



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Reformation Sunday

29 October 2023

It is the office of the Holy Spirit to sanctify men, and He does so largely through the tangible intermedium of the Word.
—Thomas Chalmers

The Word of God is just as the Prophet Amos says: it meets us like a bear in the road or a lioness in the forest. It is a stumbling block. It is a scandal. It is an offense. It is a sword. —Martin Luther

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—Philippians 3:8

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.

Sung Response—The Lord Is King, Vs. 1



The Lord is King! lift up thy voice, O Earth; and all ye heav'ns, re-joice!



From world to world the joy shall ring, "The Lord om-ni - po - tent is King."

Text: Josiah Conder, 1824; Music: ROCKBRIDGE, Lucius Chapin,
from *The Harmonia Sacra*, 1812, alt. 2010.

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 18:46-50

Pastor: The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock!

All: Let the God of our salvation be exalted!

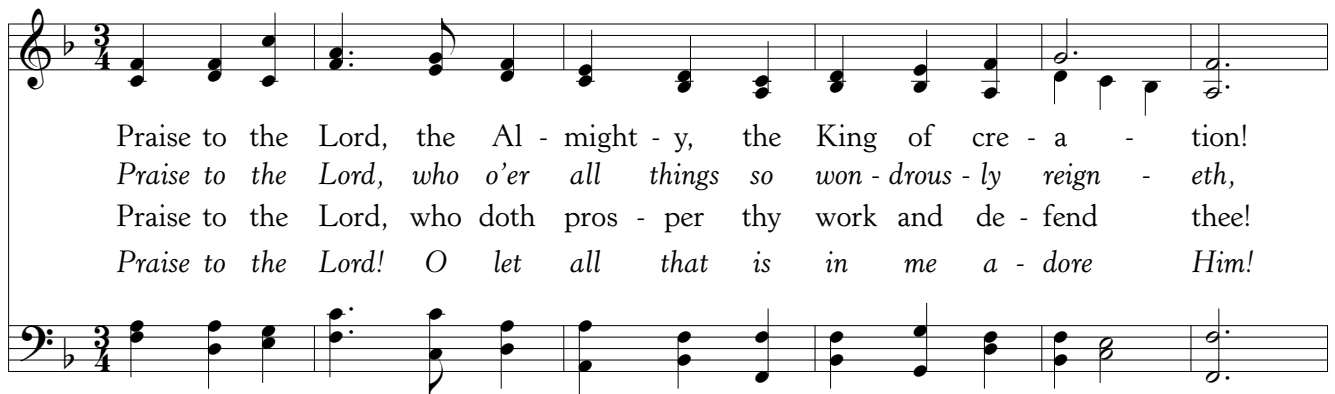
Reader 1: You are our God. You, O Lord, have given us justice. You have delivered us, rescued us, and exalted us.

Reader 2: For this will we praise You, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to Your holy name. Great is Your salvation.

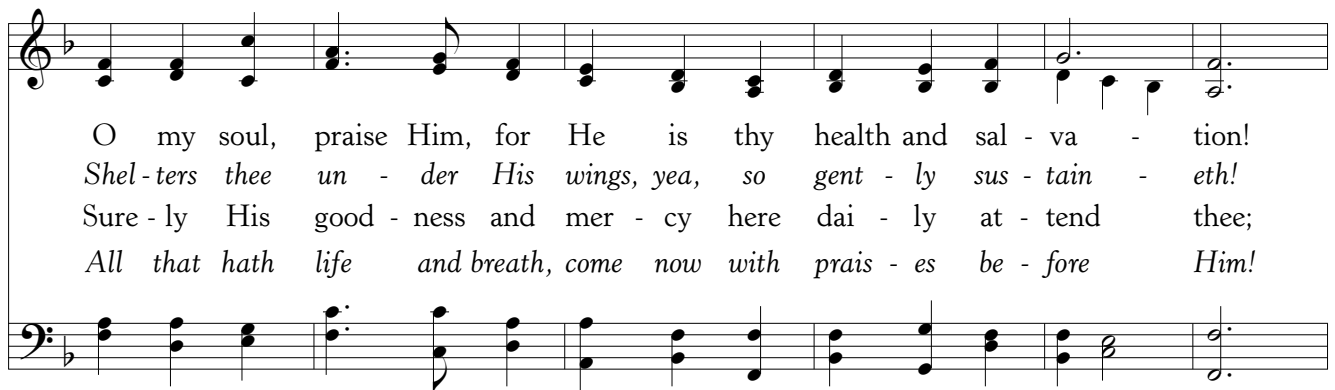
All: You show Your steadfast love to Your beloved forever.

Pastor: Rejoice! The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock!

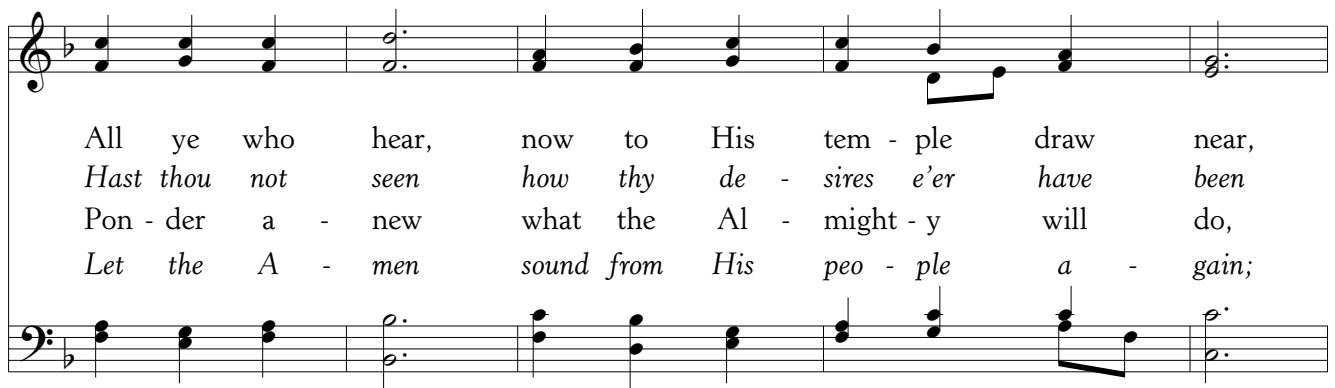
Congregational Hymn—Praise To The Lord, The Almighty



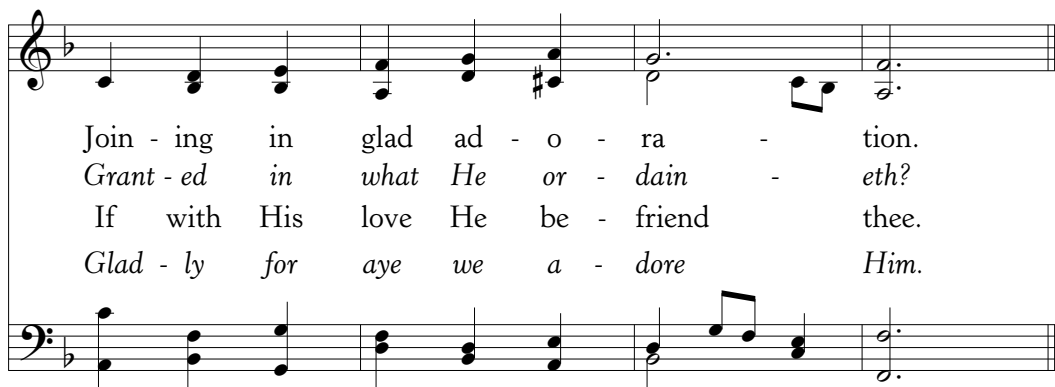
Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee!
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
 Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee;
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him!



All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw near,
Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y will do,
Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a - gain;



Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 If with His love He be - friend thee.
Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1680, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

Antiphonal Scripture Song—Song At The Sea

* REFRAIN

Leader



To the Lord I will sing for His glo-rious vic-to-ry; the horse and the ri-der He has thrown in-to the sea.

Congregation



To the Lord I will sing for His glo-rious vic-to-ry; the horse and the ri-der He has thrown in-to the sea.

Leader



The Lord is my strength and my song, sal - va - tion He brings to me;
For Phar - aoh and all of his host, He cast them in - to the sea,
The en - e - my vowed to pur - sue, to ru - in to rape to spoil;
You led to Your ho - ly a - bode the peo - ple whom You re - deemed;
You plant them on Your ho - ly hill, the moun - tain which You have made,



My fa - ther's God, He is my God, and I will ex - alt and praise.
The floods went up; and in the depths their char - i - ots sank like stones.
The sea rose up and cov - ered them; in wa - ter they sank like lead.
The na - tions heard; they trem - ble still; all Ca - naan shall melt a - way.
Es - tab - lished there by Your right hand, for - ev - er with You they'll reign.

Congregation



The Lord is a man of war; Je - ho - vah is His name. *
Your hand shows your glor - ious pow'r to crush your en - e - mies.
O who is like You, my Lord, in per - fect ho - li - ness? *
On them shall great ter - ror fall till all Your folk pass by.
Ma - jes - tic are all Your deeds, the won - ders of Your hand. *

Text: Exodus 15:1-21, Henry C. Haffner. 2022; Music: MIDNIGHT SUN. Henry C. Haffner, 2022.

Baptism of Mock Cannon, son of Caleb and Alexis Cannon

Scripture Reading—1 Corinthians 15:1-6

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the Word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands



Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands, for our of - fens - es—giv - en;
It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend - ed;
So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;



But now at God's right hand He stands and brings us life from Heav - en:
The vic - tor - y re - mained with life: the reign of death was—end - ed.
Christ is Him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing God's prais - es thank - ful - ly
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Now His grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;



With songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Death's sting is lost for - ev - er! Al - le - lu - ia!
The night of sin is end - ed. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1524, tr. Richard Massie 1858; Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN,
Medieval melody, arr. Johann Walther, 1524.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 4:12-16

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word, Vs. 1

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Lord, keep us stead-fast in Thy word, curb those who fain by craft or sword Would wrest the king-dom from Thy Son, and set at naught all He hath done." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style.

Text: Martin Luther, 1541, Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, Alt. 2007;

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543.

Sermon—*Quickened to Draw Near*

—Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 5:8

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We confess that we have taken the blessing of Your Word and the blessing of the revelation of Christ Jesus for granted.

All: **All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.**

Pastor: You have given us Your Word so that we might be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

All: **But we have been slow to listen, slow to obey, and slow to render You the praise and honor due to Your name.**

Pastor: We confess that we have been forgetful hearers more often than faithful doers of Your Word.

All: **Nevertheless, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, the righteous for the unrighteous, that we might now hear and heed the good Word of the Lord, beholding the majesty of the Most High God.**

Assurance of Pardon—Romans 8:31-33, 35, 38-39; Colossians 2:6-7

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: Therefore, in the same way you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so continue to walk in Him.

All: **So then, we are rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.**

Pastor: Therefore, let us abound in thanksgiving.

Sung Response—From Heaven On High, Vs. 3



Je - sus the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all need shall aid af - ford;



Him - self will your Sal - va - tion be, Him - self from sin will make you free.

HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly is the Lord God Al - might - y,
Heav'n and Earth are full of Thy glor - y, glor - y—be un - to— Thee,
O Lord most high, O Lord most high, O Lord most high, A - men.

Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!
It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole, and calms the troub - led breast;
Dear name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing place,
Je - sus! My shep - herd, bro - ther, friend, my Proph - et, Priest and King,
Weak is the ef - fort of my heart, and cold my warm - est thought;
Till then I would Thy love pro - claim with ev - 'ry fleet - ing beath,

It soothes his sor - rows, heals his wounds, and drives a - way his fear.
'Tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wea - ry, rest.
My nev - er fail - ing treasu - ry, filled with bound - less stores of grace!
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, ac - - cept the praise I bring.
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
And may the mu - sic of Thy name re - - fresh my soul in death!

Music: Text: John Newton, 1774; Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836.

Congregational Hymn—Before The Throne Of God Above

Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect plea.
When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with - in,
Be - hold Him there the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - eous - ness,

A great High Priest whose name is Love who ev - er lives and pleads for me.
Up - ward I look and see Him there who made an end of all my sin.
The great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace,

My name is grav - en on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His heart.
Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed free.
One in Him - self I can - not die. my soul is pur - chased by His blood,

I know that while in Heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
For God the just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don me.
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
To look on Him and par - don me.
With Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

CCLI #2844402 ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship; Text: Charitie Bancroft, 1863; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

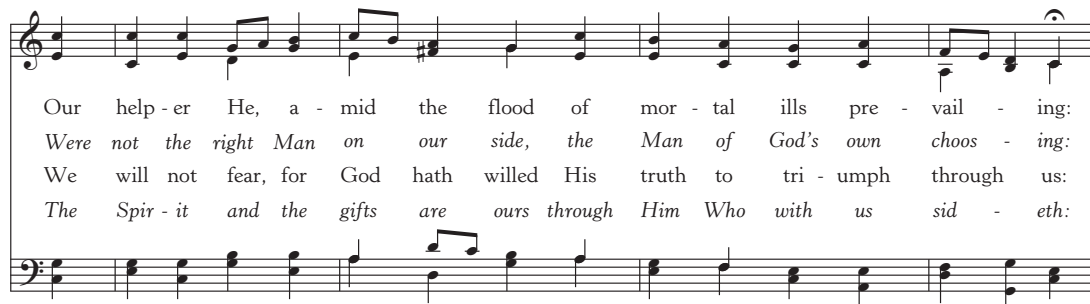
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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.*

Congregational Hymn—A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



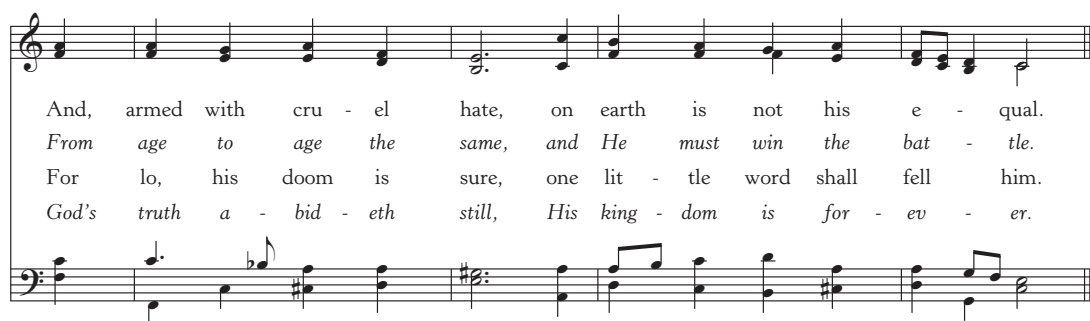
A might - y fort - ress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing;
And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
That Word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us:
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sid - eth:



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great,
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sa - ba - oth, His Name,
The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill:



And, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
From age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.
For lo, his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529, tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; Music: EIN'FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1529.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Psalm 145:14, 17

“The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. The Lord is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.” Go forth in hope. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Unto Christ Who Loved Us



Un-to Christ, who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,



And has made us kings and priests un - to God and His Fa - ther:



Un-to Him be glo-ry and do-min-ion for - ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

CCLI #2844402 ©1936 Oxford University Press; Text: Revelation 1:5-6;
Music: UNTO HIM WHO LOVED US, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music. —Martin Luther

This Sunday marks the annual observance of Reformation Sunday, when we remember with thanksgiving God's hand of providence in the 16th century Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther, the German monk who launched the Reformation by posting 95 theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, had a prolific engagement with music and poetry. Hymnals which included either tunes or texts by Luther appeared as early as 1524, and he worked closely with Johann Walter (the composer of *CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN*) to prepare music for a German language worship service. Luther famously wrote both the music and text of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (a paraphrase of Psalm 46), but he also provided the poetry for *Christ Jesus Lay In Death's Strong Bands* and *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word* and adapted a previously existing folk song for use with his Christmas hymn, *From Heaven On High* (all of which we'll sing this morning). He also believed that music and singing were such vital practices for the Christian that he greatly encouraged the development of musical education in the emerging German states—an effort that certainly encouraged the flowering of German musical culture in the following centuries, an example of theology working its way out in the life of a people. —Henry C. Haffner

Key words: Word, Sword, Division, High Priest, Confession, Confidence, Near, Grace

Keystone verse: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:16)



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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)

Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)

Matt Morrison (482-5107)

Jason Parolini (497-3337)

John Scherrer (on sabbatical)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson

Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

Jimmy Allen (on sabbatical)

Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)

Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)

Ben Crist (509-3040)

Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)

Nolan Reategui (829-0412)

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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.