

***Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 5, 2012***



François-Louis Schmied, Woodcut illustration for "The Creation", 1928.

***First Reformed Church of Bethlehem
Selkirk, New York***

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THE APPROACH TO GOD

The Organ Prelude

The Greetings and Announcements

Introit

The Votum: Our Help is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Call to Worship: (responsive)

L. Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

P. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

L. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. |

P. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

L. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

P. The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

L. Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

P. He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

L. He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

P. His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

L. but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

P. Praise the LORD!

Congregational Response (sung): *Alleluia!*

The Salutation

* The Hymn “*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*”, #466(*Red Hymn Book*)

L. Let us join in the prayer of confession:

**P. God of light,
We have been so blind when truth has been so clear.
When we could have looked ahead, we fell behind.
When we could have viewed the wider picture, we saw
only a part.
When we could have sensed the Spirit leading, we
missed the way.
Forgive our dim apprehension of love’s clear leading.
Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see,
through the light that lingers when all else fails,
Even the bright Morning Star of our faith,
Jesus Christ, the Savior. AMEN ******

(a time of silent reflection)

“*Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*”, #572 (*Red Hymn Book*)

L. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ***

C. Thanks be to God! Amen!

Summary of the Law

* “*Glory Be to the Father*”, #579 (*Red Hymn Book*)

* Greeting of Peace

A Moment with the Children:

Leader: We go now our separate ways.

Congregation: **May God be with you there.**

Children: **May God be with you here!**

* Hymn: *“O Christ the Great Foundation”*, # 177(Green Hymn Book)

THE WORD OF GOD

The Prayer for Illumination:

Holy and awesome God,
your Son's authority is found in integrity and living truth,
not the assertion of power over others.
Open our imaginations to new dimensions of your love,
and heal us of all that severs us from you and one another,
that we may grow into the vision you unfold before us. Amen.**

The Scripture Lesson

Lesson from the First Covenant: Isaiah 40:21-31

L. This is the Word of the Lord.
C. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: *“Lord of All, Most Holy”*, Keck – Hopson

Lesson from the Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

L. The Gospel of our Lord
C. **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

Sermon: **AND YOUR MISSION IS?**

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

The Worship of Giving

“Praise God”, #592 (*Red Hymn Book*)

Offertory Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn: **“Remembering With Love and Hope”** (*verses 1 & 2*)

#249 (*Green Hymn Book*)

The Communion: #250 (*Green Hymn Book*)

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(Communion is served by Intinction, taking the bread and dipping in the cup)

“Thanksgiving”: #256 (*Green Hymn Book*)

Prayers of Intercession

* Hymn: **“Remembering With Love and Hope”** (*Verses 3-4-5*)

#249 (*Green Hymn Book*)

* Benediction

Postlude: **“Amen”**

* Indicates stand, if you are able.

** From the Revised Common Lectionary

*** From *The Worship Resource*

We welcome you to First Reformed Church of Bethlehem. Please join us for fellowship following this service.

Lord of All, Most Holy Keck – Hopson

Lord of all, most holy, how shall we give thanks?
How, for a broken body?
How for a crown of thorns?
What thanks have we for such a crown?
O Lord, what thanks have we?
Yet if that body of Jesus be not broken,
Our broken lives will not know the joy of healing.
If he, the Lord, the most Holy be not mocked;
Our mocking words of the truth will not be barred.
And so we praise you. Alleluia!
And if the Lord of all life be not risen,
Our mortal lives will not rise in fullest measure.
If he not reign as the Lord of heaven and earth,
Our fainting souls will not find eternal joy.
Lord of all, most holy, hear our thankful praise.
Hear our supplication.
Lord of all, most holy, thanks for your life poured out;
Thanks for your broken body.
In deed, we too, would serve the world,
And praise your name forever more.

Announcements

February 5, 2012

Welcome to First Reformed Church of Bethlehem. If you are a guest and want to know more about us, please come to the coffee hour after church and meet some of our members. You may also make an appointment to meet with Pastor Ratmeyer.

If you wish to know more about us, or to receive our mailings and newsletter, please drop us a note with your contact information in the plate or email us at frcb@verizon.net. You may also visit our website: www.firstbethlehem.org. Our Sunday worship begins at 10:00, with Sunday school 8:45-9:45. Nursery care is provided on Sunday from 8:30-11:30. If you would like to visit with our pastor, Harlan Ratmeyer, or find out more about the life of this congregation, please call 522-3627, or e-mail hratmeyer@gmail.com for more information.

Many thanks to Carolyn Karp, our liturgist for this service, and to today's ushers, Sue Hoadley and Gene Everingham. Next week Fred and Claudette Schubert will greet you.

We remember those in urgent need of our prayers this week: Mary Jane Brown, Ed Brown, Kerry Schubert, Mary Lou Busby, James Dickerson, Jim Thayer and Marc Hafensteiner. **Please remember those who need our long-term prayer and support:** Dick Hager, Pat Weisheit, Dave Kent, Joan Stahlman, DeLora Miles, Harold Joyce, Bob Miles, Ellen Ratmeyer, David Nasner, Lillian Everingham, Tina Ross, Tracy Perkins, Nicole Jordan, Glenn Rivenburg, Doris Turner, Eleanor Sokil, June Milburn, Esther Jordan, Bill Weisheit, Eleanor Wiedemann, June Dawson, Charlie Ripley, Ann Everingham, Kristine Tracey-Lindskoog, and Beulah Nasner.

We also ask that you keep Tom Olsen, Brandon Roth, Sam Hafensteiner, Jeff Mills, Seth and Andrea Johnson, Matt Swisher, Tommy Fleming and all our service members, wherever they are stationed, in your prayers for their safety.

The rosebud is placed today in honor of the birth of Mikayla Marie Pagan. She was born on 1/26/12 at 3:04pm at St. Peters Hospital. She was 6lbs 15oz. and 19 1/2 inches long. Congratulations to Raul, Brenda and all of the Pagan family!

“Ed and I want to thank you for all your help and prayers since our car accident on Saturday. It was a very scary experience and especially difficult to be 400 miles away from home. I felt the support of your prayers from the beginning, and it was wonderful to come home to the knowledge that meals were going to be provided. Since I can't even bend down to get a pan out of a cabinet, I knew I wouldn't be doing much cooking. There are not words to express the gratitude I feel, but THANK YOU!” Mary Jane Brown

Will you be my (Secret) Valentine??

Our Secret Valentine exchange is in full swing! We are enjoying the pleasure and delight of giving and receiving our gifts each week through February 12th. On February 19th, we will have a potluck lunch, games, and final gift exchange and Secret Valentine reveal following the worship service. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. Final gifts for the exchange need not to exceed \$5. You are welcome to join us for the luncheon even if you aren't participating in the gift exchange. If you have any questions, please contact Tracey! Happy Secret Valentine!

On **Thursday, February 16th at 7:30pm**, we will be meeting to discuss **chapter one** of the book "**Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived**" by **Rob Bell**. **Even if you were unable to join us at the first meeting, you are still welcome to join this group!** We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall at the church. **Please contact Ellen at eratmeyer@rca.org if you would like her to order the book and study guide to be used for this class.** Feel free to contact Tracey (Lteawaters@aol.com), Ellen (eratmeyer@rca.org) or Debbie (dera0326@yahoo.com) with any questions. We hope to see you on February 16th at 7:30pm!

The Olive Branch Thrift Shop is located at Third Reformed Church. They depend on donations. Unfortunately, they don't get much in the way of **men's clothing and personal items**. If any churches could help out, it would be a blessing. To drop items off, please call Karen LaMountain at 621-7077 or at the church, 463-7276.

ROOM FOR ALL RESOURCE-SHARING MOVIE NIGHT- MONDAY, FEB. 27, 7-9 PM, at the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem. The Capital District RfA chapter will offer a showing of "Through My Eyes," a compelling and deeply pastoral introduction to the experiences of young gay Christians. This 45-minute DVD presents their stories as they discuss their struggle to reconcile their faith and sexuality, their attempts to become straight, and the responses from parents and other Christians. Come and watch the movie, engage in feedback!

Even the strongest people may find themselves needing support to fully recover from the impact that recent flooding has had on their lives. Project HOPE offers crisis counseling from counselors who are carefully trained to provide support, education and links to community resources that can help with recovery. In Albany County, call 272-6012 ex. 239. Project HOPE is funded through a FEMA grant, and is a program of the NYS Office of Mental Health.



Judy Selkirk is having an exhibition of her watercolors in the Voorheesville library during the month of January, and the Bethlehem library in February. She will donate a percentage of her sales to the Venture Churches Food Pantry.

The Capital Region Theological Center Presents: “Works of Love: the Challenge of Being a Disciple” Friday April 20, 6:30-8:30pm and Saturday, April 21, 9am-4pm. Friday, join two great minds in dialogue, Dr. Randall Zachman University of Notre Dame and Dr. Dennis Tamburello of Siena College. Saturday, journey with Jesus using Soren Kierkegaard’s book Works of Love, to draw out a theology of discipleship including practical application. Both days \$105., or Friday \$25. by 3/23, \$35. thereafter. Saturday \$85. by 3/23, \$95. thereafter. Registration deadline 4/5.

Donations Needed for the Winter! Donations topping the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless wish list include: socks, combination locks and liquid laundry detergent. These items are ALWAYS in demand at Interfaith. Items can be brought to the Emergency Shelter 176 Sheridan Ave. They also accept clothing and household donations at Grassroots Givers Community Store within the IPH Sheridan Hollow Drop-in Center, and 26 South Swan St.

At Home with the Word. These daily bible readings from the Common Lectionary are drawn from next Sundays' lessons to help prepare for worship: February 6-12

Monday	2 Kings 5:1-7
Tuesday	2 Kings 5:8-14
Wednesday	Psalm 30:1-5
Thursday	Psalm 30:6-12
Friday	1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Saturday	Mark 1:40-45
Sunday	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

We record most **sermons on CD** and are able to make copies upon request. Feel free to take one to a friend who may have missed the service or to hear one that you may have missed. Contact the church office if you are interested in getting a copy.

If you have a special occasion that you would like to celebrate or remember with flowers in church – please mark our **Flower Chart** that is in the fellowship hall. You may also contact Donna Lasher either after church or at 767-9917 to make arrangements.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 5 – 10am Worship and Communion.

Monday February 6 – Worship Committee meeting 6pm,
Choir rehearsal 7pm.

Tuesday, February 7 – Consistory meeting 7pm.

Monday, February 13 – Sunshine Seniors luncheon 12pm.

Thursday, February 16 – Love Wins Study Group 7:30pm.

Sunday, February 19 – Secret Valentine Potluck after the Service.

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service- 7pm.

Sunday, February 26 – First Sunday in Lent.

Wednesday, February 29 –

Lenten “Soup and Sandwich” series begins- 6pm.

**The Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9:30-11:30am, and from 5-7pm.
(Weather closings follow the RCS School District.)**

The AA Group meets every Friday at 7:30 pm.

Yoga class meets from 9:30-10:45 every Saturday.

The Reverend Harlan E. Ratmeyer, Pastor

Phones: Home – 767-2686 Cell – 522-3627

Church Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Donna Lasher, Vice-President of Consistory – 767-9917

Church e-mail: frcb@verizon.net & Website: www.firstbethlehem.org

Phone: 767-2243 Fax: 767-3310

Debra Ennis – Director of Christian Education

Tracey Waters – Assistant Director of Christian Education

Shirley Nasner – Organist & Choir Director

Sarah Hafensteiner – Treasurer

Betty Poirier – Secretary