



St. Andrews-Covenant

Presbyterian Church | PC (USA)

Welcome to Worship! | October 29, 2023 | Reformation Sunday

It is good you are here! Please silence all electronic devices.

GATHERING

Prelude *That Priceless Grace*

Ghanaian traditional; setting, Aaron David Miller

Welcome

Moment for Mission *Thriving in 2024*

***Call to Worship**

God is our refuge and strength:

we will not fear for God is with us.

Though the earth shakes,

we will not fear for God is with us.

Though the waters swirl around us,

we will not fear for God is with us.

Though the nations rise and fight,

we will not fear for God is with us.

God is our help in the time of trouble:

we will not fear for God is with us.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn 409** *God Is Here!*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of love, your commandments are so simple: love God, love neighbor, love self. Yet we cannot always muster that love. Love for you seems too abstract and distant. Love for our neighbors seems too impractical and draining. Love for ourselves seems too impossible and unimportant. But you are truly the God of love; if there is anyone who can help us love, it is you. So, through your Spirit, surround and surprise us with your love and empower us to love with your love that we may fulfill your commands. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Sung Response 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

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.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

WORD

First Lesson *Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17*

Second Lesson *Matthew 22:34-40*

Sermon *Love in Action*

Rev. Katherine B. Harrington

***Hymn 63** *The Lord is God*

***Affirmation of Faith** *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

THANKSGIVING

Offering and Passing of Friendship Pads

Offertory *Built on the Rock*

arr. Matthew Compton

***Doxology 606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

SENDING

***Hymn 275 A** *Mighty Fortress is Our God*

***Blessing**

***Dismissal** *We stand while the bell is rung three times, remembering that God, Creator, Redeemer and Renewer of Life, goes with us. Go in peace!*

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Johann Pachelbel

Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor, Rev. Katherine B. Harrington
Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Gary Smith
Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger
Organist, Sara Bryant

Adult Handbell Choir
Production Coordinator, Jim Fox
Lay Reader, Evelyn Estep

Our Church's Mission

*Inspiring one another to love Jesus
by staying faithfully present in our community.*