

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

*October 27, 2024*

**Pre-Service Music:**     *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* – Cindy Berry

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**Prelude:**         *The Solid Rock* – Mark Hayes

**Introit:**     *God is Our Refuge and Our Strength*     Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship:**

Across time and place, people of faith have gathered to praise God's holy name.

**As we seek to understand who we are,  
we praise God's holy name.**

May God teach us to be seekers  
in our worship and our daily lives.

**As we seek to understand who God is,  
we praise God's holy name.**

May God teach us to be curious  
about how God will be revealed to us.

**As we grow into who we will be,  
We praise God's holy name.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

**Enduring God, we claim that we are always being reformed, but when it's our turn to change, we are so often afraid.**

**Even amidst our growing pains, enliven our hearts to recognize your grace. Even amidst the ever-shifting ways of the world, open our minds to what might be. Remind us that we live and move and have our being in you, and call the church to proclaim your good news for ages to come. Amen.**

**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 Patri #583:**                    *Glory to God*                    (*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.*

Listen for the prompt “God of grace” and respond with “Hear our prayer.”

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*(brief silence)*

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission.

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

\*\*\*

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now, and forever. We pray this in the name of Jesus your Son, 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*                    (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 Lesson:** Jeremiah 31: 31 – 34

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 3:19 – 28

**Gospel Lesson:** John 8:31 – 36

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:**

*Freedom in Christ*

Susan Murray

**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:**

(please be seated)

**Offertory Hymn #717:** *For the Life That You Have Given*

**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 #687:** *O God Our Help in Ages Past* (stand)

**Charge and Benediction:** (remain standing)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

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

**Postlude:** *O Come and Sing Unto the Lord* – Garrett Parker

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by the Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Javier Valentin-Sivico and sermon provided by Susan Murray. Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2023, and Sundays and Seasons 2024, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2023.*