



## ***We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.***

Reformation, a congregation of Christ's Church, is an affirming, loving and welcoming community on a faith journey. We provide worship, programs, ministries and pastoral care to all, regardless of ethnicity, age, physical or mental ability, family configuration, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, religious background, economic status, or national origin. We embrace and welcome diversity and full participation in this community of worship, where the love of God is the foundation of all that we say and do.

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus – Galatians 3:28.*



### **Overview for this Sunday – Promises, Promises**

The story of God's relationship with God's people is a story of promises fulfilled. We hear about God's covenant with Sarah and Abraham in today's Genesis reading and about its fulfillment in the New Testament texts. As Paul reminds us in Romans, we are the multitude of nations that were promised to Abraham; we are his descendants in faith. "Kings of peoples" (Gen. 17:16) descended from Sarah's offspring; Jesus Christ, the King of kings, is Lord of all through his death and resurrection.

From generation to generation, God is steadfast. No matter how many ages pass or how often we turn away, God remains faithful. This is the great hope of our faith—no matter how often we stray or how great our sin, God persists in loving us. Jesus Christ binds us to God through our baptism into his death. In worship—especially through confession, affirmation of baptism, and communion—we continually remember the lengths to which God goes to keep covenant with us. The promise of salvation extends even into the future, as the psalmist reminds us: Our children and our children's children will proclaim God's salvation to generations yet unborn.

# THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

10:00 AM

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER

**BOLD PRINT** = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

✠ = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### The CALL TO CONFESSION

O Holy One, hear our prayers, confessing all that lies uneasily in our hearts....  
(time for silent prayers)

O Holy One, help us to admit that we are broken, broken by fear and hate, by apathy and greed, broken by sorrow and anxiety.

**Mend the broken places, and make them stronger.**

O Holy One, we miss the people that used to be a part of our lives – we grieve the death of our beloveds, the dying of our friends, the estrangement from family, relationships lost because of time and distance.

**Help us to put aside the past hurts, to reach out, to reconnect, to reconcile.**

O Holy One, we are lost and cannot find our way home – the path we're on seems unfamiliar and frightening; we have wandered from our true self; we cannot see where you are leading us.

**Come and find us; rescue us from the frightening places.**

O Holy One, there is just too much, and we are so anxious about it all – about Covid; about fire and flooding; about politics and division; about loneliness.

**Infuse peace and serenity in our hearts.**

O Holy One, we are locked up in cells of our own making, and in the prisons our culture creates.

**Free us, liberate us, release us from the bondage that limits our full expression of love and faith and humanity.**

O Holy One, our fasts only make us think about what we miss and do not point us to you – we feel not humble but self-righteous. And we know this is not the fast you choose.

**Lavish us with grace so that we may accept all your bounty in humility and gratitude.**

O Holy One, there is so much that is not right – too many live in poverty and fear; too many live without love; too many live enraged.

**Remind us that you have claimed the world, and us, as your own, good and beloved and redeemed. Amen!**

### The SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

**And also with you!**

*Time for sharing of the peace.*

### The HYMN FOR GATHERING

ELW#737

## He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -  
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -  
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and  
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and  
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

## The GREETING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you All!

**And also with you.**

## The PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

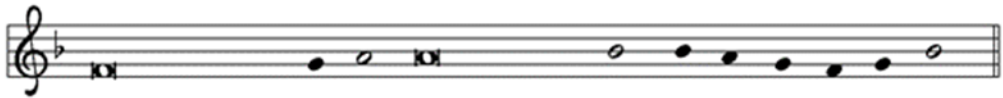
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



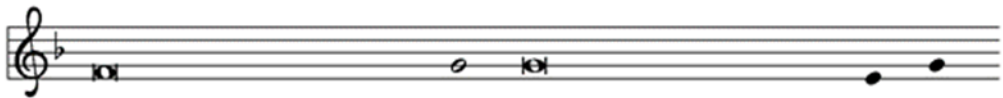
Lord, have mer - cy.



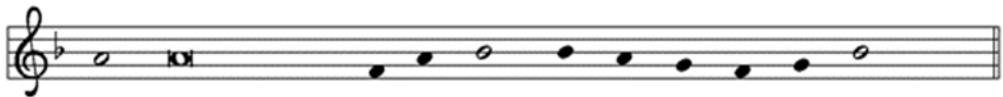
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



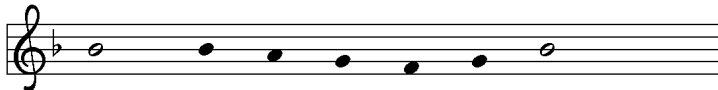
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



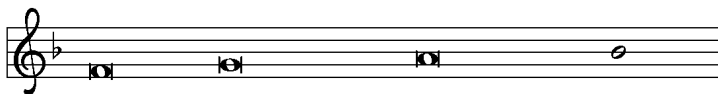
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans.

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body,

which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

### The GOSPEL READING: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit

them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The GOOD NEWS**

Pastor Tim Bupp

**The HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW#250**

### Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.



**The AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – a modern creed**

**We believe God is the creator,  
Who has promised to love us always.**

**We believe Jesus Christ,  
Fully God and fully human,  
is God's promise living among us.  
He experienced all the pain and joy  
and challenges of human life.  
God's forgiving selfless love was revealed to us  
when Jesus suffered death on the cross.  
His actions of selflessness resurrected God's love for us all,  
and a promise of a new life in unity with God.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit is God's Breath,  
breathing life into our spirits,  
guiding us even through the darkest  
and most difficult moments of our lives.**

**We believe God is among us in community.  
Mysterious, yet very real,  
in Creation, in Breath, in Flesh.  
God promises to be with us always,  
even to the end of the age.  
This is our faith!**

**The PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH and RESPONSE**    “O Lord, hear my prayer”

*Response to be sung*

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system of music is followed by the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. or The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God." The second system of music is followed by the lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*A brief silence.*

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless the ministries of Reformation. May our outreach be strong and inclusive, especially as we seek to serve LGBTQIA youth with our Safe Space Dinners and LGBTQIA seniors with the joint ANGELS ministry with Washington Street UMC. Equip all ministries and services to the most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

***O Lord, hear my prayer...***

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve the totality of your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. Hear us, O God.

***O Lord, hear my prayer...***

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving, especially those we remember silently in our hearts, and with voice upon our lips (*pause*). We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

***O Lord, hear my prayer...***

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Please consider giving.

[www.reformationcae.org/giving](http://www.reformationcae.org/giving)

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**venmo**

**Reformation Lutheran**

Create in me a clean heart

35

F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C B♭ Gm  
 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve

C<sup>7</sup> sus C<sup>7</sup> F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C  
 you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

Gm F/A C F Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>  
 I might be re - newed. So fill me and

Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Gm/D C<sup>7</sup> sus C<sup>7</sup>  
 heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C Gm F/A C F  
 ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

The OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# The LORD'S PRAYER

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Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your  
name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in  
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our  
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of trial and de -  
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the power and the  
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

## The BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

## **The SENDING**

During this time of quarantine, let us remain home.  
Let us remain safe as we continue to share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Worship Participants**

Pastor Tim Bupp, Presiding Minister & Homilist  
TBA, Lector  
Joshua Greer, Colleen Clark & Ben Bullock, Music

### **In Our Prayers**

**Sick and Homebound:** Tracy Hamiter; Dot Perry; Barbara Prosser; Connie Pool  
Bobbie Black and Beth Mayer.

**Health:** Emmy Reeves; Landon Derrick; James Dekle; Paul Swing; Carla Ray  
Elyse Stockberger (a 23-year-old battling leukemia in Conway); Katy Eargle,  
(sister of Colleen Clark); Carol Sue Ritchie and Levi Boyd.

### **Announcements**

#### **Wednesday Lenten Virtual Services**

Each Wednesday evening through March 24, we will use Holden Evening Prayer for the Wednesday Lenten virtual services. The virtual service starts at 7:00 pm. Watch the livestream on Reformation's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ReformationLutheranColumbiaSC/>.

#### **Virtual Adult Sunday School**

##### **9:00 AM-10:00 AM**

Adults are invited to join our virtual adult Sunday School discussions each Sunday at 9:00 am via Zoom. We are exploring various faiths and denominations using *Honoring Our Neighbors' Faith* materials, but you don't have to have the book to participate. There are several **easy ways to use Zoom from your phone or computer:**

1. Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89090459442>
2. Go to [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and look for **Join A Meeting** at the top right, then enter the **meeting ID: 890 9045 9442**.
3. **If you have a Zoom account**, you can sign in and use this meeting ID: 890 9045 9442

## **Sunday Worship Livestream**

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM**

Follow us on Reformation Lutheran Church on Facebook

The bulletin can be found at [www.reformationcae.org](http://www.reformationcae.org)

## **Fellowship Coffee Hour**

**After virtual worship**

And don't forget, after the virtual Livestream worship, you can join the coffee fellowship hour! Once the church bells finish ringing at the end of service, keep your computer up and hop over to Zoom with your coffee for a visit with RLC friends and family, kiddo and pet drop-ins are welcome and encouraged! The meeting ID for the coffee fellowship hour is: 834 7008 3287.

## **Reformation Parking Lot Service**

**11:30 AM**

We will gather for worship and celebrate the Eucharist. Again, we ask you all to enter the parking lot through the Columbia Avenue entrance, where you will receive your prepackaged communion kit, then be directed to park in every other space [directed by our ushers] and asked to remain in your car. The channel you'll need to tune into is FM 99.9 on your radio. When the service reaches the point of communion, we ask you to follow the directions of the pastor. When we leave, we ask you to follow the ushers' directions for your safety. Please follow the ushers' direction. These will be weekly services UNTIL we are able to safely get back to in-person worship in the sanctuary.