



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
SCOTIA

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15th, 2026

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

Hosea

*Weston Priory. Gregory Norbet
Keyboard Acc. By Mary Callahan*

Welcome & Announcements

Votum

* Call to Worship

Sing aloud to God who is our strength!

We will shout for joy!

Raise a song! Blow the trumpet!

We rejoice for God has made a decree!

Your burdens, God declares, I will take!

The Lord has rescued us from our distress!

Hear, O people, listen to the Lord!

Speak, your children are listening!

You are my people and I am your God! I brought you up out of the land of Egypt! Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it!

Feed us - we are hungry!

Follow not your stubborn hearts!

We will walk in God's way!

Then you will be fed with the finest wheat! Come, O children, and be satisfied!
Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 324

Open My Eyes That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we are a superficial people. We judge others for the way that they look. We consider their outward appearance. We know that it impacts the way we act towards them. We turn away from those we deem less attractive. We conflate moral virtue with beauty - forgetting that there is no correlation. We forget that looks are only skin deep.

Help us, O Lord, see as you see. Help to see the heart.

~ Silent Personal Confession ~

O Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Pleading Savior

*Christian Lyre 1831
Acc. Ralph Vaughan Williams*

- 10:00

Celtic Communion

Mark Hayes

Music purchased in memory of Joseph R. Beha

*Bread of the world in mercy broken, wine of the soul in mercy shed,
By whom the words of life were spoken, and in Whose death our sins are dead.
Look on the heart by sorrow broken; look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be Your feast to us the token that by Your grace our souls are fed!
Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, One in Three;
Christ above me, Christ beneath me, Christ within me, Three in One. 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.**

Holy are you. And blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, who by his baptism of death and by his resurrection gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and evil, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations.

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer to you our very selves in praise and gratitude, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's sacrifice for us. And so, let us proclaim the great mystery of faith:

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon this sacred fellowship, upon this feast of love. By your Spirit unite us with Christ, so that through him we might be born anew. Therefore, in thanksgiving, we lift our voices united as a saved people using the prayer Jesus taught us, 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.

We give you thanks that, on the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

“This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.”

~ Receive the Bread and Cup ~

Voluntary

We Remember

Marty Haugen (b.1950)

O Sacrament Most Holy (FLUDA)

Robert L. Stoltz (b.1955)

~ Partake in the Feast ~

Prayer After Communion

O Creator, we give you thanks for this holy feast, in which we remember Christ's saving death and resurrection – in which we experience Christ himself. We remember your greatest gift of love embodied by Jesus Christ and we rejoice. May your Spirit renew us and transform us for your service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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 - in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by the Pierce Family in memory of Emily and John Pierce Sr.

FAITH FORMATION - Will **NOT** meet today. Youth are asked to stay in worship for communion.

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. 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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - *TODAY* Sunday, March 15th, the confirmation class will gather for a group session in Diana's office beginning at around 11:30. The class will last for about an hour.

Our Life in Community

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER'S OFFICE HOURS - Rev. McCloskey will be available in his office this 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.

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

LENT DEVOTIONALS - Copies of "Tell Me Something Good" are available in the narthex and Brink Hall lobby. Family Lent-in-a-Bag devotionals are also available in the narthex.

BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT: *Tell Me Something Good* Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30pm. We will meet upstairs in the meeting space in Diana's office.

RENEW BIBLE STUDY - Join in via Zoom this Tuesday, March 19th, at 12 noon. They will be reading "Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent", which is a devotional booklet available for free at church. This series is inspired by many of Jesus' core teachings, and invites us to be grounded in the subversive and joyful good news of the gospel. For questions and Zoom link contact Sunny Baldwin, at 518-320-4562 or csunnyb53@gmail.com.

FOWLER SPAGHETTI DINNER is almost here. This Saturday, March 21st from 4:30-6:30pm. Volunteers are still needed to help serve, bus tables etc. We also need fancy auction cakes and dessert cakes. If you can help, sign ups are in the narthex.

WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS - will be held on Saturday March 28th from 1:00pm-4:00pm in Brink Hall. This class caters to anyone who identifies as a female and is 13 years +. Fathers, spouses, and supportive males are also welcome. Pre-registration with payment is required. Space is limited. Sign up in the Church Office with your \$35 payment (cash or checks made out to First Reformed Church of Scotia). For questions contact Susan Damon at susandamon1@gmail.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT - The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Palm Sunday, March 29th at 11:15am. If you would like to help out in the egg hunt bring 12 filled eggs by *Sunday March 22*. Kids will be provided a bag to decorate. There will also be a cross craft, games and story time. *ALL, young and old*, are welcome!

Our Life in Service

MISSION OF THE MONTH: The March Mission of the Month is Camp Fowler Ministries. Camp Fowler does not receive any direct financial support from the RCA. The funds to cover the cost of running the camp are raised from churches, organizations, and individuals who share its vision. Fowler strives to keep camp affordable for all children. Over the years this congregation has benefited greatly from its partnership with Camp Fowler. Please consider supporting Camp Fowler this month!

OVER THE BRIDGE - The Over the Bridge Outreach mission seeks to provide essential resources, emotional and spiritual support to those in need in Scotia and Schenectady. Would you be interested in riding along? A sign-up sheet for Riders is in the Brink Hall Lobby. Rides last from about 11:15am to 2:00pm. Riders will usually drive with Linda Lewis and Doug. For more information, please reach out to: Doug Bartling Jr at 518-836-6688; Linda Lewis at 518-949-1228; or Linda Naumowicz at 518-225-2246.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD UPDATE - This week two of our guests asked if it was ok to take things from the Community Cupboard “if I don’t belong here.” The answer is, *yes, of course. Everyone is welcome here!* This is a good reminder to ask ourselves what can we do better so that everyone feels welcome? Soon, the Community Cupboard will have a name tag that says “All are welcome.” We hope that the variety of food and personal care items placed there with care also demonstrates that message. The responsiveness of our community to provide food items, sharing blessings, has truly helped to spread that message.

The Community Cupboard is currently in need of: canned fruit, canned pasta/spaghetti sauce, breakfast cereals & peanut butter.

If shopping for specific items is difficult, monetary donations are appreciated. We will shop for you!

This Week’s Calendar

SUN, Mar 15	8:00 & 10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary
	9:00 & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	9:30am	Choir Assembles, Sanctuary
	11:30am	Group Confirmation Class, Diana’s Office
MON, Mar 16	6:00pm	Board of Elders Meeting, Memorial Lounge
	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting, Library
TUES, Mar 17	12:00pm	Renew Bible Study, Zoom
	2:00pm	Care Council, Memorial Lounge
	6:30pm	Lent Bible Study, Diana’s Office
WED, Mar 18	9:30am	Backpack Packing, Brink Hall
	6:00pm-7:30pm	Fresh Table Food Distribution, Brink Hall
THURS, Mar 19	7:00pm	Building & Grounds Council, Church Office
	11:00am	Fellowship Council, Church Office
	5:30pm	Worship Council, Memorial Lounge
SAT, Mar 21	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	4:00pm-6:30pm	Fowler Spaghetti Dinner & Cake Auction
SUN, Mar 22	8:00 & 10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary
	9:00 & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	9:30am	Choir Assembles, Choir Room
	11:30am	Personnel Committee, Memorial Lounge

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.*