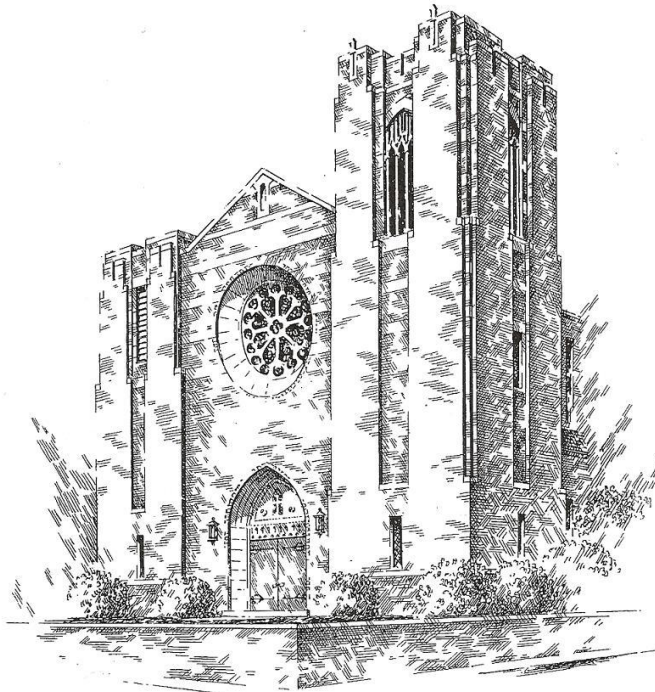


First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover---
The Love of God
The Power to Love Others
The Ability to Love Ourselves



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Sunday, January 3, 2010

Service of Divine Worship

New Year Covenant Service, Consistory Installation, and Communion

Second Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

*Chimes Sounding the Hour

*Time of Greeting

Announcements

Choral Call to Worship

Solemn Declaration and Choral Amen

Praise to God

*The Collect

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Hymn

“Our God, Our Help In Ages Past”

No. 63

The Lord’s Prayer (*We pray debts*)

Anthem

“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

Ades

Reading of Scripture:

John 15:1-8 {Page #983 of Pew Bible}

The Call (people seated)

ADORATION

Pastor: Let us adore the Father, the God of love who created us; who every moment preserves and sustains us; who has loved us with an everlasting love, and given us the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

People: **We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor; who went about doing good and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom; who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin; who became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross; who was dead, and liveth for ever more; who opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers; who sitteth at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

People: **Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.**

Pastor: Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ; whose witness confirms us; whose wisdom teaches us; whose power enables us; who waits to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

People: **All praise to thee, O Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

THANKSGIVING

Pastor: *Let us rise and give thanks to God for his manifold mercies. O God our Father, the fountain of all goodness, who hast been gracious to us through all the years of our life: We give thee thanks for thy loving kindness which hath filled our days and brought us to this time and place.*

People: **We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Pastor: *Thou hast given us life and reason, and set us in a world which is full of thy glory. Thou hast comforted us with kindred and friends, and ministered to us through the hands and minds of our fellows.*

People: **We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Pastor: *Thou hast set in our hearts a hunger for thee, and given us thy peace. Thou hast redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. Thou hast given us a place in the fellowship of thy Spirit and the witness of thy Church.*

People: **We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Pastor: *In darkness thou hast been our light, in adversity and temptation a rock of strength, in our joys the very spirit of joy, in our labors the all-sufficient reward.*

People: **We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Pastor: *Thou hast remembered us when we have forgotten thee, followed us even when we fled from thee, met us with forgiveness when we turn back to thee. For all thy long-suffering and the abundance of thy grace,*

People: **We praise Thy holy name, O Lord.**

Silent Prayer (People seated)

Confession of Sin

Pastor: *Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and watching our hearts, lest by self-deceit we shut ourselves out from His presence. O God our Father, who hast set forth the way of life for us in thy beloved Son: We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our reluctance to follow Him. Thou hast spoken and called, and we have not given heed; thy beauty hath shone forth, and we have been blind; thou hast stretched out thy hands to us through our fellows, and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits with little thanks; we have been unworthy of thy changeless love.*

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: *Forgive us, we beseech thee, the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our inconsistency and unbelief, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our false pretenses, and our willful ignorance of thy ways.*

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: *Forgive us wherein we have wasted our time or misused our gifts. Forgive us wherein we have excused our own wrongdoing or evaded our responsibilities. Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good, that we have drawn back from the cross.*

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: *Forgive us that so little of thy love hath reached others through us, and that we have borne so lightly wrongs and sufferings that were not our own. Forgive us wherein we have cherished the things that divide us from others, and wherein we have made it hard for them to live with us, and wherein we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness.*

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: If we have made no ventures in fellowship, if we have kept in our heart a grievance against another, if we have not sought reconciliation, if we have been eager for the punishment of wrongdoers and slow to seek their redemption,

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Silent Prayer

People: **Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.**

Pastor: This is the message we have heard from Him, and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is *no* darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Response Through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer

Witness of Faith

The Call To Covenant

Pastor: O Lord God, holy Father, who hast called us through Christ to be partakers in this gracious covenant: We take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for love of thee, to seek and do thy perfect will. We are no longer our own, but thine.

All: **I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.**

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Sanctus With Preface

Pastor: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:

People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high! Amen.**

Installation Of New Consistory Members and the New Trustee:

(The 2010 Consistory and Board of Trustees will please assemble in front.)

Pastor: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of the church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve. *(Names are listed in alphabetical order. The bold font indicates new members.)*

Elders

Tom Danze, Vice President (Unexpired term of Albert Evans)

Harriette Murphy, Treasurer

Calvin Odom

Nancy Robbins

Cheryl Walser

Sylvia Walser

Deacons

Mike Brown

June Grubb, President

Jeff Hutchens

Betty Link

Edgar Miller

Janette Neal

John Smith, III

Ramona Yarbrough, Secretary

Eddie Yates

Trustees

Roy Bevan

Jerry Smith

Steve Smith

Jim Swing

Scott Frye

Scott Frye: Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service on the Consistory and Board of Trustees of First Reformed United Church of Christ. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve, with the help of God, in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Members: I am.

Pastor: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Members: I do, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: (Addressing the congregation)

Members of this household of faith, you have heard our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

(The congregation may be seated)

Laying On Of Hands

Pastor: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you, **Tom Danze, Harriette Murphy, and Sylvia Walser**, for the position of **Elder**. We lay hands upon you, **June Grubb, and John Smith**, for the position of **Deacon**. We also lay hands upon you, **Scott Frye**, for the position of **Trustee**. (All Consistory members who have already received Laying on of Hands are invited to participate in this act.)

Let us pray as a congregation: **Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties, that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united and uniting in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Reverend Patten and Consistory President Scott Frye:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of First Reformed United Church of Christ, we rejoice to announce that you are each installed in your respective positions as members of the Consistory and Board of Trustees. In accordance with the faith and order of this church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Preparation for Obedience in the World

* Hymn

"Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart"

No. 7

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Leader: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: **Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."**

*The Benediction **(We are asking that our Entire 2010 Consistory and Board of Trustees stand with the minister as we greet church members.)**

*Postlude

***Those who are able please stand**

Today's **New Year's Covenant Service** is my adaptation of a series of services that have been around for many hundreds of years, with ecumenical elements that are of Roman Catholic, Anglican, Reformed and Wesleyan origins. In its present form, especially in the earlier liturgical expressions, it most nearly approximates the Wesleyan Covenant Service, first celebrated in 1745 by John Wesley at Spittlefields, England, on the first Sunday of that then new year. While it would appear to be a long service, it will take about an hour to complete, including the Installation of our new Consistory and Board of Trustees and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, though I have compressed our Communion liturgy to its essential elements. We have attempted to adapt this service to our present categories of worship, for your convenience, noticing that here, *we do not have a pastoral prayer or a sermon*: the liturgy itself is the prayer and the sermon. I hope that you will take this service home with you and refer to it for devotional purposes throughout the year, reminding yourselves of the Covenants we do herein make for 2010. May this service be a blessing upon you and yours as we enter the new year. We will return to our usual worship format next Sunday.

Blessings and Shalom, Reverend Walt

Living the Questions Study Series

We will begin our next sequence of seven sessions of our "**Living the Questions**" series at **7:15 p.m., January 14, 2010 in our Educational Building**. This series of studies is entitled "Reclaiming the World". Lesson topics include:

- ◆ January 14, 2010 "Restoring Relationships"
- ◆ January 21, 2010 "The Prophetic Jesus"
- ◆ January 28, 2010 "Evil, Suffering and A God of Love"
- ◆ February 4, 2010 "The Myth of Redemptive Violence"
- ◆ February 11, 2010 "Practicing Resurrection"
- ◆ February 18, 2010 "Debunking the Rapture"
- ◆ February 25, 2010 "Reclaiming the World"

As before, we will use a stimulating DVD to prompt our discussions, along with lesson handouts for personal work.

WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

USHERS: J.W. Bates, Ramona Yarbrough, Denise Durham, and Sylvia Walser

PLATE ATTENDANT: Buddy Lohr

ACOLYTES: Laura and Katarina Strenk

GREETERS: Brian and Beka McKerlie

NURSERY {Birth through 6 years-old}: Kay Crouse and Emily Leonard

PRAYER CONCERNS: John Rollins, Elmer Morgan, Ronnie Durham, Willie Ruth Leonard, Sadie Bailey, Rita Tussey, Arlene Swing, Margaret Trexler, Jacqueline Leonard, Frances Leonard, Joel Reece, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Ernie Bonner, Johnny Sink, Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson’s Cousin), Van “Buster” Conrad (Gray Family), Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman’s Uncle), Jacob Berrier, Susan Cadwallader (Anne Fletcher’s Mother), and Sgt. Russell Mullis, USMC (Jerri Russell’s son who is serving in Afghanistan). To place a name on the prayer chain, please call Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 3	9:45 a.m. ----- JOINT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL {Lesson: New Way Class}
	10:20 a.m. ----- SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIAL {Host: Cheryl and Bill Walser, Janette Neal and John Potts}
	11:00 a.m. ----- THE COVENANT SERVICE AND HOLY COMMUNION Ordination/Installation of Elders and Deacons
	Noon ----- DECORATING AND HANGING OF THE GREENS COMMITTEES REMOVE DECORATIONS FROM CHURCH BUILDINGS
Monday, January 4	6:30 p.m. ----- BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING {Parlor}
Tuesday, January 5	6:30 p.m. ----- Search Committee Meeting {Parlor}
Wednesday, January 6	11:00 a.m. ----- MORNING GLORY CIRCLE {Parlor}
	7:00 p.m. ----- Adult Choir Practice
Thursday, January 7	5:30 p.m. ----- YOGA Class
Sunday, January 10	9:45 a.m. ----- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE
	11:00 a.m. ----- WORSHIP SERVICE KIDS’ CLUB {Following Children’s Moment}
	6:00 p.m. ----- New Elders and Deacons meet with Reverend Patten (P)
	7:00 p.m. ----- CONSISTORY MEETING {Willing Workers Classroom}
Monday, January 11	Morning Glory Circle Serves Meal at Homeless Shelter
	5:30 p.m. ----- Scrap Book/Craft Night {Parlor}
Wednesday, January 13	7:00 p.m. ----- Adult Choir Practice
Thursday, January 14	5:30 p.m. ----- YOGA Class
	7:15 p.m. ----- LIVING THE QUESTIONS STUDY {Fellowship Hall}

December 27, 2009	Attendance (Worship 127)	Offering Received \$5,620.76
December 28, 2008	Attendance (Worship 102)	Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,574.00

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister	Paul Freeman, Choir Director
(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)	Lee Ann Peele, Organist
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst	