Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Our Common Prayer at Home
October 18, 2020
GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

You can use this worship booklet for worship at home. You can also join worship online and find other devotional resources at www.ReformationDC.org/worship. When there is more than one person worshipping in the same room or when you join the online worship service, one person reads the regular print and the other(s) say the bold print. The hymns are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

Reformation joins a world-wide movement of Christians to celebrate the Season of Creation in September and October. Hymns, prayers, and actions in worship are designed to help us thank God for creation, to repent of human abuse of creation, and to pray to God for guidance and renewal for the Earth and all creatures.

Jesus’ summary of the law in today’s gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called to love God with heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word to be signs of God’s love and mercy on Earth.

If you or a neighbor need pastoral care, please call the church office at 202-543-4200 or one of the pastors via email: Pastor Mike Wilker@reformationdc.org or Pastor Ben Hogue@ReformationDC.org. Voicemail will have instructions about how to contact them in case of emergency. If you are interested in Baptism and Membership at Reformation, please reach out to Pastor Ben and he can discuss details and discern next steps with you!

Reformation honors the Nacotchtank and Piscataway peoples upon whose land we live and worship. We are committed to solidarity with the American Indian /Alaska Native Lutheran Association. Reformation welcomes and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ Christians and their families in all aspects of the church’s ministry. Since 1987, we have been part of ReconcilingWorks, a national Lutheran LGBTQ+ ministry.

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Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross ☩, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*SILENCE IS KEPT FOR REFLECTION.*

Faithful God,

**HAVE MERCY ON US.**

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We hoard your gifts and abuse your Creation.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God’s work on Earth.

**Amen.**
1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure
need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, here the cross has central place. Here in honesty
change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants
Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day’s
Continued on the next page.
world around us, all our varied skills and arts

all the Servant seek in worship to explore
dedication, all we have to give, receive;

wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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Greeting
The presiding minister and congregation welcome each other with a greeting shared by Jesus’ early apostles and then join their hearts in prayer. Today’s greeting begins with a quote from Hildegard of Bingen (1098-Setember 17, 1179) followed by Paul’s blessing in 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Good People, most royal greening verdancy, rooted in the sun, you shine with radiant light. God hugs you. You are encircled by the arms of the mystery of God.

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.

Prayer of the Day
Even though we are distant from one another, the Spirit unites us as we pray this ancient prayer that introduces the biblical readings for today. The following prayer is attributed to Francis of Assisi.

Let us pray.

After a brief silence for personal prayer, the presiding minister continues:
O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD
God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

Children’s Message
See www.reformationdc.org/worship for today’s Children’s Message.
The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out as God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:
1 Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

15 You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

17 You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Having heard the call in Leviticus to live in love, we respond by singing Psalm 1. Happy are we, if like well-watered trees we bear fruit, our care for our neighbors like healthy green leaves. The illustration at the opening of the Psalter in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 339) reminds us that the water giving the tree its life is the baptismal pool.

The leader will read the verses in regular type and everyone is invited to read the verses in bold type.

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

1 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, 2 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. 3 For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, 4 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. 5 As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; 6 nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, 7 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. 8 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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Musical Acclamation
Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

41 Now 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.” 43 He 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’”? 45 If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” 46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Michael Wilker
As you are able, proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
2 In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,

Future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.
Affirmation of Faith

The affirmation of faith was shared by Lutherans Restoring Creation, a grassroots, independent organization promoting the care of creation in the Lutheran Church.

We believe in the debonair God
who clothes the wild flowers dressing them
so superbly that they outdo Solomon in all his glory;
who is the true Friend of all creatures great and small,
who feeds magpies and laughing kookaburras,
and even doleful ravens and drongos.

We believe in the God of Christ Jesus
the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth.

We believe in the extravagant God who turns the other cheek,
goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine,
brings healing with his every touch, and
who welcomes a woman’s love as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.

We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ,
who sweated blood in an Olive Grove,
and kept the faith to the very end.

We believe in the redeeming God who spared no cost,
forgave even his brutal crucifiers,
had time for a dying thief at his side,
and who on the third day did a thing so prodigious
that even his friends were dismayed with joy.

We believe in the God of Jesus Christ,
the Source of abundance wherever we turn
and no matter what we do.
Amen.
Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

In your love, you speak to your church. Give courage and the bond of love to all who gather in your name, that this love turn toward our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, 
hear our prayer.

In your love, you create our earth filled with living things of every kind. Sustain the intricate connections among plants, insects, animals, and organisms we don’t even know or recognize. Bless the work of scientists who help us extend neighbor love to the natural world. Lord, in your mercy, 
hear our prayer.

In your love, you guide with justice. Inspire leaders for truthful conversations and wise policies, that decisions are made for the good of all. Lord, in your mercy, 
hear our prayer.

In your love, you tenderly care for your children and nurse them to health. Bring relief to all those who need healing, hope, or restoration this day (especially). Lord, in your mercy, 
hear our prayer.

In your love, you accompany us in life’s transitions. We pray for new parents, those grieving a loss, those who are retiring, and those embarking on new ventures. Lord, in your mercy, 
hear our prayer.

In your love, we remember those who were dear to us and now rest in you. We give thanks for Martin Luther and all who seek to reform and renew your church. Give us courage to live out your gospel, revealing your love until our days on earth have ended. Lord, in your mercy, 
hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*Please share a sign of peace with your friends and family while we listen to a musical offering. You may also take this time to text "Peace be with you" to another person -- maybe a friend you miss seeing in person at worship or even a neighbor in another city or state.*

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**THANKSGIVING**

*We give thanks for the saving Word of Christ and all the gifts of God.*

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Mission Announcements can be found at [www.reformationdc.org/worship](http://www.reformationdc.org/worship)

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**Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering**

Although we are not gathering in the sanctuary, Reformation's ministries continue every day. Staff members are providing individual and communal pastoral care, coordinating lay leaders and volunteers, caring for our facilities, connecting us with one another, and developing resources for worship and spiritual growth. This time has disrupted the usual way we gather offerings and severely restricted the gifts of some households. We invite you to give as you are able.

*Please give online at [ReformationDC.org/give](http://www.reformationdc.org/give) or send your checks to the church office. If you want to begin or change your Simply Giving weekly or monthly donation, email [Office@ReformationDC.org](mailto:Office@ReformationDC.org).*

To use our new **Text-to-Give** option, send a text message to 844-414-8057 with the amount you would like to give to Reformation. You will receive a secure link to input your payment information. Once you have filled out your payment information, the contribution will be deposited directly into Reformation's bank account. After completing this setup, you can use text-to-give to donate again by simply texting additional donations to 844-414-8057

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*Ubi Caritas*  
*Durufle*
SENDING
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending Prayer
The Sending Prayer is from a worship resource of the Lutheran World Federation and is inspired by Martin Luther’s writings and sermons.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Send us forth. Attentive to the wounds of the Earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer
We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Blessing
Numbers 6:23-26
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
Amen.
1 To be your presence is our mission here, to show com-
2 To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the
3 To be your presence is our mission blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

passion’s face and listening ear, to be your heart of mercy
poor and shelter homeless cold, to be your hands of justice,
all the broken and oppressed, to be your voice of hope, your
people is our call and choice, and in this mission we, the

ever near,
right uphold,
love expressed,
church, rejoice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
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Sending
Go in peace. Free to love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude
Finale from Symphony no. 1
Vierne
Prayer List

WE GIVE THANKS …

For those who celebrate anniversaries this week:
  Eric and Jill Welch (10/11); Ronald and Daphne Rhine (10/14).

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:
  Frank Botts, Gabriel Botts (10/12); Gloria Kenyon (10/14).

WE PRAY FOR. . .
  Madge Selinsky, who is recovering from a fall.
  Margaret Louise Knutson, new baby of Lindsay and Andrew Knutson and sibling Cyrus.
  Elizabeth Wirick, as she recovers and heals from a displaced tibial plateau fracture.
  Cade, cousin of Kiri Nicholson, as he begins cancer treatment.
  Elsie Ntenda and Adelphe Ndolo as they prepare for their wedding on October 24.
  John Amberson, brother of Julie Jones, for health and healing.
  Chester Hart, for healing after triple-bypass surgery.
  Members and friends affected by COVID-19.
  Mike Cochrane, brother of Karen Carlson, in thanksgiving for a successful brain surgery
     and continued prayers for increased mobility in outpatient rehab.
  Wayne Krumwiede, for health and healing.
  Mel Antonen, as he continues to struggle with serious health issues.
  David, the father of Phillip and Harriet Vender's daughter-in-law.

For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service
  Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Paul Cowden, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson and
  family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for
  Phil Abbott, Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Emanuele and Emmajean Crupi, Bob Hedrick,
  Bernice Hoveland, Mary James, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala,
  Wayne Krumwiede, Margot Lyddane, Valerie Platz, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott,
  Madge Selinsky, Al Stauderman, Helen Vigness, Carolyn Walker, Thomas Winter, and
  Gloria Wolf.

Please email your prayer requests to Pastor Mike at wilker@ReformationDC.org
Thanks be to God for today’s Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister      Pastor Ben Hogue
Preaching Minister     Pastor Michael Wilker
Assisting Minister     Stephanie Fouse
Reader                  Matt Fouse
Cantors                Jon Korman, Gabbi Levy, Jon-Michael Eclar,
                        Alexa Newlin
Zoom Host               Craig Haas
Facebook Host          Kiri Nicholson, Will Anderson
Livestream Tech Team    Kiri Nicholson, Will Anderson

The most up-to-date Worship Schedule, will be found on our website, www.reformationdc.org.

We will continue to follow the guidelines of health professionals, scientists, government officials, and church leaders to make decisions regarding gathering for in-person worship. We appreciate your patience and understanding.