

Order of Worship for January February 7, 2021  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Virtual Worship



*Photo by Sam Bark on Unsplash*

**We Approach God**

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Votum, Sentences, and Salutation

Prelude: “Prelude Saudade” from La Catedral by Augustin Barrios Mangore | Fred Smith, classical guitar

Call to Worship (written by the Rev. Kaji Dousa; respond out loud, but muted)

One: Good people of the church,  
Lift up your eyes and see.

**All: Have you not seen?  
Have you not heard?  
Our God greets us here.**

One: Good servants of the Most High,  
Open your ears to hear.

**All: Have you not seen?  
Have you not heard?  
Our God meets us here.**

One: Good children of the light  
Open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

**All: For we have seen, heard and known  
From the beginning to the end,  
Our God...is.**

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

(from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*)

Unison: God, you are everlasting, the creator of all that is. Your understanding is beyond measure. We confess to you that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. In your compassion, forgive us, for we place our hope in your steadfast love.

Silent Prayer

Kyrie (spoken in unison):

**Lord have mercy upon us.  
Christ have mercy upon us.  
Lord have mercy upon us.**

Words of Assurance

Summary of the Law of Love

Gloria Patri

**We Hear God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mark 1:29-39

Children's Message

Sermon: "Weary and Strong"

Visual Testimony: "Praise Song for the Pandemic"

## **We Respond to God's Word**

Hymn of Response: "On Eagles' Wings"

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace (stretch your hands toward your screen if you're on video, praying God's peace on the assembly.)

## Invitation to the Offering

Offerings may be made in three ways:

- Electronic transfer using Zelle to [frc1850@aol.com](mailto:frc1850@aol.com)
- Online giving at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1289239>
- Checks made out to First Reformed Church may be mailed to 18 Farragut Ave., Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706

Offertory: “Andante Religioso” from *La Catedral* by Augustin Barrios Mangore | Fred Smith, classical guitar

## **We Come to the Lord’s Table**

### The Meaning of the Sacrament

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the holy Supper which we are about to celebrate  
is a feast of remembrance, of communion, and of hope.

We come in remembrance  
that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world  
to assume our flesh and blood  
and to fulfill for us all obedience to the divine law,  
even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross.  
By his death, resurrection, and ascension  
he established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation  
that we might be accepted of God and never be forsaken by him.

We come to have communion with this same Christ  
who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.  
In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us  
as the true heavenly Bread that strengthens us unto life eternal.  
In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the Vine  
in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

We come in hope,  
believing that this bread and this cup  
are a pledge and foretaste of the feast of love  
of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come,  
when with unveiled face we shall behold him,  
made like unto him in his glory.

Since by his death, resurrection, and ascension  
Christ has obtained for us the life-giving Spirit

who unites us all in one body,  
so are we to receive this Supper in true love,  
mindful of the communion of saints.

#### Invitation

The first time Jesus sat down to this meal, among those gathered there were one who would doubt him, one who would deny him, one who would betray him, and they would all leave him alone before that night was over – and he knew it. Still, he sat down and ate with them. If he ate with them, surely he's ready to eat with us. You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to be sure. You don't have to be a member of this church. You don't have to be a saint. All you have to be to eat at this table is hungry.

**God will do the rest.**

#### Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being, and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation. For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ our

Lord. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

#### Communion

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread;  
and when he had given thanks, he broke it  
and gave it to them, saying,  
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you:  
do this in remembrance of me.”

After the same manner also, he took the cup when they had supped,  
saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood:  
this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”  
*We receive the elements.*

#### Thanksgiving after Communion

(based on Psalm 103)

Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God’s holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**and do not forget all God’s benefits—**  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
**who heals all your diseases,**  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

God does not deal with us according to our sins,  
**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

As a father has compassion for his children,  
**so the Lord has compassion for those who fear God,**

who did not spare his own Son,  
but gave him up for us all,  
and will also give us all things with him.

**Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth forevermore. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

*Our time of prayer concludes with the 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.**

Closing Hymn: "Guide My Feet"

Blessing and Benediction

*The space will remain open for conversation and catching up in our "virtual coffee hour."*

### **Announcements**

**Ash Wednesday Joint Zoom Service with Greenville Community Church:** An Ash Wednesday worship service jointly sponsored by First Reformed Church of Hastings-on-Hudson and Greenville Community Church will be held via Zoom on February 17, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent, a season in the church that leads to Easter. The normal practice is to impose ashes on the foreheads of worshipers but this year, due to the pandemic, participants will be invited to mark their own foreheads with olive oil. Note: please be prepared with your own oil! The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87321348052?pwd=SGs1UjV3OE0yRHNZWdhdDak54ek5Jdz09>

**Lent Study Group:** After an enthusiastic response to Advent's study group, Pastor Emily will lead a study group on Zoom during the six Wednesdays of Lent (starting on the Wednesday *after* Ash Wednesday, which is February 17). The dates are February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24, and April 3. We will be reading together Amy-Jill Levine's book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. In this book, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story through the theme of "risk." She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Sign up for the study by emailing Pastor Emily: [revemilybrown@gmail.com](mailto:revemilybrown@gmail.com). **If you would like us to order you a copy of the book to pick up at the church, please email no later than today, February 7!** (\$10

per copy is appreciated, but if that presents a financial difficulty we will happily provide the book for you.)

**Annual Meeting:** Our annual congregational meeting will take place via Zoom on February 28 at 11:30am. All members and regular attendees of First Reformed Church are encouraged to attend. The meeting will include reports, passing a budget for 2021, and electing members of Consistory. One deacon, Isabel Noguera, will be ending her term, and we are seeking congregants who feel called to serve in this way. If you are interested in serving as a Deacon, please reach out to any of the Deacons or Elders, or Pastor Emily.