



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Twenty-third Sunday
after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

October 31, 2021

Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone in the congregation to remain masked, and to enjoy singing the hymns and responses.

MEDITATION

Jesus' commandment to 'love your neighbor as yourself,' invokes the mutuality that undergirds and strengthens obedience; disciples who do not give themselves priority over others demonstrate the kind of unstinting equity that holds community together.

A.K.M Adam, Feasting on the Word, Year B, Vol 4, p. 265

PRELUDE: Chorale Prelude on "A Mighty Fortress"

Johann Nicolaus Hanff

John Finney, organist

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 46)

One: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

All: **Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.**

One: "Be still, and know that I am God. I am exalted among
The nations, I am exalted in the earth!"

All: **The Lord of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

* HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Ein' feste Burg*
Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal) #469

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Trusting God's grace, let us confess.

All: O Lord, reform our world,
as we have seen the failure of idols, the disfigurement of
your earth, and the perversion of justice.

Reform our church,

as we have known the complacency of pride, the
violation of trust, and the abandonment of mission.

Reform our lives,

as we have lived with the fracturing of relationships, the
trampling of grace and the betrayal of love.

Reform us, O Lord, that we may be renewed in spirit
and sent forth in service. Amen.

~ Silent Confession ~

One: Through Christ we make our approach to God. We ask for
the wisdom and courage to reform our church and our
lives. In Christ we are forgiven and set free to love God and
neighbor.

* SUMMARY OF THE LAW

* GLORIA *Music by Alice Jordan*

Glory to God the Creator,
and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated.

LESSON: Mark 12:28-34, *NRSV*

Nancy Simons

In Mark's gospel, this is Jesus' last visit to the Temple. He contrasts the way of servanthood, the first shall be last, with the way of prominence, precedence and privilege.

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³ and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' — this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture,
among us, and within us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

* HYMN: Though I May Speak

Gift of Love

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal) #68

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Stewardship Moment)

Nancy Simons

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As the offering plates are passed, please pass and sign the Friendship Register.

OFFERTORY: God Be Merciful unto Us and Bless Us

Chancel Choir

Philip W. J. Stopford

* DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

May these gifts, O God, be an expression of both our love of you and our love of neighbor. May our reformation send us forth that you may be glorified and that our lives renewed. Amen.

* HYMN: Renew Your Church

All Is Well

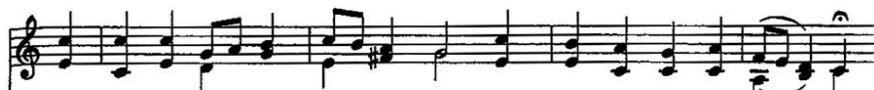
New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) #311

* COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Please be seated during the Postlude.

POSTLUDE: Toccata (from *Suite Gothique*)

Léon Boëllmann



1. A might-y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



our help - er strong a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos - ing.
 we will not fear, for God hath willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Christ who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; with craft and pow - er
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not an e - qual.
 name. From age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still, God's king - dom is for - ev - er.



WORDS: Martin Luther, c. 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852, alt.; st. 3 alt. Ruth Duck, 1981

EIN' FESTE BURG
 87.87.66.667

Based on Psalm 46, this hymn by Martin Luther was probably inspired by the 1529 meeting that gave birth to the word 'Protestant.' Luther wrote or edited thirty-seven hymns and many hymn tunes.

St. 3 alt. © 1981, 1990 Ruth C. Duck

“A Mighty Fortress,”

Stanza 3 word alterations © 1981, 1990 Ruth C. Duck

Though I May Speak

(The Gift of Love)

68

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its

gift to all in - spire, and have not love, my words are
so my love pro - fess, but not be given by love with -
long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery

vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1971

GIFT OF LOVE

LM

Hal Hopson's paraphrase of I Corinthians 13 and his setting of a traditional English tune have made this a well-loved hymn in a short twenty-five years.

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

“Though I May Speak” Words: Hal H. Hopson

Music: Traditional English Melody, adapt. Hal H. Hopson

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“Renew Your Church”

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Matt. 5:13-16; Luke 11:1-4; Mark 12:28-34

Kenneth L. Cober, 1960; alt.

1 Re - new your church, its min - is - tries re - store: both to serve
 2 Teach us your word, re - veal its truth di - vine; on our path
 3 Teach us to pray, for you are ev - er near; your still voice
 4 Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all—

and a - dore. Make us a - gain as salt through-out the land,
 let it shine. Tell of your works, your might - y acts of grace;
 let us hear. Our souls are rest - less till they rest in you;
 hu - man-kind! Break down old walls of prej - u - dice and hate;

and as light from a stand. 'Mid som - ber shad - ows
 from each page show your face. As you have sent your
 this is life, full and true. Be - fore your pres - ence
 leave us not to our fate. As you have loved and

of the night, where greed and ha - tred spread their blight, O
 Christ to save, in love to tri - umph o'er the grave, O
 keep us still that we may find for us your will And
 given your life to end hos - til - i - ty and strife, Your

send us forth with power en - dued. Help us, God, be re - newed.
 let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word.
 seek your guid - ance ev - ery day. Teach us, God, how to pray.
 grace we must be mind - ful of: Teach us, God, how to love.

Kenneth L. Cober grew up in Puerto Rico, the son of missionary parents. Cober has served churches in many states and has written several books about church education.

Tune: ALL IS WELL 10.6.10.6.8.8.8.6.
 Traditional English melody

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Sound Technician	Kenny Goshgarian
Sound Technician	Steven Hopkins

GOD
IS STILL
SPEAKING

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.