

# Reformation Day

October 28, 2018

10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.  
As you enter the sanctuary, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.  
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your thoughts toward God.*

## We prepare for worship

*Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...*

*But what is the Gospel? It is this, that God has sent his Son into the world to save sinners, and to crush hell, overcome death, take away sin and satisfy the law. But what must you do? Nothing but accept this and look up to your Redeemer and firmly believe that he has done all this for your good and freely gives you all as your own, so that in the terrors of death, sin and hell, you can confidently say and boldly depend upon it, and say: "Although I do not fulfill the law, although sin is still present and I fear death and hell, nevertheless from the Gospel I know that Christ has bestowed on me all his works. I am sure he will not lie, his promise he will surely fulfill."*

*Martin Luther*

Prelude

Adagio

Antonio Vivaldi

Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music

## We praise our great God

\*Call to Worship (responsive)

Psalm 18:1-3, 46 (ESV)

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

**The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

**I call upon the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.**

The LORD lives! And blessed be [our] Rock, and exalted be the God of [our] salvation—

\*Hymn No. 92

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Ein' Feste Burg

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 pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

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.

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; is rage we can endure,  
For lo! His doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, 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.

\*Invocation

## We embrace Christ our Savior

Reformation Day Confession: “To God Alone Be the Glory”

### SCRIPTURE ALONE

We know God by two means. First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: his eternal power and his divinity. All these things are enough to convict men of their sin and to leave them without excuse.

Second, although “the very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; his word and Spirit only, do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.” (*WLC, Q. 2*)

**The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him. (*WSC, Q. 2*)**

Let us thank God for his holy Word.

**(UNISON) We thank you, God, for your Word. We thank you for the special care that it shows you have for us and for our salvation.**

### GRACE ALONE

“It is *by grace* you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (*EPH. 2:8, 9*)

What is justification?

**Justification is an act of God’s free grace wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone. (*WSC, Q. 33*)**

Let us thank God for his grace.

**(UNISON) We thank you, God, for your grace. We thank you that you do not treat us as our sins deserve, that you do not repay us according to our iniquities. (*PS. 103:10*)**

### FAITH ALONE

“It is by grace you have been saved, *through faith*—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (*EPH. 2:8, 9*)

What is faith in Jesus Christ?

**Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel. (*WSC, Q. 86*)**

Let us thank God for faith.

**(UNISON) We thank you, God, for the gift of faith. We thank you for faith that embraces Jesus Christ, with all his merits, and makes him its own, and no longer looks for anything apart from him for its salvation.**

### CHRIST ALONE

The angel said to Joseph, “Give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (MATT. 1:21)

Who is the Redeemer of God’s elect?

**The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man, in two distinct natures, and one person, forever. (WSC, Q. 21)**

Let us thank God for Jesus.

**(UNISON) We thank you, God, for Jesus. We thank you that we have in him all that we need for our salvation.**

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

What is the chief end of man?

**The chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (WSC, Q. 1)**

Let us, then, glorify God. Let us glorify God for the Scriptures, for grace, for faith, and for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Hymn No. 522

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

St. Petersburg

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

***On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.***

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul give way, he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.

Old Testament Reading

Judges 3:12-31 (ESV)

This may be one of the strangest texts in the scripture. It’s about a left-handed savior who by deceit and murder rescues Israel. But before you get too upset, let’s understand the setting. Israel had fallen back into idolatry and sin as soon as Othniel had died. They had ignored the lessons of their fathers and abandoned Yahweh again, and as a result, he abandoned them to punishment. That punishment, however, worked for their good, for “*Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man*” ( v 15). Now get this straight, Yahweh is the one responsible for this sneaky, lefty named Ehud, so don’t get side-tracked by the problems you think God created with his choice. Instead, focus on the salvation Yahweh brings, and rejoice that God delights to save his people in their afflictions.

**Ehud**

<sup>12</sup> And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. <sup>14</sup> And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

<sup>15</sup> Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. <sup>16</sup> And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. <sup>17</sup> And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. <sup>18</sup> And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. <sup>19</sup> But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence. <sup>20</sup> And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. <sup>21</sup> And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. <sup>22</sup> And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out. <sup>23</sup> Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.

<sup>24</sup> When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber." <sup>25</sup> And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

<sup>26</sup> Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah. <sup>27</sup> When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was their leader. <sup>28</sup> And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over. <sup>29</sup> And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped. <sup>30</sup> So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

### **Shamgar**

<sup>31</sup> After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

We don't know anything else about Shamgar and yet he too saved God's people. There is something marvelous about a God like that, something that compels us to bow down before the One who uses Shamgars and ox-goats as well as lefties like Ehud.

### Aisquith Life and Opportunities

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (in unison)

### **We respond in gratitude for God's blessing**

\**The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731)* and Prayer of Dedication

God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

*Christians, We Have Met to Worship*

arr. Larson

The Adult Choir

Christians, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God. Will you pray with all your power as we seek the Living Word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down; Christians, pray, and God's great blessing will be showered all around. Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other too. Let us love and pray for others till our God makes all things new. When God calls us home to heaven at the table we sit down; There our loving Lord will serve us with great blessings all around. O worship the King, all glorious above; And gratefully sing God's wonderful love. Christians we have met to worship and adore the Lord, our God!

*The children may dismiss for church-time programs.*

### **We hear God speak**

Scripture Reading

Galatians 2:17-21

(Pew Bible, pg. 824)

<sup>17</sup> But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! <sup>18</sup> For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. <sup>19</sup> For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. <sup>20</sup> I have been

crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Sermon "Wanted: Dead **and** Alive" Pastor Bell

**We respond to God's grace**

\*Hymn No. 679 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus Kirkpatrick

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word;  
Just to rest upon his promise; just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

***Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust him more.***

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust his cleansing blood;  
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing cleansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;  
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest and joy and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.

\*Benediction and Three-Fold *Amen* (Hymnal, pg. 740) Danish  
Postlude *Trumpet Tune* John Stanley

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\*Those who are able, please stand.

**Timonium Presbyterian Church will be hosting** a Reformation Service tonight at 6 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn (PhD, Cambridge University). Dr. Van Dixhoorn is a Professor of Church History and the Director of the Craig Center for the Study of the Westminster Standards at Westminster Theological Seminary. He will be speaking from Matthew 4:1-11, "It Is Written." Dr. Van Dixhoorn has served as an Associate Pastor at Cambridge Presbyterian Church (UK), and at Grace Presbyterian Church (Vienna, VA) for nine years. Light refreshments will be served after the Service.

**The Children's Sunday School program** meets every week at 9:00 AM on the first floor of the education building. Please speak with Gwen Cicone if you have any questions.

**Operation Christmas Child** materials are on the table in the Narthex. The deadline to return your boxes is November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**This Week at Aisquith**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b> Worship and Baptism No Youth Group tonight! <b>6:00 PM</b> Joint Reformation Service
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b> Ladies' and Men's Bible Studies (at the church) <b>7:00 PM</b> Ladies' Bible Study (church library)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b> Choir practice (3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship and the Lord's Supper

**6:30-8:30 PM Youth Group**

**Coming Soon**

**SUNDAY, November 4<sup>th</sup> DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

**Rev. Robert E. Bell, Pastor**

**Rev. John E. Ceselsky, Assistant Pastor**

**Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music**

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