

First Congregational Church UCC
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, October 25, 2020 10:00 am
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“✝” Invites all to stand in body or in spirit

WELCOME
RINGING OF THE BELL

✝ CALL TO WORSHIP (One/**Many**) *adapted from: preachinginpumps.com*

Today is Reformation Sunday, a day to celebrate the achievements of Christ’s Church on earth which is always reforming, always seeking to move closer to the will of God.

We celebrate the Church that was, the Church that is and the Church that will be.

Help us, O God, to strengthen our own faith. History has proven that we may never be able to predict where our journey through life may take us, but that our journey will always be filled with God’s grace.

Let us journey together.

That journey together starts right here.

Let us worship God!

✝ OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, eternal Father, we acknowledge and confess to you that we were born in unrighteousness. Our life is full of sin and transgression; we have not gladly believed your Word nor followed your holy commandments. For your goodness’ sake and for your name’s sake, be gracious unto us, we pray, and forgive us all our sin, which is very great. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN’S TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART ☺

SPECIAL MUSIC Sandra Kane, clarinet
“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Matthew 22:34-46**
MESSAGE Rev. Chuck Aurand

“Reformation”

HYMN **“A Mighty Fortress”** (printed)

SHARING AND CARING

- ☺ A TIME OF SHARING
- ☺ PRAYER (concluding with the Lord’s Prayer using “debts” and “debtors”)

A TIME OF OFFERING
OFFERTORY

✝ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Tune: Old Hundredth L.M.*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.**

✝ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✝ BENEDICTION/BLESSING

✝ Solo SUNG RESPONSE

**God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsel guide uphold you,
With a shepherd’s love enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

✝ POSTLUDE
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Announcements This Week

- ✓ **Welcome to our worship this day.** “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”
- ✓ **Congregational Singing Resumes Today.** The Deacon Board approved the singing of one hymn per Sunday—masks are required to join in the singing.

- ✓ **Today's Order of Worship** celebrates the Protestant Reformation. We include a prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon which were written by John Calvin in Geneva. Our music includes two Reformation hymns. During the Message, the pastor will share the "Plague Song" by another Reformer, Ulrich Zwingli.
- ✓ **Wednesday Study Group** is on October 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm. This week we wrap up our series on the Psalms with a celebration of the Psalms with a look at the Psalms of Harvest and Thanksgiving.
- ✓ **Next Week is All Saints Day and the End of Daylight-Saving Time.** Please set your clocks back this Saturday, so that you will be on time for Church next week. We will celebrate All Saints Day honoring the saints of God's Church...including you.
- ✓ **Prayer Chain Begins Again.** Please contact the church office (605-892-3402) with your name and preferred phone number or email address. The new Prayer Chain will begin in November.

Please pray:

- **For the work of Global Ministries in Guatemala.**
(For more about this ministry see https://www.globalministries.org/weekly_prayers)
- **For those who have gone before us in Faith.**
"The reformed church, always reforming", is a truism of every congregation which seeks God's will for their times. May God so bless us in this time.
- **All those who are ill or homebound or in care facilities.**
- **For others in our lives, especially:** our Church Conference, Travelers, Military and First Responders, and the Rockerville Search.



First Congregational United Church of Christ



John Calvin - Martin Luther – Ulrich Zwingli

Sunday, October 25, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.
Worship

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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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Martin Luther, c. 1529

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

Ps. 46

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
 4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;

Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.

For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
 save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.

There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
 Martin Luther, c. 1529

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John 11:25-27

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

Anon., from Strasbourg Psalter, 1545
 Transl. Elizabeth L. Smith, 1868; alt.

1 I greet you, sure Re - deem - er, with my heart,
 2 You are the source of mer - cy and of grace,
 3 You are the life, by which a - lone we live,
 4 You have the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,
 5 Our hope is all in you and you a - lone;

glad for the sav - ing love that you im - part,
 reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
 and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive.
 no harsh - ness have you and no bit - ter - ness;
 we trust the prom - ise that your word makes known.

Who pain did un - der - go for my poor sake;
 So rule in us and our whole be - ing sway,
 Sus - tain us by your faith and by your power,
 Grant us the grace that flows in you so free
 O dear Re - deem - er, make us calm and sure,

I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.
 Shine on us with the light of your pure day.
 and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
 that in your strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

This hymn first appeared in a sixteenth-century Strasbourg Psalter edited by John Calvin. The original tune 503 10.10.10.

Tune: TOULON 10.10.10.10.