianist: Michael Linke

## Worship Leadership at 10:00am

Preaching: Rev. McCloskey

Liturgist: Laura Taft Bull

Ushers: Spike & Carol Ahl,

Bill Eberle, and Laura Taft Bull

Choir Director: Hunter Harville-Moxley

Organist: Michael Linke

**Copyright Information:**

David Haas “We Will Rise Again” Organ Acc. Craig Kingsbury ©1986 David Hass,  
Published by OCP

Mary E. Walsh “Bring Flowers to the Rarest” ©1889 St. Basil’s Hymnal

Robert Olson; “Bless The Mothers” ©2025 His Honor Publications, Stream with permission of the composer.

Gordon Young; Fanfare on “Austrian Hymn” Melody by Joseph Haydn ©1980 in Nine Hymn Preludes by Hope Publishing

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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 or placed in the offering plate. If you would rather, there is a QR Code on the narthex bulletin board, which will allow you to digitally submit to us the same information.

**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.

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

**FLOWERS** - The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Timothy Dort, “always in our hearts”, given by Sheila Dort and family

**NEXT SUNDAY** - We welcome the Rev. Brian Dykerna to the pulpit. We thank him for the opportunity to preach and give Pastor Christopher an opportunity to be with his family for the weekend.

**MUSICIANS, SPEAKERS AND SINGERS NEEDED** - Youth, K-12, will lead worship on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the 10am service. If you are interested in participating please contact Diana Ackner.

**FAITH FORMATION** - Youth from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join Miss Diana for a special time of learning. Today we continue to prepare for Youth Sunday with a lesson on why and how we pray.

**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.

### **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](mailto:pastorchristopher@firstreformedscotia.org). For pastoral emergencies, please call his cell at (203) 430-1990.

**A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS** - “Bill, Karen, Bill and Amanda would like to express their appreciation for the prayers, cards, and many kindnesses shown to our family following the passing of our daughter and sister, Michele. May God continue to bless each of you, as you have blessed us.”

**TALK SAVES LIVES** - This workshop will be held on May 14th in Brink Hall from 6:30-8:30pm. It is an introduction to suicide prevention. Topics will include the scope of the problem, research, prevention and what you can do. RSVP to Sunny by May 13<sup>th</sup> at [csunnyb@nycap.com](mailto:csunnyb@nycap.com) or 518-320-4562.

**CAPITAL DISTRICT YOUTH CHORALE** - Presents “Songs of Travel” on May 18<sup>th</sup> in our sanctuary at 3:00pm. Please see the bulletin board outside Pastor’s office for further details.

**OPEN THE HOUSE** - Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm help Camp Fowler “open the house and get ready for summer”. Tasks for all ages and ability levels. Pre-register is required at [campfowler.org](http://campfowler.org).

**RENEW BIBLE STUDY** - The group is currently reading Entering the Psalms: Meeting God in Scripture, written by the Upper Room. The group meets at 12 noon on Tuesdays via Zoom. Books will be available from Diana Ackner. Contact Sunny Baldwin at 518-320-4562 or [csunnyb@nycap.rr.com](mailto:csunnyb@nycap.rr.com) with questions or to obtain the Zoom link.

### **Our Life in Service**

**MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH: FRCS Emergency Food Distribution**  
Donations are being accepted for our mission to help those in our community experiencing emergency food needs.

**CROP WALK 2025** - THANK YOU to all who donated to Crop Walk 2025. We raised over \$700 towards addressing food insecurity. We thank Diana Ackner, Patty Marre, Shannon Whelan, Tina Haldeman and Claire Beauchemin for walking on a rainy day. You are doing God’s work and we thank you!

**GRAB AND GO LUNCH** - There will be a Grab and Go Lunch on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:30pm. The menu is a sandwich, salad, fruit cup and cookies.

**PACK THE CUPBOARD DAY** - On May 18<sup>th</sup> please help us Pack the Community Cupboard with supplies to last through the summer months. We are looking for the following donations: Scotts individually wrapped toilet paper, small plastic peanut butter jars and canned fruit. Please ask Linda Lewis and Sue Pitts for more information.

**JUNE GARAGE SALE** - **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 1:00pm & Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 1:00pm.** We will be renting spaces for a small fee, to those that wish to sell their items, but not at their own house or apartment. You can donate items for the church to sell to benefit the church and our local missions. We staff and sell the items. If you have interest in renting a space to sell your goods: you may go to our website and print a form or see Sharon in the office. You can donate items for the church to sell on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> after both 8am & 10am services or on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> between 9:00am and 1:00pm

## **This Week's Calendar**

<b>SUN, May 11</b>	<b>8:00am &amp; 10:00am</b>	<b>Worship Service in the Sanctuary</b>
	9:00am & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	9:15am	Choir Assemblies, Chancel
<b>MON, May 12</b>	6:00pm	Administrative Council, Library
<b>TUES, May 13</b>	12:00pm	Renew Bible Study, Zoom
	3:30pm	Worship Council, Memorial Lounge
	6:00pm	Mission Council, Room 1
<b>WED, May 14</b>	9:30am	Backpack Packing, Brink Hall
	11:00am	Grab and Go Lunch, Brink Hall
	6:30pm	Suicide Prevention Presentation, Brink Hall
<b>THURS, May 15</b>	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<b>SUN, May 18</b>	<b>8:00am &amp; 10:00am</b>	<b>Worship Service in the Sanctuary</b>
	9:00am & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	9:15am	Choir Assemblies, Chancel
	3:00pm	Capital District Youth Concert, Sanctuary

## **The Consistory of First Reformed Church of Scotia**

President: Rev. Christopher McCloskey

### Elders

Don Bowers  
June Coryer  
Paul Munson  
Debbie Perretta  
David Schalekamp  
Pam Walsh

### Deacons

John Ackner  
Laura Taft Bull  
Becky Okpoti Jarczynski  
Sue Penn  
Lee Poremba  
Bill Shave

## **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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