



Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2025 – 10am

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE "Variations on How Firm a Foundation" arr. Linker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – Liturgist

Please rise in body or spirit and join me in the Call to Worship.

Leader: Praise be to God who pours out Her spirit upon all life.

People: She gives us everything we need to build beloved community.

Leader: Gathering us into Her dwelling place, She strengthens us.

People: In Her presence, the weary are renewed and joy is restored.

Leader: From all the edges of the earth, She calls to those who desire to grow in Love.

People: Coming home to the presence of God is also a coming home to each other.

Leader: With hearts awake to the wonder of this Sacred calling, let us worship God.

***HYMN 7**

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

Ribbon

As the tune name hints, this text is derived from images in the writings of the English medieval mystic, Julian of Norwich. In 1393 she wrote down an account of her sixteen remarkable visions experienced twenty years earlier; they formed the basis of her theology of God's love.

1 Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

2 Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.

3 Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flower, until I know.

CALL TO CONFESSION – Liturgist

Please be seated.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Trusting in God's gracious mercy through Jesus Christ, let us confess the sin that separates us from God and our neighbors.

Join me in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (a prayer by Martin Luther) –Liturgist

Cross

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

**I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,
that my love may go out to my neighbor.**

**I do not have a strong and firm faith;
at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.**

O Lord, help me.

Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner; you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom

I may not give. Amen.

(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Emily

[Water is poured into the font, visibly and audibly.]

Friends in faith,
the news is so good we can scarcely believe it:
God does not hold our sin against us
but pours out abundant grace.
Give thanks to God
and by the Spirit's power
share the gospel far and near:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

HYMN 582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Ribbon

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE Emily

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN 188

"Jesus Loves Me"

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (a prayer by Ulrich Zwingli) – Liturgist

Before we hear the scriptures read, let us pray that God's Spirit might open our hearts to receive a divine word.

Almighty, eternal, and merciful God, whose Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path, open and illuminate our minds that we may truly understand your Word and that our life may be conformed to what we have rightly understood, that in all our ways we may be pleasing to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 84:1-6 (NRSVUE) Liturgist

Notepad

To the leader: according to The Gittith. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

1 How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
2 My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.
4 Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. Selah
5 Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
6 As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 18:9-14 (NRSVUE) Emily

9 [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY † Emily

Infinite God,
impatient with your otherness
we make you into an idol
to serve our own needs:
humble our arrogance

by the strangeness of your coming
and the wonder of your mercy;
through Jesus Christ, the friend of Pharisees and tax collectors.
Amen.

SERMON

"Sharp Comparisons"

Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Emily

Cross

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say "debts & debtors.")

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Peace Candle Project

Ann Teske

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Liturgist

Beloveds, in community we take care of each other. We take responsibility for each other. We seek one another's wellness and we welcome those who are searching for belonging. With a shared commitment to this embodiment of God's love, and in gratitude for what we have already received from one another, let us bring together our gifts and our offerings.

You can give in person or online using the QR code printed in the bulletin or on the screen.

OFFERTORY

"Come Find His Rest" Arr. Dan Forrest

***DOXOLOGY 606**

Ribbon

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication – Liturgist

Cross

Holy One, in whatever ways we have wandered from right-relationship with you, our neighbors, or ourselves -restore us. Bring us back to our place in the whole of things - none more or less valuable than another. May we share justly and equitably all that we have materially, spiritually, and relationally. Amen.

***HYMN 275**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Ribbon

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

1 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.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,

we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Emily

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

† From *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Karl Craven – Liturgist

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Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Rev. Emily Krause Corzine – Guest Preacher