

October 17, 2021

Reformation Sunday



Organ Prelude A Mighty Fortress is Our God - *arr. J. Walther and J. Pachelbel*
Les Moissonneurs (The harvesters) - *F. Couperin*

Welcome

Call to Worship

*You are the unseen guest at every table,
You are the unknown goal to which all strive;
**You are the unnamed source of inspiration;
You are the untamed grace on which we thrive.***

Jesus, you redeem us and open us to a new beginning.

We are your people.

*Welling up in the song of children,
willing laughter in a friendly room,*

**crossing paths coincidentally,
smiling in the face of doom.**

Jesus, you redeem us and open us to a new beginning.

We are your people.

*Taking time to weave tomorrow,
taking care to mend today,*

**taking thought where we were thoughtless,
noting what we meant to pray.**

Jesus, you redeem us and open us to a new beginning.

We are your people.

Hymn – **706** (v.1, 2, 4) – *Come, Let Us Sing*

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

**God of new beginnings,
throughout the human story,
your Spirit continues to speak and move in visions and voices,
in images and ideas, in all languages and all times,
inviting us to live out our faith reflected in love.**

**Through your Spirit, grant us courage and creativity,
so that today's uncertainties may not overwhelm us.**

**Fill us with love,
so that differences may not divide us.**

**Through your creative energy, make us new,
and empower us for faithful living,
in Jesus' name, Amen.**

Response to Prayer **VU 402 v.1**

**We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found,
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.**

Pardon

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

**Open wide our hearts,
open wide our minds,
open your word to us this day;
let your holy light shine upon it and through it,
bringing us light and life, Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Psalm 146 (refrain 1)

Mark 12: 28-34

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn **636** (v.1, 2) – *When Voices are Confusing*

Sermon – *Faith Expressed In Love*

Hymn **665** (v.1, 2 Eng, 4 fr) – *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

Prayers of the People

Loving God,
hear our prayer.

Our Father in heaven

**Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Hymn 674 – *In the Bulb There is a flower*

Benediction

Piano Postlude A Mighty Fortress is Our God - *arr. B. Edstrom*

St. Columba's Welcome Statement

We are called to love, respect and value God's world
and all the people who inhabit it.

Our community is strengthened and enriched
by the full inclusion of people of all ages, races, abilities,
sexual orientations, gender identities, spiritual perspectives,
and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Everyone is invited to travel with us
as we each explore our journeys of faith,
whether the path is clear or winding, easy or exhausting,
or sometimes just feels like it is going round in circles.

Together, we work to make our community one
where God's love is truly known.

Hymns

Hymn – 706 (v.1, 2, 4) – *Come, Let Us Sing*

**Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame:
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love;
come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

Hymn 636 (v.1, 2) – *When Voices are Confusing*

**When voices are confusing,
when right and wrong are blurred,
we need your help in choosing
the way to be preferred;
our feet are prone to wander
in paths untrue, untried:
O Christ, our strong commander,
become our trusted guide.**

**When truth is hard to follow
and fact is hard to find,
when crowd-appeals are shallow,
reshape, renew our mind.
Your ways we would be learning:
oh make our choices clear,
that we, the more discerning,
the more may persevere.**

Hymn 665 (v.1, 2 Eng, 4 fr) – *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

**Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go;
for our life and our peace and our love is yourself.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**

**Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**

**Jésus, je voudrais tout au long de ma route,
entendre tes pas résonner dans la nuit près de moi,
jusqu'à l'aube du jour où ton peuple sauvé,
Jésus, chantera ton retour sur ma route.**

Hymn 674 – *In the Bulb There is a flower*

**In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity,
in our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

Scripture Readings

Psalm 146

Refrain: **Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation.**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Refrain: **Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation.**

*Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.*

**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

Refrain: **Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

and upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the Lord brings the way of the wicked to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Refrain: **Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation.**

Mark 12: 28-34 (NRSV)

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.