

Order of Worship

October 29, 2017

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Dorothy Abelman, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin Johnson

Our Approach to God

CHORAL INTROIT

A REFORMATION DAY CALL TO WORSHIP (using Psalm 46)

Leader: Today we remember a day that marked the reform of Your church. Today we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We remember that this one day led to an era of Your entire church in the west hearing anew who You call us to be together.

People: We remember that saying out of our Reformed tradition, “The church reformed is always reforming.” And so we remember that we still need to be re-formed, and it will always be so.

Leader: God, You’ve called Your church together. You’ve given us a great and important job to do—to teach each other and the world to love You and to love each other.

People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Leader: You’ve sustained Your church when it’s been misunderstood and persecuted. You’ve corrected it when it’s wobbled and lost its way. You’ve strengthened it when it’s lost its faith and courage.

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

Leader: You’ve sent Your Spirit when the church needs to be pushed, pulled and prodded, redirected, revitalized and reformed.

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress”

#151

CONFESSING OUR SINS TOGETHER

HEARING OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

LIVING THANKFULLY AS FORGIVEN PEOPLE (using Psalm 46)

Leader: We’re afraid for our church—Your church. The world is changing, and, like it or not, change is being forced on Your church, on us. We see the church growing smaller. We know we’ve been halting and hesitant in our faithfulness. We haven’t fully lived out this life You’ve given us, and we know it affects how people see Your church. And we watch the culture slowly drifting away from You. We don’t know what it means for us, for the church we love.

People: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.

Leader: We’ve come to a time when we have to re-form. But we falter in doing so. We’re afraid a re-formed church won’t look like the one we know, like the one we want. And so we cling to the models of doing church—of being Christians—that we’re used to.

People: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

Leader: We’re a church dwarfed by immense cultural movements. It feels like we’re being passed by. What should we do? How shall we be?

People: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Leader: But how can we have confidence that our message matters, that people will want to hear it, that we have anything relevant to offer people who are resolutely headed in a different direction?

People: Come, behold the works of the Lord; “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Leader: And so we ask for peace in the midst of this tumult, for a quiet confidence in Your faithfulness, for a renewed understanding that You’re working in the world.

People: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; He
burns the shields with fire.

REMINDING OURSELVES OF WHAT WE BELIEVE

(From the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic
Confession, Canons of the Synod of Dort and the
Belhar Confession)

Leader: The heart of re-forming is not to become
something new but something old. It is getting
back to who God calls us to be together. And so
we can ask along with our confessions, what do
you believe concerning “the holy catholic church?”

People: I believe that the Son of God through His Spirit
and Word, out of the entire human race, from
the beginning of the world to its end, gathers,
protects, and preserves for Himself a
community chosen for eternal life and united
in true faith. And of this community I am and
always will be a living member.

Leader: I know that God has directed the church in the
past, has brought it where it needed to be. But
what about now? It seems like Christ’s church
has lost its place in the world.

People: This church has existed from the beginning of
the world and will last until the end, as appears
from the fact that Christ is eternal King who
cannot be without subjects. And this holy
church is preserved by God against the rage of
the whole world, even though for a time it may
appear very small to human eyes—as though it
were snuffed out.

Leader: I’m being asked to trust that God has watched and
is watching over the church through His Spirit.
How do I know that the Holy Spirit is still using the
church to draw people to faith in Christ Jesus?

People: So also today in God’s church, for which it
was specifically intended, this teaching of
God-drawing-people-to-faith must be set forth
with a spirit of discretion, in a godly and holy
manner, at the appropriate time and place,
without inquisitive searching into the ways of
the Most High. This must be done for the glory
of God’s most holy name, and for the lively
comfort of God’s people.

Leader: Why is this business of the church so important?
Why must the church reformed be ever re-
forming?

People: We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation in and
through Jesus Christ, that the church is called
to be the salt of the earth and the light of the
world, that the church is called blessed
because it is a peacemaker, that the church is
witness both by word and by deed to the new
heaven and the new earth in which
righteousness dwells.

CHANCEL CHOIR *“Only God”* McDonald

INTRODUCTION OF TIM CHEW,
our new collaborative youth ministry leader

The Word of God

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN *“Rise Up, O Church of God”* #433

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Romans 4:18-5:11 p. 155 (NT)

SERMON *“A Piece of Peace”* Pastor Sayer

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

Our Response to God

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER #815

THE GENERAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*HYMN *“The Church’s One Foundation”* #401

*POSTLUDE

*If you are able, please stand.

WHAT YOU SAY IS IMPORTANT! – If you have an announcement or prayer concern, please speak into the microphone. This does two things—it keeps from having lapses in our recording of the worship services, and more importantly, it enables those using the assistive hearing devices to hear you.

GREETERS: The Puppet Club
USHERS: Joan Hoerauf, Wini Kinkele
WORSHIP ASST: Justin Johnson
NURSERY: Tracy Ciavaglia
COFFEE: Tracy Ciavaglia

THE FLOWERS are given by Dick Smyth in loving memory of his wife, Carol, and by and the Lupfer Family in loving memory of Tom Robinson.

PRAYER CONCERNS: June Clarke; Ernie Hepperle; Rolf Hoerauf; Gloria Hoertel; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Shirley Parma; Christine Potter; John Schwarte, Bill Simmons.

THE PRAYER GROUP will meet today at 11:15 following worship. Please join us to pray for our minister, our church, each other and the world.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD -- We will once again be collecting gift-packed shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse who will deliver them to children in need all over the world. Boxes, as well as brochures on how to pack them, will be in the narthex through November 12 (last collection date). New this year: the donation to cover shipping costs is now \$9 and toothpaste and candy are no longer allowed. There are many ways to participate, whether it's to shop and fill your own box, "build a shoebox online", or even just donate the \$9 shipping cost. Prayerfully consider being a part of this inspirational ministry.

A COLLECTION is being taken for men's sweatpants and sweatshirts, medium or large. This is for a ministry begun by Sharon Brahs at New Bridge Medical Center (formerly Bergen Regional) to give nurses access to clothing for men who are being discharged during hours when the social service office is not open. You can leave your donations in the narthex. Thank you.

Weekly Calendar

Today	11:15	Prayer Group
	11:30	Happiness small group
	6:00	River Ministry Dinner
Monday	8:00	Bell choir
Tuesday	10:00	Happiness small group
Wednesday	7:30	Happiness small group
Thursday	8:00	Chancel choir
Friday	6:00	Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner, Founders' Hall

Sunday, November 5, 2017 – Courier Deadline

9:15 – Puppet Club
10:00 AM – Worship and Sunday school
11:30 – Happiness small group
4:00 – Confirmation

SMALL GROUPS CONTINUE! Who doesn't want to be happy? Sometimes it feels like we don't know how to get there. For four more weeks we are holding small groups that are looking at what the Bible says about being happy. Days and times are: Sunday after worship, Tuesday morning at 10, or Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM.

SET ASIDE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AFTER WORSHIP! – That's the day of our annual congregational meeting. We need you all to be here to share your input, ask questions, vote on the proposed slate of consistory members and 2018 budget. A delicious lunch will be prepared by Sue Wood and her team. In order to prepare the correct amount of food, please sign up in the narthex or email cchp@verizon.net to RSVP. Thank you. The proposed slate is: Paul Bannon, elder; Chris Doyle, Barbara Forsythe, Wendell Maki, deacons.

THE BAZAAR IS COMING SOON – Saturday, November 18 is the annual bazaar sponsored by the Guild for Christian Service. This is a wonderful day of fellowship amongst all while we raise money for missions. Yes, missions. All of the money raised is donated to various missions that the Guild supports locally and around the world. Please consider donating white elephant goods, baked goods, crafts, knitted items, children's games, etc. We can also use your help with set-up (Thursday, 11/16 at 10 AM) and clean-up on Saturday beginning at 3 PM.