

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

October 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday/Commitment Sunday

In the sanctuary and live-streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Martin Luther; arr. Brant Adams
 Bob ~~Vawter~~, trombone; Susan Steppe, piano

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art Toulon

Opening Sentences

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
People: **The Maker of heaven and earth.**
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will, to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and, finally, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession Unison

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father: we have sinned against you,
through our own fault, in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.**

**For the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us all our offenses,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your Name ...**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 220 All People That on Earth Do Dwell Old Hundredth

Pastor: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6,14,16-17ab

Unison

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,

or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,

like grass that is renewed in the morning;

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

in the evening it fades and withers.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let your work be manifest to your servants

and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

and prosper for us the work of our hands.

Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 441 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

St. Thomas

The congregation sits.

Sermon

Sharing the Gospel and Ourselves

Mike Krech

"So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us." 1 Thess. 2:8

An Opportunity to Present Commitments for A.D. 2021

Maintaining social distancing, worshipers are invited to place their 2021 commitment cards on the Communion table or in an offering plate on the tables to their right or left.

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 430 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy Darwall's 148th

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria Patri 579 Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (Erhalt Uns, Herr)
Martin Luther/J. Klug (tune)

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 260 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Ein' Feste Burg

Worshipers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude For All the Saints (Sine Nomine) Ralph Vaughan Williams
with Symphony No. 1, Part 4 Johannes Brahms

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

On this last Sunday in October we observe Reformation Sunday. The Protestant Reformation is often dated to October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther (1483-1546) posted 95 theses, items for debate, at the church at Wittenberg, Germany. During the 16th century Protestantism spread throughout Europe. It emphasized the authority of scripture, justification by grace through faith, the priesthood of all believers, the Christian vocation of laypersons, and more inclusive and representative church government.

Presbyterianism is part of the Reformed Tradition within Protestant Christianity, looking to John Calvin (1509-1564) and his emphasis upon the sovereignty of God and the office of Elder (presbuteros in Greek). Many Protestant groups settled in North America in the seventeenth century and later, giving the United States a majority Protestant population. The first, second, and final hymns in today's service are three of the best known hymns from the time of Martin Luther and John Calvin. (JMK)

We also observe Commitment Sunday today.

Your pledges for A.D. 2021 will be gratefully received.