Order of Worship for March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
First Reformed Church Hastings on Hudson

"Let the Little Children Come" by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

## Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

*First Reformed Church of Hastings-on-Hudson is a church for all people, each of us being unique and created in the image of God.*

*We believe God's unconditional love and grace, as revealed through Jesus Christ, does not distinguish among God's people based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, ability, or disability.*

*All are children of God, and all are welcome with joy in our Sanctuary. We strive to provide an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth.*

## We Approach God

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Votum, Sentences, and Salutation

Prelude: "Os Justi" by Eleanor Daley — Angelica Women's Chamber Choir

Call to Worship (responsive) ⚕

One: God loves the field mouse.
**All: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**
One: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.
**All: God loves the child who rocks and claps.**
One: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
**All: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**
One: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.
**All: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.**
One: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.
**All: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**
One: So let us worship this good-news God!
**All: Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn: "When Morning Gilds the Skies" (#487)

Invitation to Confession ⚕

Prayer of Confession (responsive) ⚕

One: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."
**All: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**
One: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
**All: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**
One: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."
**All: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**
One: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."
**All: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**
One: For all the ways we have ignored and defied God's call:
**All: Forgive us, Holy One.**

Silent Prayer

Kyrie (#572):

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

Words of Assurance (responsive) ⚕

One: Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

**All: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

One: May this good news change our lives!

**All: Amen.**

Summary of the Law of Love

*Gloria Patri (#579):

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;**
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**
**Amen, amen.**

## We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination ⚕

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 24:17-22
Matthew 19:13-15

Children's Message

Sermon: "Protection and Care for the Vulnerable" Rev. Ann Kansfield, guest preacher

## We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn of Response: "See the Precious Children" (insert) ⚕

Affirmation of Faith ⚕

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**
**It sounds like welcome**
**and feels like home.**
**It sounds like laughter**
**and feels like mercy.**
**It sounds like love**
**and feels like a seat at the table,**
**so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**
**I have seen it alive in the world.**
**And even when my heart aches,**
**even when wars rage,**
**even when mercy feels out of reach,**
**I remember the one who**
**welcomed the children**
**and led with nonviolence.**
**I remember the one who**
**cared for the vulnerable**
**and inspired those around him.**
**I remember that the good news really is good news,**
**for I have seen it alive in the world.**
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Invitation to the Offering

For those attending remotely or preferring to give digitally, offerings may be made in three ways:

- Electronic transfer using Zelle to 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: "Salve Virgo Virginum" -anon. Angelica Women's Chamber Choir

*Doxology (#592):

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**
**Praise God, all creatures here below;**
**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Benevolent God, you care for those who are hungry, poor and marginalized, and call us to care for them as well. You promise a day when the hungry will be filled, and the downtrodden lifted up. Help us be part of that transformation. Take our gifts to feed the hungry and sustain the poor. Multiply our gifts to erase the margins of our society, embracing us all in your inclusive love. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer ⚕

*Prayer response after each petition:*
*One: Oh God of love and mercy,*
***All: Hear our 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: “The Church of Christ in Every Age” (#421)

*Blessing and Benediction ⚶

Postlude: “An Irish Blessing” by Richard Burchard Angelica Women’s Chamber Choir

*Those attending in person are invited to coffee hour in the Fraser Room after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.*

Liturgy marked with the ⚶ symbol created by A Sanctified Art
*Congregants in the sanctuary are invited to rise
**Bold text is read in unison**

## Announcements

**Thanks to all** who are assisting with the service today! Our lector/liturgist is Fred Smith. Today's musicians are Trish Waters and the singers of Angelica Women's Chamber Choir under the direction of Marie Caruso. Bailes Brown will teach Sunday School.

**Welcome to our Guest Preacher, Rev. Ann Kansfield:** As our congregation considers becoming "dually affiliated," continuing to be part of the RCA (Reformed Church in America) denomination and additionally becoming part of the UCC (United Church of Christ) denomination, we welcome guest preacher Rev. Ann Kansfield! Rev. Kansfield was raised in the RCA, ordained in the UCC, and serves an RCA/UCC Church, Greenpoint Reformed in Brooklyn, NY. Rev. Kansfield is the author of *Be the Brave One: Living Your Spiritual Values Out Loud and Other Life Lessons*. The first female and first openly gay FDNY chaplain, in 2015 she was voted the inaugural *New York Times* New Yorker of the year. **After today's service, Rev. Kansfield will lead a conversation about her church's experience as a UCC/RCA church.**

**Welcome to Angelica Women's Chamber Choir!** Angelica is a non-profit women's chamber choir dedicated to presenting and preserving secular and sacred music, creating and performing new music, collaborating with other musical groups, and presenting meaningful concerts. Marie Caruso has served as Artistic Director since 2005. Angelica has been Artist-in-Residence at the First Reformed Church of Hastings-on-Hudson since Fall 2018. Their next concert will take place Saturday, May 9, at 3pm at Irvington Presbyterian Church.

**About today's bulletin cover:** This piece from the "Tell Me Something Good" series by A Sanctified Art is titled "Let the Little Children Come." Artist Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell writes: "At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait (her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!). I imagine the scene in Matthew 19: toddlers wailing, little ones slipping from their parents' arms, parents offering apologetic glances toward the frowning disciples as the scene around Jesus grows increasingly disorderly and loud…. Jesus reorients his disciples (and us) away from the illusion of control and reminds us that it is the joyful, unruly, sincere presence of a child to whom the kingdom truly belongs. Just a chapter earlier, in Matthew 18, Jesus tells his followers that unless they become like little children, they will not even enter the kingdom…. While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy being an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom."

**Lenten Suppers with Greenville Community Church – Wednesdays at 6:30pm:** During Lent, we are partnering with our neighbors at Greenville Community Church for a series of simple Lenten potluck suppers. Each includes a meal with time for fellowship, a spiritual program based on Amy-Jill Levine's *Witness at the Cross*, and a simple service of Communion. We are alternating between meeting at Greenville Community Church and meeting at First Reformed Church, with our final two meetings as follows:

March 18: Greenville | Study: The women at the cross & the Beloved Disciple
March 25: FRC | Study: Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus

We hope we'll see you this Wednesday at 6:30 at Greenville Community Church, located at 270 Ardsley Road in Scarsdale. Please bring a dish to share if you're able.

**Holy Week Worship Services:** In addition to Sunday worship on Palm Sunday (March 29) and Easter Sunday (April 5), we will offer Holy Week services as follows:

> **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 7pm, April 2 (in person only):** This is a simple, meaningful, reflective service with communion and scripture readings. We gather around candlelit tables to remember Jesus' last supper, and as the service continues, extinguish the candles one by one until we enter the darkness of Good Friday.
>
> **Good Friday Service of Silence & Sorrow, 7pm, April 3 (in person only):** This service is a space to gather around the cross in silence and in sorrow, to be present to the suffering of Jesus, and to know the presence of God in the sorrows of our lives and the world.

**Congregational Meeting:** Our annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday March 19 at 12pm in the Fraser Room for the purpose of receiving reports, electing the members of Consistory, voting on Consistory's proposal to become dually affiliated with the United Church of Christ, voting on the 2026 budget, and all other business that may properly come before the meeting. All members and regular attendees of First Reformed Church are encouraged to attend. The meeting is in person, and light lunch will be served.

The next **Consistory meeting** will take place on Sunday, April 26, at 12pm via Zoom.

For more information about First Reformed Church, scan this QR code to go to www.frchoh.org

Clergy: The Rev. Emily M. Brown First Reformed Church

Staff: Trish Waters, Office Administrator & Music Director

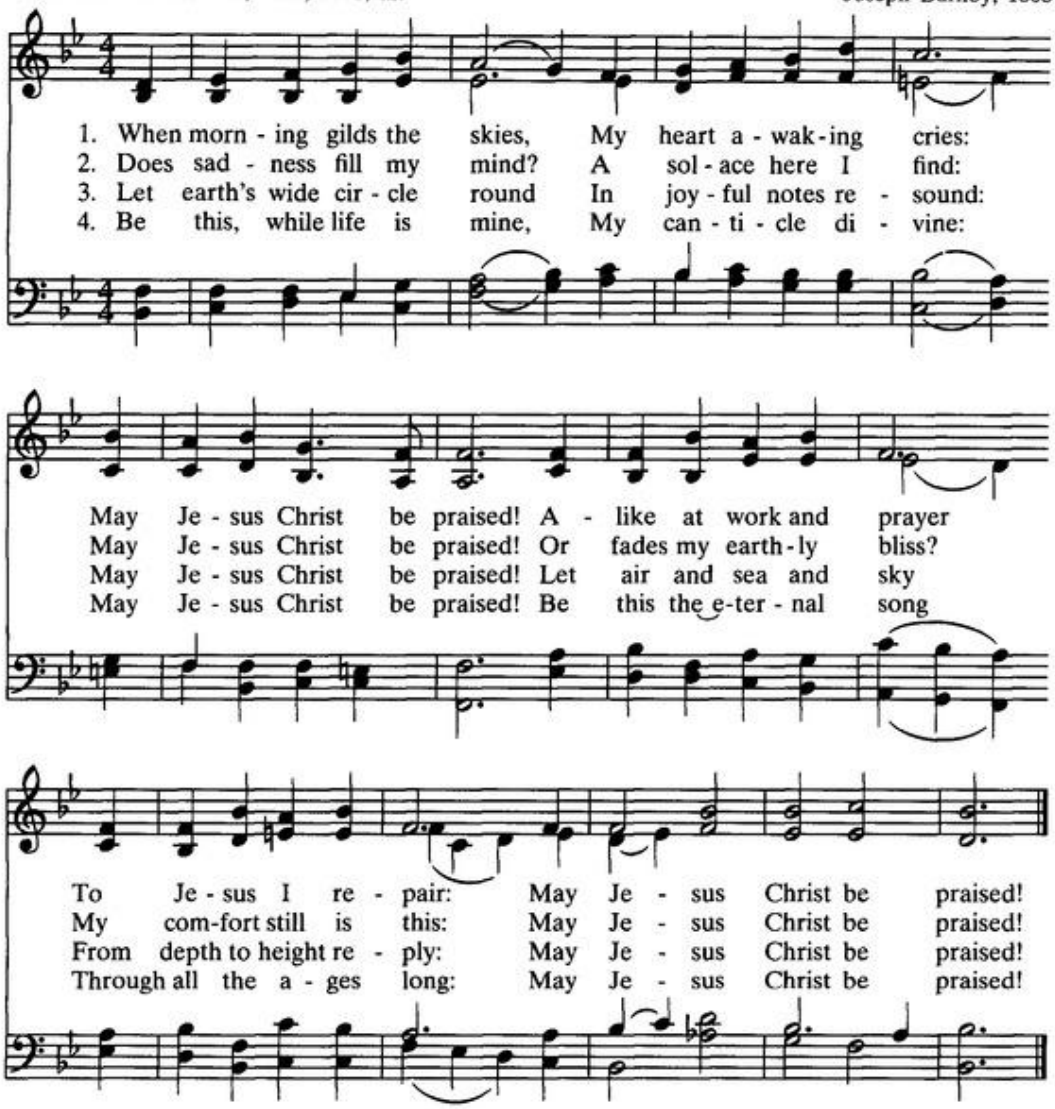
Hanna Skaskiv, Sexton

# When Morning Gilds the Skies 487

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6 D

German hymn, c. 1800
Trans. Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858; alt.

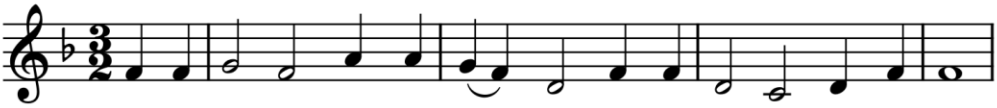
Joseph Barnby, 1868



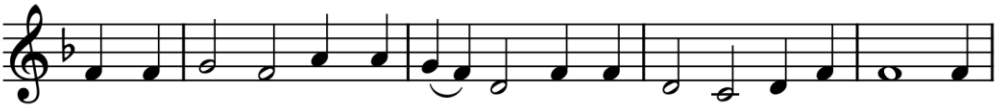
# See the Precious Children

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("As We Gather at Your Table")

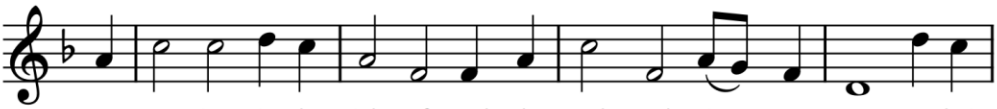
Words: Anna Strickland (2025) Music: B. F. White (1844)



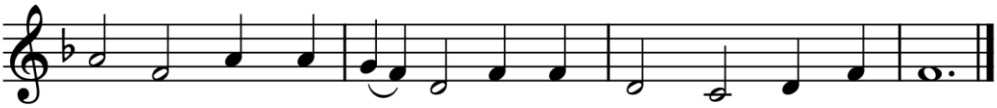
See the pre-cious chil-dren seat - ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo - men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for - eign stran - gers as they car - ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis - poss - essed ones ask - ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im - pov - erished by our ma - lice and our greed



Called the great - est in the king-dom, held so gent - ly and a - dored They
Then re - turn - ing to their kit - chen to pre - pare their dai - ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan - gers for the pow - er - less and prone They
Sleep - ing un - der star - ry heav-ens, dai - ly liv - ing on the streets They
Hu - mans, a - ni - mals, and pla - net cry - ing out for some re - lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti - ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro - ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho - ly thing In our



weak - ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor - row they're held by love that re - deems each fra - gile part
jour - ney they're held by love as they start each day a - new
hun - ger they're held by love as they guard their hu - man pride
liv - ing we're held by love as we care for ev - ery being

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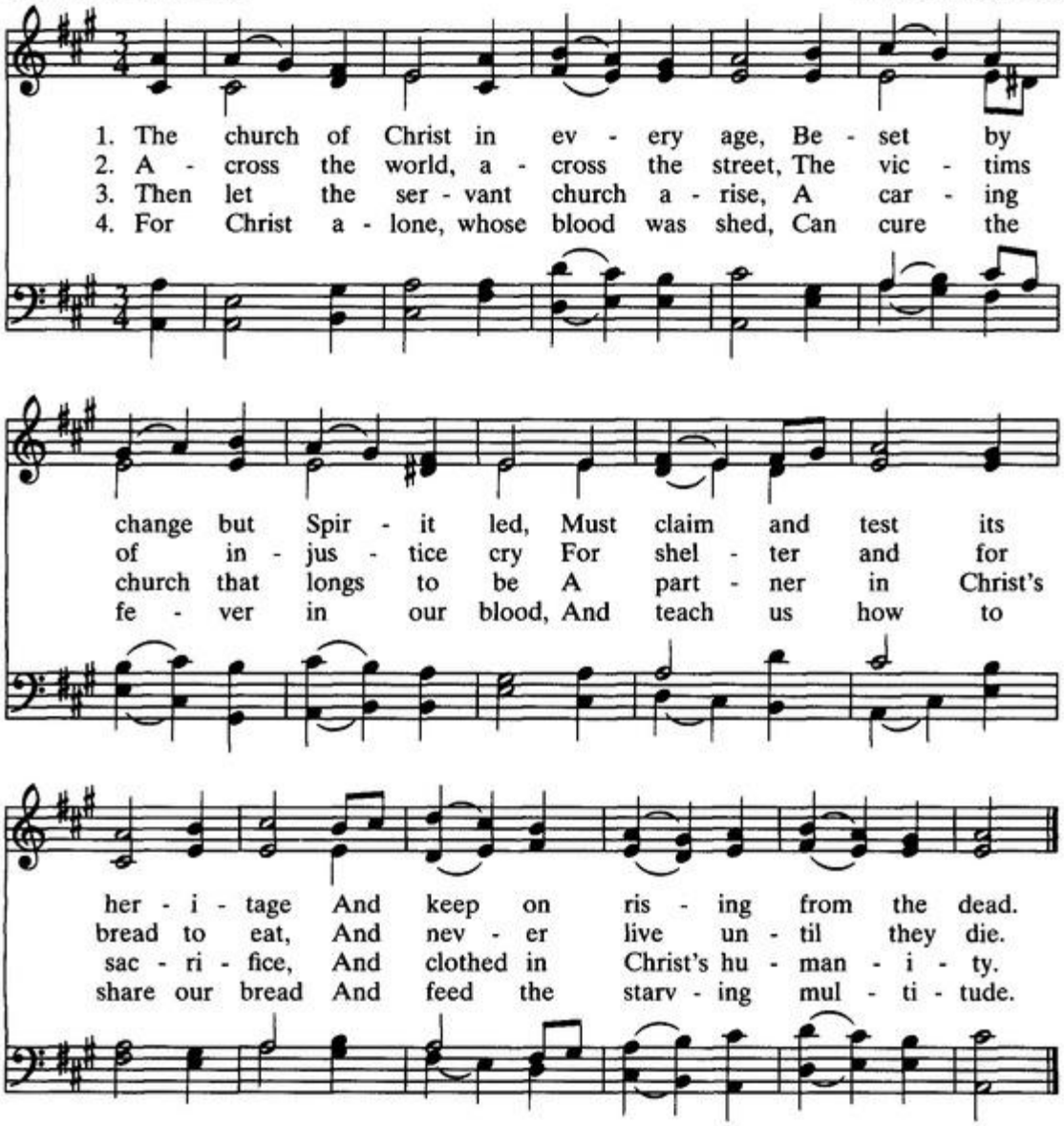
# The Church of Christ in Every Age 421

WAREHAM LM

Fred Pratt Green, 1969 William Knapp, 1738




5. We have no mission but to serve
In full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
And spread Christ's liberating word.

Another harmonization of this tune, 265

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