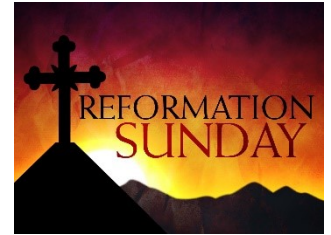




Sunday, October 25, 2020 – Online Service
Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, AZ
Reformation Sunday
On Earth as in Heaven: God's Call for Justice 3



PRELUDE *"Meditation"* - Morrison

INTROIT *"This is the Day"* - Fred Whitley and George Wheat, Duet

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Praise to God, who spoke creation, giving life to time and space.
Praise to Christ, whose living presence showed the world your human face.
Praise the Spirit, daily witness to your ever-loving way.
Take us now and reawaken us, challenge us to use this day.

OPENING HYMN *"Gather Us In"* #401

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Heart of the Covenant: we have known your hopes for us, and disappointed every one of them; we have heard your words of faithfulness, and forgotten every one of them; we have seen your dreams for us, and turned every one of them into ashes.

Forgive us, Hope's Heart. Silence every blustering word, so we may hear your mercy; still every feeble attempt to justify ourselves, so we may be made right with you; melt every frozen heart, so we might be drenched in your river of joy. May Jesus Christ continue to live in us, so we might be free to live forever with you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively)

One: Be still and know the good news: God has not forsaken nor forgotten us, but redeems us.

All: **Why should we be afraid? God is in our midst – forgiving, restoring, sending.**

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS TIME - Debbie Wood

SPECIAL MUSIC “*Ancient Words*” - Heather and Richard Carter

SCRIPTURE – THE PROPHETS Psalm 90

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a]
in all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³ You turn us^[b] back to dust,
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- ⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
- ⁷ For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
- ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- ⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end^[c] like a sigh.
- ¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span^[d] is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- ¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
- ¹² So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
- ¹³ Turn, O LORD! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵ Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.
- ¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE - GOSPEL

Matthew 22: 34-40

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Love Our Neighbors: How Far Will You Go?”
On Earth as in Heaven: God’s Call for Justice, Part 3

RESPONSE

Litany for the Reformation

We give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit whose light brought new understanding of both the Living Word and the written Scripture.

We give thanks for the reminder of consistent grace and mercy from God through Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the inspiration that led to the printing press, enabling the spread of information and the sharing of the gospel in many languages.

We thank God for the technologies that can be used for good for the support of communities and individuals.

We remember the lives that were lost in the struggle to reform the church on earth – those who were martyred, those who died fighting, those who perished in hiding, and who were killed on all sides.

We remember also the lives that have been lost throughout history in the name of religion and for those who die today for daring to believe.

We thank you for the instruction that comes through our church heritage – catechisms, the understanding of the saints, the gift of community, and a deeper appreciation of God’s gift of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism.

We thank you for the presence of Jesus Christ – in us, with us, and for us – and for the support of the Holy Spirit, ever-reforming us.

God of stability and change, we thank you that true reformation is always your work and always being done in us out of your love for your whole creation. We are ever reformed by the work of your love.
Semper Reformanda.

We are ever reformed by the work of God’s love. *Semper Reformanda.*

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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

CLOSING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" #275 Verses 1 and 4

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.

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.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful" #654 (sing twice)

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.*

POSTLUDE "Marche Heroique" - Stickels

Liturgy created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org

PARTICIPANTS:

The Reverend Renée Rico – Preacher
Elder Margie Riley – Worship Leader
Elders Fred Whitley & George Wheat - Introit
Elders Heather & Richard Carter – Special Music
Elder Debbie Wood – Children's Time
Janis Wheat – Piano and Organ
Elder Paul Hay – Video/Tech
Elder Judy Mayhew – Photos

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR *Happens at 11:15 a.m.*

Sign into ZOOM, and we'll place you in a small, Hosted group to have conversation with Faith folks to catch up and for conversation. Join Zoom Meeting :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85471968282?pwd=WnNpVXM1QndXTWdNNXN1QzNtNXFTUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7196 8282 Passcode: 603532

Dial by your location (call any number)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Holy One, in your love and mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, Spark of Life,
creation was envisioned by you and is sustained by you;
in gratitude we pray for the world:
that its riches and resources be used responsibly and fairly;
that its rulers and leaders may govern with justice, compassion and humility;
that humankind may live with understanding and respect,
noticing what unites us;
In your love and mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, Prophet of Love,
you lived among us to teach us – to show us – how to love;
in humility we pray for siblings around the globe:
for those dehumanized by their struggle for existence, may we listen;
for those overshadowed by the constancy of death, may we notice;
for those besieged by fear, anger and relentless peril, may we show up;
for those ensnared by systems beyond their control, may we demand change.
In your love and mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, Breath of Being,
you are here – in this very moment – as constant presence and insistent voice;
in gratitude we pray...with boldness we pray:
inundate the world with humanity,
overwhelm the world with truth,
flood the world with kindness,
upset our indifference,
accelerate our action,
fortify our resolve,
compel us to authentic discipleship
that nurtures creation, embodies love and breathes life.
In your love and mercy, **hear our prayer.**

submitted by Katherine Kussmaul, [Saint Giles Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC](#)