

Welcome to worship!
Sunday October 25, 2020,
21th Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday



**A joint online Zoom worship Service with:
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood
United Churches and friends.**

Worship Leaders: Pastor Steven Loweth DLM, & Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div.
Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Announcements & Today's Worship Theme

We Joyfully Gather in God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who embodied God's love and compassion in such surprising ways. And he said: **I am the light of the world**

Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us are gathered today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.

Call to Worship

We gather to worship the God of Life

Who speaks to our lives in unexpected, surprising ways!

God gathers us in - to find a home in God's heart ...

and sends us out to risk exciting new journeys

God is our healer ...

who also disturbs and challenges us. when we least expect it

God re-builds our lives through Jesus' steady presence

and dismantles structures that don't serve Love's purpose

God teaches us through ancient Word

and opens our hearts to new understandings.

We gather to worship and grow in the Spirit's presence
**May our ever-reforming God
speak to our hearts anew this day!**

Opening Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God VU 262

VIDEO

Words and Music by Martin Luther (1529)

Translated by Frederick H. Hedge (1852)

Arrangement and Additional Chorus by Don Hart

Brass Arrangement by David Wesley

This virtual choir piece features the performances of 176 singers and musicians from 34 countries, recorded individually and assembled by David Wesley into what you see and hear!

Prayer of the Day

Wondrous God:

Thirteen billion years ago your creative spark called creation into being.

Two thousand years ago you lit a spark of new creation in Christ.

Five hundred years ago, your grace reignited the hearts of men and women with names like Martin Luther, John Calvin.

Just when we think everything is settled, finished and closed, your power and presence explodes on to the scene yet again, bringing newness, bringing life.

**Fill us with your power and presence, O God,
so that - like our grandparents in faith – we may share
your love, beauty, and justice in our world.**

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

An important outcome of the Protestant Reformation was the rediscovery of the doctrine of grace—the unmerited, unconditional love of God that reaches out to us even before we reach out to God. And as the great Reformer John Calvin once wrote,* the knowledge of God begins with knowledge of ourselves. To know ourselves is to know our places of brokenness. And to know God is to know that in Christ, God's love stretches so deep and wide that it infiltrates every broken place in our hearts and in our world. God knows the depth of our hearts and will never turn away or turn us away. So let's offer up our lives in confession, trusting that we can be honest before God and each other without fear. *Let us pray:*

* in *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Prayer of Confession

Living God, You are the One who is always on the move,
always creating and re-creating,
always doing a new thing.

And yet, we confess, O Lord,
that our lives can become static,
routinely paralyzed by doubt and fear.

We remain ossified in patterns of self-interest, and
we doubt your promise of abundant life.

Our souls remain still.

We do not love as you love.

Nor do we live as you would have us live,
with courage, generosity or the boldness of the gospel.

So in the silence of our hearts,
we offer up our brokenness to you.

(short silence)

Forgive us, O God.

Renew us by your Spirit,

reform us with your compassion,

remaking us more fully in to the image of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:

God's love in Christ stretches so deep and so wide

that it transforms every broken place in our hearts and in our world.

In Christ you are forgiven, freed, made new.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

⁵Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: Rev. Lionel Ketola

Scripture Hymn: Precious Lord Take My Hand VU 670 VIDEO
Music – Gabrielle Untermann & Jane Plewman

- 1. Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
- 2. When my way grows drear
Precious Lord linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home**

3. **When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: Pastor Steven Loweth DLM

Hymn of the Day: Amazing Grace VU # 266

Music: Alexandra Huynh Do

**Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.**

**When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.**

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:

**Receive these gifts O God, use them to reform this community of faith
as you remake the world in your image. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayers for the People

God of Grace and God of Glory,

On this Reformation Sunday, we give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us.
For those who faced trouble and trial, and even death, for the sake of the message of your
mercy and in the spirit of Pentecost, the right to hear and read the scriptures in their own
languages.

We pray especially for those who now face trouble, trial, even death,
for those members of the body of Christ who face persecution.
For your beloved children everywhere—regardless of tradition—
who live under the threat of religious persecution.

For people, especially those are Indigenous, who face the extinction of their own languages
through neglect, oppression, or cultural pressure.

We pray that all may hear the good news in ways that resonate in their and our lives,
and cause us to drop our weapons and defences for the sake of all humanity.

We pray that you may help us not only walk in the shoes of our forebears, but fill them. May all of us gathered here today be as captivated by the life you have given us in Christ so that we are freed to reach our friends, neighbours, and enemies with your unconditional love.

Lord, we pray for the world you love in hope, and in trust, that we and your church might carry the light that has been passed down through the centuries, so we might be a beacon of your love to the world.

God in Your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

We now pray for all those in our hearts and minds on this day.....

Into your hands, Loving One, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your great love for all creation; through Jesus our brother who taught us to pray:

Sung Lords Prayer VU 959 Gabrielle and Jane Video

**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 and the power
And the glory are yours
Now and forever.**

Closing Hymn: Spirit God Be Our Breath MV # 150

VIDEO

**1, Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn ...
Spirit God: be our song.**

**2. Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God: calm our fear.**

**3. Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.**

**4. Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn ...
Spirit God: be our song.**

Blessing:

Go out into the world, living in the light of Christ!
By the power of the Spirit,
do all the good you can
by all the means you can
in all the ways you can
in all the places you can
at all the times you can
to all the people you can
as long as ever you can.
And may the blessing of God
The Love of Christ
And the power of the Holy Spirit go with you on this day.

Musical Blessing: “Day By Day” Instrumental Hymn VIDEO
Clarinet: Mindy Kim Piano: Sung Lee Film Editing/Audio Engineering, Mixing and Mastering - Sung Lee
Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS – A Fundraiser by Claremont United Church

*Our first Christmas during the COVID-19 pandemic will soon be upon us. Who knows how it will unfold but one thing we do know is that the need will be even greater for organizations such as the food banks. For years Claremont United Church has filled 12 hampers for the St Paul's on the Hill Christmas Hamper program, helping to make a brighter Christmas for families less fortunate than ours. This year is no different. However, because of the pandemic the "hampers" will be **virtual** so that families can do their own shopping for both food and gifts.*

We're hoping our small but mighty congregation will come through with money instead of items, enough to virtually fill 12 hampers, each one valued at \$50. In order for families to prepare for Christmas, we need to forward all our donated money to St Paul's by November 13.

How do you donate? You may do an E-transfer to Wendy Duncan at pillowblock@gmail.com Or, you can write a cheque to Claremont United Church (on the Memo line write – M&O Hampers). Drop your cheque in the mailbox at the back door of the church or take it to Tracey May at 5057 William St, Claremont. Or, if neither of these methods works for you, call Wendy at 905 649-2170 and one of us will pick up your donation.

As always, thanks Claremont United Church for your care, concern and generosity, If you know of anyone else who might be interested in helping please pass along. Thank you! From your Mission and Outreach Committee – Debbie, Gabrielle, Myrna, Tracey, Wendy and Lionel.

UPCOMING EVENTS – THIS WEEK

Goodwood United Church: Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Once our check-in time has come to a conclusion, the group will proceed with our weekly Bible Study / "Conversations about Life", so feel free to join us for this as well.

Claremont United Church: Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom "drop-in" meeting Everyone is invited to join us for these "Virtual Brock Café" Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community.

Joint BOOK STUDY GROUP for all 3 Churches: Fridays at 10:00 am: "21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act", by Bob Joseph. After this book we will read Bob Joseph's second book: **Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips and Suggestions to make Reconciliation a Reality.** This group is open to all members of Claremont, Fairbank and

Goodwood United Churches, and friends. So please order your copy of both books now! You join us at any part during the study – ALL are welcome.

PAST WORSHIP SERVICES - are being uploaded to YouTube

We are now live streaming to our YouTube Channel. The service will also be available for watching later. Please use this link to visit the uploaded services site.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation's ongoing ministries during this time.



- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
 - **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
 - You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking.
- Here is where to send them:

For **Claremont United** send to: treasurercuc@outlook.com

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwoodctreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation's ministry.



Find us online! Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and information about coping with stress during COVID-19.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



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