

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Martin Luther

I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Love the Lord Your God"

Jean & Jim Strathdee, 1991

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Love the Lord your God with all your soul.

Love the Lord your God with all your mind.

Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Leader: A little over five hundred years ago, a pastor and monk named

Martin Luther, working in an obscure college in the obscure town of Wittenberg, Germany, took a stand on Scripture to make the Church a better witness. He did so without fear, trusting God, his refuge and strength. Today, we celebrate the bravery of Luther and Calvin and Zwingli, of Wycliffe and Hus and Menno Simons, of Cramner and Valdez and many others.

People: We celebrate those who trust in God. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

***Hymn**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

#321

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

We resist being your prisoners, O Christ: we have not always led lives worthy of our calling, but have, all too often, sought to go our own way, and so we have fractured your Church when we seek to reform it. We own and confess our self-importance and severity, our impatience, our shunning of one another in conceit, and our reluctance to be bound by unity or peace.

We resist oneness, O Spirit: we too often struggle against the fervent hope you express in continually calling us, and so we have fractured your Church when we seek to reform it. We own and confess our refusal to share our Savior, our insistence on a tailor-made faith, and our fantasy that baptism is our experience rather than your gift.

We resist giving ourselves to you, God of all: we too often see you only in ourselves rather than above us and everyone, working through us and everyone, present in us and everyone, and so we have fractured your Church when we seek to reform it. We own and confess our selfish insistence at exclusivity and our rejection of your glorious family.

Triune God, forgive our resistance, break down our divisions, and scatter our fears. Make us truly one, even as you are one. All this we earnestly pray. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:1-4, 12-15

Choir Anthem “Christ Be With Me”

Noel Rawsthorne, 2006

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to guide me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in care of friend and stranger.

Second Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-6

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Sock Drawer”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Confession of Belhar (10.5)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

We believe that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

***Hymn**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

#275

Invitation to Offering

*Response "We Give Thee but Thine Own" (v. 1) #708

*Prayer of Dedication

The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "We Are Marching in the Light of God" #853

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh
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*Postlude "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Anna Laura Page

Pastors: Désirée M. Youngblood
Steve Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: David Parrott

David grew up and went to school throughout the state of Iowa, but recently moved to London, Ohio in the summer of 2020 with his wife, Stephanie, after she graduated with her PhD in chemistry from Iowa State University. They will be celebrating their 3rd wedding anniversary this September. David and Stephanie can often be found gardening and riding their tandem bicycle on the trails surrounding London. They love to spend time with their furry children (Minnie, a 2 year old Staffordshire terrier, and Charlie, a 10 year old Mini Rex rabbit). If you happen to find yourself at the Madison Health Hospital in London, you might see David, as he recently started working there as a phlebotomist and lab technologist.