



**TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Reformation Sunday – October 29, 2023**

*We invite you to participate in worship, reading the parts in bold print. ♪ means All Sing!*  
*\* We invite you to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with an asterisk.*

**♪ PREPARING FOR WORSHIP – “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

Congregation

**WELCOME**

Pastor Pat Mecham

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**\* OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
**Before the mountains were brought forth,**  
Or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
**From everlasting to everlasting, You are God!**

**\* ♪ GATHERING SONG – “The Church’s One Foundation”**

Congregation

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.**

In faith and penitence, let us confess our sins to God.

**Merciful and gracious God, we gather here this day, seeking your healing. Our lives are filled with anxiety and fear. We turn our backs on people in need and close ourselves away from opportunities to serve.**

**Confusion and anger abound in our nation and in our hearts. Forgive us when we have chosen the pathways of greed and fear instead of the high way of peace and hope. Bind up our wounds and calm our spirits. Teach us again to turn to you in love. Help us to love our neighbor as we ourselves would want to be loved, as you have loved us. It is in Jesus’ name that we offer this prayer. Amen.**

Who is in a position to condemn?

**Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

In the name of Christ, I declare that we are forgiven. Be at peace.

**\* SHARING OF THE LORD’S PEACE**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ in a way that you feel most comfortable, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. Lord, open our hearts and minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

### **PSALM**

#### **Psalm 90:1-6**

LORD, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

### **EPISTLE READING**

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **\* GOSPEL READING**

#### **Matthew 22:34-46**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he? They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet" ?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel, the Good News of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MEDITATION – “The Greatest Commandment(s)”**

Pastor Pat Mecham

**\* ♪ SONG IN RESPONSE – “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

Congregation

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor Pat Mecham

*Please conclude your prayer with “Lord, in your mercy,” and all will respond, “Hear our prayer.”*

**\* LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\* THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\* INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**♪ COMMUNION SONG – “Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees”**

Congregation

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\* ♪ SENDING SONG – “Spirit of Gentleness”**

Congregation

**PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION IN THE WORLD – ANNOUNCEMENTS *Birthdays/Anniversaries***

*We are called to make Christ known by our words and actions - in our church, in our local community, and throughout the world.*

**\* BENEDICTION**

We go nowhere by accident.

**Wherever we go, God is sending us. Wherever we are, God has put us here; God has a purpose in our being here.**

Christ who indwells you has something he wants to do through you, right where you are. Believe this, and go in God’s grace and love and power!

**Amen!**

**\* SENDING**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* POSTLUDE**

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**Pastor Pat Mecham begins his service as Temporary Part-Time Pastor for TLPC this morning.**

**Please join us downstairs after worship for a special fellowship time.**

***THANK YOU AND WELCOME PASTOR PAT!!***

We invite all to join us by giving to the ministry of TLPC. **We thank everyone who generously supports this ministry.** Gifts may be made online through our website at [TLPC.org](http://TLPC.org) or mailed to: **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church, PO Box 10620, Truckee, CA 96162**

**Our congregation has a heart for missions: locally, nationally, and in God's world.** With your support we give to Sierra Community House (Hunger Relief, Crisis Intervention & Prevention, Family Support & Community Engagement, Mediation & Legal Assistance); North Tahoe-Truckee Homeless Services; Healthy Babies; International Health Partners Tanzania; Hands of Hope Zimbabwe; youth service trips to Nicaragua and Alaska; adult disaster trips locally and around the world; and the responsible, vigorous mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in our nation and world. Additionally, during the pandemic, our congregation has supported local essential workers.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Washoe people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this country their home.



## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

### ***Verse 1:***

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

### ***Refrain:***

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

### ***Verse 2:***

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon and stars of light:

### ***Refrain***

### ***Verse 4:***

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

### ***Refrain***

*Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.*

## THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

### ***Verse 1:***

The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

### ***Verse 2:***

Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

### ***Verse 4:***

Through toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

*Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900*

## **A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**

### ***Verse 1:***

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

### ***Verse 2:***

No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

### ***Verse 3:***

Though hordes of devils fill the land  
all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
they cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

### ***Verse 4:***

God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

*Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
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## **LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER**

### ***Verse 1:***

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

### ***Refrain:***

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

### ***Verse 2:***

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.

### ***Refrain***

### ***Verse 3:***

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.

### ***Refrain***

*Text: African American spiritual*

## **SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS**

### ***Refrain:***

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness calling and free;  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

### ***Verse 1:***

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of  
sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

### ***Refrain***

### ***Verse 2:***

You swept through the desert, you stung with the  
sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their  
eyes.

### ***Refrain***

### ***Verse 3:***

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world  
was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of  
the wind.

### ***Refrain***

### ***Verse 4:***

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream  
dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise.

### ***Refrain***

*Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940*

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