



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

SCOTIA

# FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 1<sup>st</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

Prelude on the Ash Grove  
“Let All Things Now Living”

*Trad. Welsh Melody  
arr. Randall DeBruyn*

Welcome & Announcements

Votum

\* Call to Worship

The Lord has gone up with a shout!

**The Lord is king; robed in majesty!**

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice!

We will sing praises to our God! We will sing praises to our King!

Clap your hands, O people of God! Shout for joy!

**The Lord, the Most High, is awesome; a great king over all the earth!**

God is king over every nation!

**All people are gathered as God’s people!**

The Lord has established the world; it shall never be moved!

**God has made righteousness and justice its foundation!**

Majestic on high is the Lord!

**Highly exalted is our God!**

God guards the lives of the faithful and rescues them from all evil!

**The heavens proclaim the Lord’s righteousness, and all people  
behold God’s glory!**

The Lord is from everlasting to everlasting and forevermore! Let us worship  
God!

\* Hymn #141

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

DEO GRACIAS

Call to Confession

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, we confess that we do not love you as we should, for we have failed to keep your commandments. We confess that we have struggled to keep your word.**

**We confess that our faith has been weak, and we long to see you with our own eyes. Send the Holy Spirit to remind us of all that you have said and done on our behalf. For our hearts have been troubled; we have been so afraid.**

**Fill us with your peace, O God, a peace that surpasses all understanding. Fill us with the Word so that we may live and speak your words.**

*~ Silent Personal Confession ~*

O Lord have mercy.

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

## Assurance of Pardon

God guards the lives of the faithful and rescues us from all evil! 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)

## Minute for Mission & Call to Gratitude

## Offering

Offertory - 8:00

Send Us Your Spirit

*Dan Schutte b.1947*

- 10:00

Make Me An Instrument

*by Craig Courtney*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:*

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master,*

*grant that I may not so much seek*

*to be consoled as to console,*

*to be understood as to understand,*

*to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive,*

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,*

*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*Amen.*

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 Holy Advocate, guard us and guide us. Teach us again how to love,  
and be true to the high calling of our faith. Fill us with your comfort  
and peace. Strength us to be your hands and feet. Amen.**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

John 14:15-21 & 25-29

p. 83-84

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 1:3-11

p. 90

Sermon

Holy Reciprocity

Rev. McCloskey

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

\* Hymn No. 144

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

HYFRYDOL

\* Statement of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism

Questions 46, 49 & 50

What do [we] mean [when we say], “He ascended to heaven”?

**That Christ, while his disciples watched, was taken up from the earth  
into heaven and remains there on our behalf until he comes again to  
judge the living and the dead.**

How does Christ’s ascension to heaven benefit us?

**First, he is our advocate in heaven in the presence of his Father.**

**Second, we have our own flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that Christ  
our head will also take us, his members, up to himself.**

**Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth as a corresponding pledge.**

**By the Spirit’s power we seek not earthly things, but the things  
above, where Christ is, sitting at God’s right hand.**

[What do we mean when we say] the next words: “and is seated at the right  
hand of God”?

**Because Christ ascended to heaven to show there that he is head of  
his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things.**

**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.**

* Hymn (Insert)	Soon and Very Soon	SOON AND VERY SOON
* Charge & Benediction		

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Preaching: Rev. McCloskey  
 Organist: Michael Linke  
 Choir Director: Hunter Harville-Moxley  
 Liturgist: Sue Penn  
 Ushers: Jane Brehm, Russ Garrison, &  
 Bill Eberle

Traditional Welsh Melody, Prelude on the Ash Grove; Arr. Randall DeBruyn ©1991 OCP.  
Dan Schutte “Send Us Your Spirit” ©1985, 2009, OCP.  
Make Me an Instrument by Craig Courtney Copyright 2016 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.  
Douglas E. Wagner; Fanfare Postlude on “St. Thomas” Tune by Aaron Williams ©2012 Lorenz Publishing Co.

**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.

**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 by doing a Rehearsal/runthrough for Youth Sunday on June 8th.

**YOUTH SUNDAY - JUNE 8TH** - Please join us next Sunday as the youth of our congregation lead us in a special Pentecost worship service. Breakfast will be served before and after 10am 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.

**WOOFSTOCK** - Dogs and their owners will be cutting through our parking lot during the 10am worship this morning. We will be keeping our doors open and have set out some water bowls, as a way of welcoming our guests.

### **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.

**LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OUT?** - We are currently looking for individuals who are willing to be trained to use the sanctuary's audio and video equipment. Anyone can learn how to do this, no special skills needed. If you are interested in being trained, please talk to Pastor Christopher or Paul Munson.

**CONVERSATION PROJECT CHALLENGE** - Our congregation has been challenged to "have the conversation, complete the necessary paperwork, and share with the appropriate people in your life." So here is the challenge: share your end-of-life wishes with your family by the end of this summer. Once you have the conversation; complete, to the best of your ability, the "Funeral Arrangement Planning Guide." Copies can be found on the literature rack outside of the office. Our goal is to have 25 people submit their partially or completed packets to Pastor Christopher by September.

### **Our Life in Service**

**JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH:** This June, as we prepare for summer, our Mission of the Month will support the Summer Lunch Program, our newest initiative in serving our community. We will offer lunches or meals-to-go throughout the summer months. While the summer vacation off from school is often a highly anticipated time filled with lazy mornings, fun trips, or adventures for the family, for many of our community it is a time of stress and worry about balancing the costs of summer child care and scraping together a lunch or dinner to hold over until the next meal that can be comfortably made. We look forward to once again offering easy meals to help out so everyone can enjoy the summer!

**JUNE GARAGE SALE** - This Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 1:00pm & Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. **WE NEED YOUR HELP both for set-up during the week and during the sale itself!** There are sign up sheets in the Narthex and in the Brink Hall lobby. **PLEASE** sign up to give us a hand. If you would like to donate items to the sale, please drop off items in the coatroom today after 8 & 10am worship or Tuesday-Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup> between 9am-1pm.

## **This Week's Calendar**

<b>SUN, June 1</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 Assembles, Chancel
<b>TUES, June 3</b>	9:00am	Garage Sale Set Up, Brink & Memorial
	2:00pm	Congregation Care Meeting, Library
<b>WED, June 4</b>	9:00am	Garage Sale Set Up, Brink, Memorial & Room 1
	9:30am	Backpack Packing, Library
<b>THURS, June 5</b>	9:30am	Garage Sale Set Up, Brink, Memorial & Room 1
	9:30am	Backpack Distribution, Library
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<b>FRI, June 6</b>	9:00am-1:00pm	Garage Sale
<b>SAT, June 7</b>	9:00am-1:00pm	Garage Sale
<b>SUN, June 8</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Pentecost Worship Service in the Sanctuary</b>
	9:00am	Breakfast, Brink Hall
	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Youth Sunday Pentecost Worship in Sanctuary</b>
	11:15am	Breakfast, Brink Hall

## **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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