

The First Presbyterian Church of Stirling

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Morning Song

C. Schirrmann

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are invited to share in Christ's ministry of compassion.

We will widen our hearts so we might cradle the lost.

We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

We will open our minds so we might discern God's dreams for us.

We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

We will deepen our souls so we might grow in love.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we remember the many ways in which you have helped and saved us, from generation to generation. Be with us this day as we listen for your word for us in our time. Touch our hearts with your healing mercy, for we ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

HYMN

#260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

M. Luther

***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.***

***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 hath 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.***

*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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As you know, God our healer, we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us. We seek praise from our families, yet are unable to tell them how much we love them; we care more about our needs and desires than for the struggles of our neighbors; we think more about the trash we read and see than focusing on the Spirit of wisdom.

Forgive us, Everlasting God. Renew our lives with your grace; restore our hopes with your vision of tomorrow; refresh our spirits with your joy which comes to us new in each moment in the gift of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Silent Personal Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This moment, this morning, this day, and in all the days to come, God's compassion and hope fill our lives. What joyous good news!

Our hope is not in vain. God forgives our sins, and is the dwelling place for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Matthew 22:34-46

Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Law and Order and the Church*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

**We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.
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.**

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication *Confidence*

F. Mendelssohn

HYMN #261 *God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us*

J.J. Moment

***God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
Giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Patience untiring and courage unfailing.***

***Wandering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
Guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.***

***How shall we stray, with Thy hand to direct us,
Thou who the stars in their courses art guiding?
What shall we fear, with Thy power to protect us,
We who walk forth in Thy greatness confiding?***

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Master, No Offering Costly and Sweet*

S. Scott

Today's written prayers are by Rev. Thom Shuman for the *lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com* website. The Opening Prayer is by Nancy C. Townley for the *ministrymatters.com* website. The *Affirmation of Faith* is from The United Church of Canada from their website: www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed.

Tatiana Akhounzianova is the church organist/pianist. Today's Liturgist is Tom Parziale.

Next Sunday is All Saint's Day, when we remember those we have lost in the past year. If you have someone you would like to have remembered, please send their name, your name, and relationship of person to you to the church office **by Tuesday, 10/27**.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill Richter, Nina (Tatiana's Mother,) Kristin & Karin & Steve (Joyce Koenig), George Armenti III, Ann Ventura (Toni Hopcraft), B.J. Cardinali, Robin Schmidt, Sheryl Greife (Tom Parziale), Art Fletcher, Jennifer Moore (Veronica Moore), Bill Hurlock (Joyce Koenig), Phyllis Clemson, Justin Byrnes (Tom Parziale), Bryan Hague, Al Wermuth (Paul & Sue Wermuth), Maryann (Leslie Beechner), Howard Boice (Bill Hopcraft), Vicky Sama (Joanne Sama), Jean Marie Dowling (Lore & Rich Pateman), Marge McKeever (Brooke Parziale's grandmother), Danica Lamza Ridgway (Kim Ridgway), Peg Arnold (Jan Somers)

BIRTHDAYS

Denise Szewczuk	Monday, 10/26
Joanne Sama	Tuesday, 10/27
Lynne Blakeslee	Wednesday, 10/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Judy & Bill Carbone 10/28