

“Whoever you are...wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”
God is Still Speaking

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF THE

Ascension

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



An Open and Affirming Congregation

October 31, 2021

11:00 AM



1700 West Main Street, Jeffersonville, PA 19403
(610) 539-1693

www.ascensionucc.org

info@ascensionucc.org

Proper 26/23rd Sunday after Pentecost October 31, 2021

Reformation Sunday

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“Forsake Me Not” (Lindermann)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR/RECEIVING THE LIGHT

GATHERING

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

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.**

All Singing: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Verse 1

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.*

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

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

All Singing: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Verse 2

*Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.*

Leader: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdom totter;
God speaks and the earth melts.

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

Leader: Come, behold the works of the Lord!

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

All Singing: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Verse 3

*And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed his truth to
triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.*

Leader: Be still and know that the Lord is God!

**People: God is exalted among the nations; God is
exalted in the earth.**

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: The God of Jacob is our refuge.

All Singing: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Verse 4

*That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth;
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill, God’s truth abideth still,
his kingdom is forever.*

~ posted on the **Presbyterian Mission** website of the PC(USA).

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Lesson Ruth 1:1-18

please rise

Gospel Lesson Mark 12:28-34

Leader: Holy Wisdom

People: Holy Word

THE SERMON

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism

please rise and say in unison

We believe and take comfort in the knowledge that we belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not unto ourselves, but to our faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all our sins and has completely freed us from the dominion of evil.

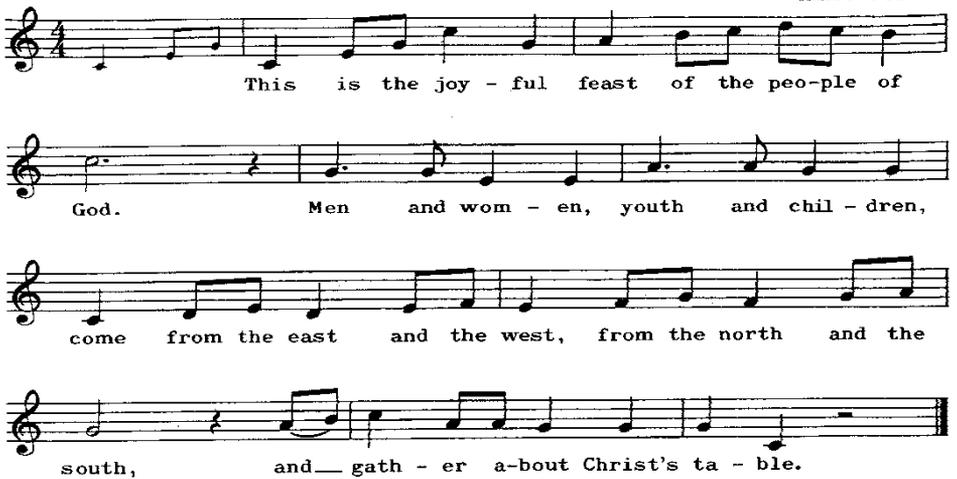
That Jesus protects us so well that without the will of the one he called father, not a hair can fall from our heads; indeed everything must fit God’s purpose for our salvation. Therefore, by God’s Holy Spirit God has assured us of eternal life and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live to God.

We believe that despite the greatness of our sins and our wretchedness, God has freed us from them all. And we owe God gratitude for such redemption.

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES & OURSELVES

THE INVITATION

Alice Jordan



This is the joy - ful feast of the peo-ple of
God. Men and wom - en, youth and chil - dren,
come from the east and the west, from the north and the
south, and gath - er a-bout Christ's ta - ble.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Leader: It is right and good to give your thanks,
Almighty God, for you are the source of light
and life. You made us in your image and called
us to new life in Jesus Christ. In all times and
places, your people proclaim your glory in
unending praise, saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader: We remember with joy the grace by which you created all things and made us in your own image. We rejoice that you called a people in covenant to be a light to the nations. Yet we rebelled against your will. In spite of the prophets and pastors sent forth to us, we continued to break your covenant.

In the fullness of time, you sent your only Son to save us. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of your favored one, Mary, sharing our life, he reconciled us to your love. At the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him, anointing him to preach the good news of your reign. He healed the sick and fed the hungry, manifesting the power of your compassion. He sought out the lost and broke bread with sinners, witnessing the fullness of your grace. We beheld his glory.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread; giving thanks to you, he broke the bread and offered it to his disciples, saying: "Take this and eat; this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me."

Taking a cup, again he gave thanks to you, shared the cup with his disciples and said: "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Drink from this all of you. This is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

After the meal our Lord was arrested, abandoned by his followers and beaten. He stood trial and was put to death on a cross. Having emptied himself in the form of a servant, and being obedient even to death, he was raised from the dead and exalted as Lord of heaven and earth. Through him you bestow the gift of your Spirit, uniting your Church, empowering its mission, and leading us into the new creation you have promised.

Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE THE 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.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed through his blood, serving and reconciling all people to you. Remember your Church, scattered upon the face of the earth; gather it in unity and preserve it in truth.

People: Amen.

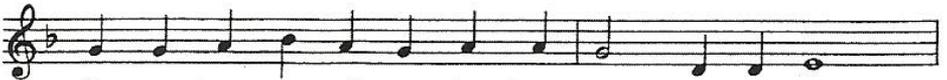
BREAKING THE BREAD & POURING THE WINE

LAMB OF GOD

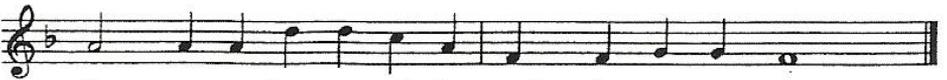
Alice Jordan



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re-deem-er of the world: give us your peace.

PARTAKING OF THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” *Glory to God 1*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

“Lord, My Rock, My Fortress” (Buscaglia)

October/November Birthdays

10/31-11/6/2021

Lynda Waltman (31); Grace Harvey (3);

Aaron Mosier, Rosemary Hessler (5)

October/November Anniversaries

10/31-11/6/2021

Rick & Laurie Fryer (1)

Join Us for a **Bible Study** On Paul's Letter to the **Ephesians**

To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ*

But what is it all about?

Join us for a study and conversation on this letter written while Paul was in prison. **October 13 through November 9, 7pm to 8 pm Wednesday Evenings on Zoom.**

Please contact Ascension Church office
ascensionucc@comcast.net or 610.539.1693
to receive the zoom link.



Next Sunday, November 7th, is All Saints Sunday!
Memorial Candles are available for dedication to honor loved ones on All Saints Sunday. Please email or call the office at ascensionucc@comcast.net or 610-539-1693 to order Memorial Candles.

The candles are \$5.00 each and need to be ordered st no later than, Monday, November 1 .

Please call the office with any questions.

Christmas Gift Ministry

Ascension, once again, will be sponsoring Christmas gifts for the children at Bethany Children's Home. The Home currently has 75 youths. We are looking to purchase \$25.00 Target gift cards for each child and are asking if you can send us the donations by 12/12, either through the mail or drop off at the office, and we will purchase the gift cards as well as drop them off to the Home.

We appreciate your generosity towards this important outreach mission, and we welcome you to consider sponsoring more than one child, if you are able.



We welcome you to our Community of Faith. We pray that God will speak to you during this worship experience. If you have need of pastoral assistance, we encourage you to contact Pastor Dwayne at the church office number listed below or make an appointment with him today.

We welcome children in worship at all times. If you would prefer, childcare is available. Please see one of our ushers. Children's bulletins and crayons are available from the ushers.

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| Ministers | All the people of the Congregation |
| Pastor | The Rev. Dwayne A. Mosier |
| Minister of Music | Dan Weckerly |
| President of the Consistory | Liz Brunton |
| Vice President of the Consistory | Michele Luke |
| Secretary of the Consistory | Molly Lorenz |
| Moderator of Spiritual Council | Molly Lorenz |
| Elders: | Liz Brunton, Robin Weed, Mary Lambon
Molly Lorenz, Barbara Montague-Graham |
| Chair of the Diaconate | Michele Luke |
| Deacons: | Liam D'Aquila, Sandy Dounce
Michele Luke, Lynda Waltman, Christa Cavanaugh |
| Church Secretary | Judy Parker |
| Sexton | Emeric Suto |
| Treasurer | Sandy Maben |

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