

Season after Pentecost, 2020  
Reformation Sunday (October 25<sup>th</sup>) to Christ the King Sunday (November 22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Lectionary and Worship Notes

**Sunday, October 25, 2020**

**Reformation Sunday**

We sing our Reformation song and proclaim our faith – God is a mighty fortress. What this means is there are many things that we hold sacred that are in fact not a mighty fortress. When we need a mighty fortress to hold us secure in uncertain times, do we turn to God, our mighty fortress, or to the sacred things that are in fact not a mighty fortress?

Lessons

Jeremiah 31:31-34	<i>God decrees a new covenant is coming</i>
• Psalm 46	Be Still and Know that I am God
Romans 3:19-28	<i>We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.</i>
John 8:31-36	<i>And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.</i>

Prayer of the Day: O mighty fortress, you are our God, you are our sword and shield victorious. Draw us into the safety of your care, renew us in the truth that we may be prepared for the battle ahead. Keep us steadfast in trusting that all the pains of this world will win the day, for your kingdom is ours forever. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

Living the Creed: An exercise in being still, and just being in the presence of God. As a family, you can talk about practices that help calm or center you – from listening to your favorite music or prayer or walking or whatever it is. Then you can spend some time with crayons and color a specially designed page to help you be still and enjoy the presence of God.

NON - Communion Sunday, Pastor on vacation

Worship Assistant 1:	Mark Shrader
Worship Assistant 2:	Ellen Shrader
Usher	Ted Hanson
Acolyte	
Musician:	Jamie Reynolds
Flowers:	

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**Sunday, November 1, 2020      All Saints Sunday**

The Tree of Life, the Tree of knowledge of good and evil, the Tree of Salvation, the God of all creation is found in these trees – and our care of trees represents our faithfulness to the God of all creation, and our stewardship of all God has given us.

Lessons            Season of Creation        Forest Sunday  
 \*            Genesis 2:4b-22            *As God formed creation and breathed life into being, humanity is entrusted with the cultivation of God's abundant blessings.*  
 Psalm 96:1-13  
 Acts 10:34-42    *Paul notes that "they put [Jesus] to death by hanging him on a tree" (v. 39). Trees have been used as instruments of torture and death throughout human history. However, Paul proclaims that the resurrection brings new life to all.*  
 John 3:1-16        *Nicodemus comes to Jesus and has his entire viewpoint of faith reoriented according to a new way of understanding God's grace and mercy. Entering into a season of creation, we come to Jesus who reorients OUR thinking about the environment according to the same grace and mercy of God*

Prayer of the Day                            O Lord, maker of all things, you planted the trees of the Earth and raised them up to give the breath of life for all creatures. As your Son was lifted up on the tree bringing new life to all creation, stir us by your Spirit to protect the world you have made. We join the forests in praising you, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Living the Creed:                            Count the trees on your property. Name what types of trees you have. What kind of seeds do your trees produce? Are they fruit trees? Nut-bearing seeds? Or what-other kind of seeds do your trees have? What tree on your property most represents Life to you? Draw a picture of that tree

Communion Sunday

Worship Assistant:    Doug Cruce  
 Usher                                        Rose Sandstrom  
 Acolyte  
 Musician:  
 Flowers

All Saints Remembrance for Bill Root, Carol Brissey, Marjorie Swanson

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**Sunday, November 8, 2020        23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

The brokenness of the land is a sign of our own human brokenness, as we steward the land into better health, we reflect the wholeness Jesus offers through his death and resurrection

Lessons            Season of Creation        Land and Prairie Sunday  
                           Genesis 3:14-19, 4:8-16            *In addition to Adam and Eve being cursed because of their sin, the land also suffers the consequences of human brokenness. In the story of Cain and Abel, humanity and the earth continue to be deeply interconnected to each other and to God as the land cries out with Abel's blood.*

Psalm 139:1-18

Romans 5:12-17 *Paul tells us that sin comes into the world through humanity and that salvation for the world comes through Christ.*

Matthew 12:38-40 *Jesus proclaims that he will go into the heart of the earth to redeem the sin of all the world.*

Prayer of the Day Gracious God, sculptor of the land, we in our brokenness have damaged your earth. Restore our relationship with the land, as Christ heals all of creation. In the name of Christ the Redeemer who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Living the Creed Take a garbage bag, and wearing appropriate gloves for safety, walk up and down your street, or a few streets in your neighborhood, and pick up trash. Write down or draw examples of trash you found along the way. If you can't go along your neighborhood streets, go to a nearby park and spend 20 minutes cleaning up along the roadside or edge of the woods.

Communion Sunday

Worship Assistant: Judy Sanberg

Usher Doug Cruce

Acolyte

Musician:

Flowers

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**Sunday, November 15, 2020 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Wilderness spaces offer perilous conditions, and yet often provide for spiritual renewal. Our time in pandemic has offered perilous conditions, even as we have remained in familiar territory – what spiritual renewal has been experienced, though, that leads us to a greater sense of care for our community, and world?

Lessons Season of creation Wilderness Sunday

Joel 1:1-12, 17-20 *The prophet Joel urges the people to lament the destruction of the land, to be awake to the plight that is upon them. Joel calls to Israel and to us today to mourn the destruction of the earth.*

Psalm 65:1-13

Romans 8:18-27 *Creation and humanity each experience suffering as a result of sin. Yet, Paul proclaims, each wait with hope for a day of renewal and harmony with each other.*

- Matthew 3:13-4:2 *Matthew shows us that Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The Spirit continues to call us today into wilderness spaces.*

Prayer of the Day      Merciful God, you made the wilderness teeming with living creatures, thriving plants, and spacious habitats. Free us from our destructive ambitions. Stir us to respect and protect your wild places, caring for all that you have made, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Living the Creed      Jesus fasted for 40 days. For this exercise, we will take 40 minutes, a symbolic gesture representing the 40 days. Turn off your phone, computer, TV, radio, stop working, stop cooking. Do no hobby, read no book, do not go for a walk. Just find a quiet corner and sit. Follow the instructions for a quiet meditation, then answer a few questions about your 40-minute fast from the modern world.

Worship Assistant:      Pam Best  
Usher                      Diane Carlson  
Acolyte  
Musician:  
Flowers

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**Sunday, November 22, 2020      Christ the King Sunday**

Jesus is King, his reign is over everything. But not like a typical dominion. Jesus’ reign is about healing and restoring and renewing. The river of life is the gift from the King that brings that healing. Where do we experience the river of life? How to we invite others to experience the river of life?

Lessons              Season of Creation      River and Stream Sunday  
                                 Ezekiel 47:1-12              *Ezekiel offers a vision of a river flowing from God’s temple. This river is flowing with life which nourishes, heals, and renews*  
                                 Psalm 104:27-33  
                                 • Revelation 22:1-5      *The river of life flows from the throne of God, feeding the tree of life for the healing of the nations.*  
                                 John 7:37-38      *At the Festival of Booths, Jesus proclaims that he pours out living water to the believers*

Prayer of the Day      Jesus, our living water, the river of God that flows from your throne also flows through our local waterways (name local rivers like Rock, Fox, Illinois, Mississippi here). Bless these waters and guide our efforts to keep them healthy. Washed in your promise, lead us to live into our baptismal vocation; through you, and the Parent of all creation, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Living the Creed:      Learn about the water cycle, how does water get into your house? Where does water go after it leaves from your house? How do we directly impact the quality

of water in our community? How do we indirectly impact the quality of water in our community?

Worship Assistant: Chip Algren  
Usher Linda McGuire  
Acolyte  
Musician:  
Flowers: