

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for Reformation Day**

Oct. 29, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Great Are You, Lord* - Arr. by James Koerts

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* - Cindy Berry

Introit #371: *New Songs of Celebration Render* vs. 2 Chancel Choir

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

God is our refuge and strength: **we will not fear.**

Though the earth shakes, **we will not fear.**

Though the waters swirl around us, **we will not fear.**

Though the nations rise and fight, **we will not fear.**

God is our help in the time of trouble: **we will not fear.**

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Opening Hymn #610: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (stand)

Call to Confession

Jesus says, If you continue in my word, you are my disciples;
and you will know my truth, and the truth will make you free.

We try to live in Christ's truth, but we still fall short and find ourselves bound.

Let us pursue God's word through our confession.

Prayer of Confession

God of the ages, you have been faithful to us, but we have not been faithful to you. You have established covenants with us, but we have not upheld our part. We have distorted your word for our own gain. We have claimed you as exclusively ours. We have focused on power more than discipleship. We beg your forgiveness. Reform us again and make us into the image of your true church. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more, says the Lord.
The story continues.

God is not done with us. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #581: *Glory Be to the Father* (please stand)

Anthem: *A Mighty Fortress* arr. John Rutter

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy God, you give the law that your people live by it and flourish. Write you law in our hearts of all who bear your name, and teach us to love your commandments, that we live as you intend.

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray:

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

Hymn #692: *Spirit, Open My Heart* vs. 1 and 2 (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 19:1 – 2, 15 - 18

Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2:1 – 8

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:34 - 46

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The Great Commandment*

Rev. Bob Morrison

Affirmation of Faith: 1 Corinthians 15 and Revelation 22:13

(please stand)

This is the Good News we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that HE was buried, and that HE was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, that he appeared to the women, to Cephas and then to the twelve. Then he appeared to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

(stand)

Offering #709:

God, We Honor You

Prayer of Dedication:

Blessed are you, Maker of all things. As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts that they may be used to your glory in this place. Help us to share your gifts with all those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymn #754:

Help Us Accept Each Other

(stand)

Charge and Benediction: from Psalm 32: 10 – 11

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice. Shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *In Highest Majesty* - Lani Smith

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Ming Leu and sermon provided by Rev. Bob Morrison.

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