

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
October 25, 2020
The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reformation Sunday

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service is posted on the church's Facebook page, on [YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, www.mpchurch.net. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE

Highland Cathedral

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elder of the Month: Dave Bowen (703-2319)
- Deacon of the Month: Doug Rose (532-3789)
- Pledge envelopes went out in the mail in September, if you haven't returned yours, please do so as soon as possible.
- Today is our annual celebration of the "Kirking of the Tartans" – for us, a recognition of the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church, the Reformation, and God's enduring care for our congregation. In today's service, our scripture readings are from the Geneva Bible, the translation John Knox might have used; we have prayers composed by John Calvin and John Knox; and we'll be using an Affirmation of Faith that reflects the whole confessional history of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, thou hast been our habitation from generation to generation.

Before the mountains were made, and before thou hadst formed the earth, and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art our God.

Thou turnest man to destruction: again thou sayest, Return ye sons of Adam.

For a thousand years in thy sight are as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Thou hast overflowed them, they are as a sleep, in the morning he groweth like the grass:

In the morning it flourisheth and groweth, but in the evening it is cut down and withereth.

Return O Lord, and be pacified toward thy servants.

Fill us with thy mercy in the morning: so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

Comfort us according to the days that thou hast afflicted us, and according to the years that we have seen evil.

Let thy work be seen toward thy servants, and thy glory upon their children.

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and direct thou the work of our hands upon us, even direct the work of our hands.

Amen.

HYMN

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace, How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace, hath brought us safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures,
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

John Knox

Omnipotent and everlasting God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy eternal providence disposest kingdoms as seemeth best to thy wisdom: We acknowledge and confess thy judgments to be righteous, in

that thou hast taken from us, for our ingratitude, and for the abusing of thy most holy Word, our native king and Earthly comforter.

Justly mayest thou pour forth upon us the uttermost of thy plagues, for we have not known the days and time of our merciful visitation. We have scorned thy Word, and despised thy mercies; we have transgressed thy laws, for deceitfully have we wrought, every man with our neighbor; oppression and violence we have not abhorred; charity hath not appeared among us, as our profession requires. We have little regarded the voices of thy prophets. Thy threatenings we have believed to be vanity and wind. So that in us, of ourselves, there remains nothing worthy of thy mercy, for all are found fruitless; even the princes with the prophets, as withered trees apt and meet to be burned in the fire of thy eternal displeasure.

But, O Lord, behold thy own mercy and goodness, that thou mayest purge and remove the burden of our most horrible offenses. Let thy love overcome the severity of thy judgments, even as it did in giving to the world thy only Son, Jesus, when all mankind was lost, and no obedience was left in Adam or in his seed. Regenerate our hearts, O Lord, by the strength of the Holy Spirit. Convert thou us, and we shall be converted. Work thou in us unfeigned repentance, and move thou our hearts to obey thy holy laws. Take not from us the light of thy gospel. Repress thou the pride of those that would rebel; and remove from all hearts the contempt of thy Word. Look thou to the honor of thy own name, O Lord; and let thy gospel be preached with boldness in this realm. If thy justice must punish, then punish our bodies with the rod of thy mercy and let us not faint under the cross of our Savior, but assist us with the Holy Spirit, even to the end.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 103:17

The mercy of the Lord
Is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
We are forgiven! **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Calvin

Almighty and gracious Father! since our whole salvation stands in our knowledge of your Holy Word, strengthen us now by your Holy Spirit that our hearts may be set free from all worldly thoughts and attachments of the flesh, so that we may hear and receive that same Word, and, recognizing your gracious will for us, may love and serve you with earnest delight, praising and glorifying you in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

¹ Then Moses went from the plain of Moab up into mount Nebo unto the top of Pisgah that is over against Jericho: and the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan,

² And all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea:

³ And the South, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar.

⁴ And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

⁵ So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.

⁶ And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab over against Beth Peor, but no man knoweth of his sepulcher unto this day.

⁷ Moses was now an hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated:

⁸ And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plain of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

⁹ And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom: for Moses had put his hands upon him. And the children of Israel were obedient unto him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ But there arose not a Prophet since in Israel like unto Moses (whom the Lord knew face to face.)

¹¹ In all the miracles and wonders which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt before Pharaoh and before all his servants, and before all his land,

¹² And in all that mighty hand and all that great fear, which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Flower of Scotland

SECOND READING

Matthew 22:23-46

²³ The same day the Sadducees came to him, (which say that there is no resurrection) and asked him,

²⁴ Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife by the right of alliance, and raise up seed unto his brother.

²⁵ Now therefore were with us seven brethren, and the first married a wife, and deceased: and having no issue, left his wife unto his brother.

²⁶ Likewise also the second, and the third, unto the seventh.

²⁷ And last of all the woman died also.

²⁸ Therefore in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven? for all had her.

²⁹ Then Jesus answered, and said unto them, Ye are deceived, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.

³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry wives, nor wives are bestowed in marriage, but are as the Angels of God in heaven.

³¹ And concerning the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read what is spoken unto you of God, saying,

³² I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

³³ And when the multitude heard it, they were astonished at his doctrine.

³⁴ But when the Pharisees had heard, that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they assembled together.

³⁵ And one of them, which was an expounder of the Law, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?

³⁷ Jesus said to him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

³⁸ This is the first and the great commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like unto this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hangeth the whole Law and the Prophets.

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

⁴² Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They said unto him, David's.

⁴³ He said unto them, How then doth David in spirit, call him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?

⁴⁵ If then David call him Lord, how is he his son?

⁴⁶ And none could answer him a word, neither durst any from that day forth ask him any more questions.

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.
Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Reformation Reflections

LITANY FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

This litany for Reformation Sunday is composed of excerpts from the Creeds, Catechisms, and Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its original form can be found on the PC(U.S.A.) website.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,

Apostles' Creed

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints.

Scots Confession

This Kirk is catholic, that is, universal, because it contains the chosen of all ages, of all realms, nations, and tongues, be they of the Jews or be they of the Gentiles, who have communion and society with God the Father, and with the Son, Christ Jesus, through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

Heidelberg Catechism

We believe that, from the beginning to the end of the world, and from among the whole human race, the Son of God, by his Spirit and his Word, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself, in the unity of the true faith, a congregation chosen for eternal life.

Second Helvetic Confession

The Church is an assembly of the faithful called or gathered out of the world; a communion of all saints, namely, of those who truly know and rightly worship and serve the true God in Christ the Savior, by the Word and Holy Spirit, and who by faith are partakers in all the benefits which are freely offered through Christ.

Westminster Confession of Faith

The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel, consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion, together with their children; and is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ; the house and family of God.

Larger Catechism

The visible church has the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ, to all members of it, in the ministry of the gospel, testifying that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

Theological Declaration of Barmen

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

Confession of 1967

The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Belhar Confession

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.

Brief Statement of Faith

With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE[†]

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.

Generous God,
we thank you for open hearts
that were prepared to hear and receive the good news
of freedom in Christ.
We also thank you for our continued freedom in the Son
to share that same news of salvation
through your grace and Christ's faithfulness.

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 –
the catechisms,
the understanding of the saints,
the gift of community,
and a deeper appreciation of your gifts 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.

Now hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the blessing of light be on you – light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it. And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm. And may the blessing of the rain be on you, may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines, and sometimes a star. And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it. May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God.

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Scotland the Brave

†Adapted from “Litany of Thanksgiving for Reformation Day,” written by lutherjulia, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalblogpals.org/>