

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

When We Are in the Deepest Need Johann Sebastian Bach
Fantasy and Fugue in G Minor J. S. Bach

Introit

“Now Let Us Come before Him” J. S. Bach
*Now let us come before him, with songs and prayers adore him,
who to our life from heaven all needed strength hath given.*

*Doxology (*sung*) The Hymnal, 606

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.

*A Reformation Litany

Leader: *Throughout the human story the Spirit of God continues to speak,*

People: **in visions and voices, in images and ideas,**

Leader: *in all languages and all time, to all people in all places,*

People: **inviting the people of God to discover God’s living Word.**

Leader: *To Abram it came as a sign in the stars . . .*

. . . and still the Spirit comes to us today.

People: **The Church Reformed, always willing to be Reformed
by the wildly creative Spirit of God.**

Leader: *It may burn in our hearts like fire*

or whisper in the silence as a still, small voice.

People: **It may sing to us from the stars
or sneak up on us from within.**

Leader: *But we are here today because the Spirit speaks to us
and we respond!*

*Hymn 624 “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Eternal God, you have called us into covenant, yet our commitment is shallow and our love is weak. We place lesser concerns high on our list of priorities and give you whatever time is left. Forgive our sin, O God, and turn us again toward your purposes. Reform our lives by renewing our dedication to you.

By your Holy Spirit, give us a new sense of our calling, a new zeal in our faithfulness, a new compassion toward neighbors in need, and a new appreciation for your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. May we always be open to the reforming and refreshing wind of your Spirit. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news:*
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Concerns of the Church

Minute for Discipleship

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*sung*)

“Out of the Depths” (Psalm 130) The Hymnal, 424

Anthem

“Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott” Hans Leo Hassler
*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 65:17–25 Old Testament, page 654
Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581

Glorify 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.

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:14–20. New Testament, page 170
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Always Being Reformed” Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from A Declaration of Faith

The church is founded on Jesus Christ.
Gathered around the Word and Sacraments,
those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,
together with their children, have formed a corporate, visible body
in pilgrimage with God across the centuries.
We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world
through this community of ordinary people,
therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church.
Christ is the Head of the church, therefore we are responsible to Christ
when we make policy and decisions in the church.
Christ is the foundation of the church,
therefore it will not fall despite our weakness.
We are confident that the Lord of the church
will judge and defeat our sinful intentions and actions,
help us in our weakness and blindness,
and use the church to accomplish his purposes.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Prayer Response

“Draw Us to Thee” J. S. Bach

*Draw us to thee, for then shall we walk in thy steps forever,
and hasten on where thou art gone, to be with thee, dear Savior.*

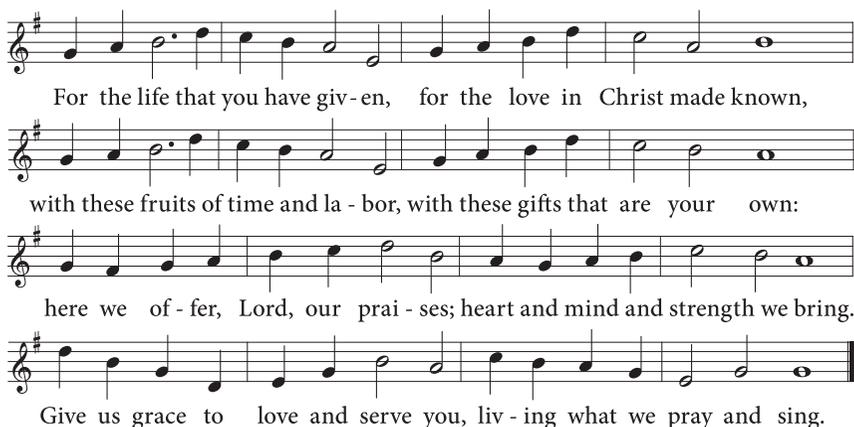
Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Ershallet, ihr Lieder” J. S. Bach

Sing praises, ye faithful, for this joyous time! The Lord desires a temple in our soul.

*Presentation of the Offering and Response



For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

*Litany of Dedication of Our Offerings and Pledges

Leader: *The Creator of all life and love
has given our earth bountiful blessings.*

People: **God created humanity to share
in the wonder and joy of these blessings.**

Leader: *All thanks be to God, giver and receiver of all that is good.*

People: **We return to God portions of what God has given us:
our time, the fruits of our labors, our commitment.**

Leader: *May the giving from the fullness of our lives
be acceptable in God's sight.*

People: **May the gifts we bring show that God's Rule is at hand—
both now and to come.**

Leader: *We dedicate our offerings toward the ministry God has given us.*

People: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 275 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*Benediction and Response

Worshipers who wish to do so are invited to sing along with the choir during the Benediction responses.

*Recessional (*please remain standing*)

Scotland the Brave Scottish melody

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Helmut Walcha

TODAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY,

a day when we recall the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) grew out of the Reformation of the sixteenth century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox.

It was 500 years ago this week, on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg,

Germany, the watershed event sparking the Reformation.

Luther later authored the hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” sung in today’s service and featured in the Postlude.

Reformation Sunday is also a day when we remember and give thanks for Reformation leaders and all others who have kept the faith.

Worship Leaders

9:30 Victoria G. Curtiss, Kathi Rodak, Rocky Supinger, Shannon J. Kershner

11:00 Victoria G. Curtiss, Mary Schaafsma, Rocky Supinger, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir; George Sims, bagpiper

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

TODAY'S MINUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP is presented by Alison Gerlach Blaser on behalf of "Called to Be a Church Alive," the 2018 Annual Appeal for Fourth Presbyterian Church and Chicago Lights.

TODAY'S PROCESSIONAL BANNER depicts "Luther's Rose." The seal depicts a cross on a heart to symbolize faith in the Crucified, which grows from the heart. The heart is in the midst of a white rose to symbolize the joy, comfort, and peace that comes to us through faith. A similar rose can be found throughout the architecture of the sanctuary, including on all six sides of every chandelier (see cover photograph). Our paraments and stoles today are red to symbolize the Holy Spirit's work in reforming the church.

AS WE MARK THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION this autumn, we continue our seven-part "Always Reforming" sermon series. Each week we are also affirming our faith by using different creeds and statements of faith from the Reformed tradition. Today's affirmation is from A Declaration of Faith.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to "For the Life that You Have Given" are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Shannon J. Kershner Pastor

Victoria G. Curtiss Associate Pastor for Mission

Matt Helms Associate Pastor
for Children and Family Ministry

Rocky Supinger Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Nanette Sawyer Minister for Congregational Life

Alex Wirth Minister for Evangelism

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

Abbi Heimach-Snipes Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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