

October 18, 2020 + 10:30 A.M.
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost, Proper 24

We Join in Worship

PRELUDE *God So Loved the World* Stainer

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Christ's peace is with us always, no matter where we may be. And so, Christ's peace is with each and every one of us in this moment. Let us take it in. Let us really feel it. If able, please stand where you are, look around, and make signs of Christ's peace to each other.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalms* 96)

Leader: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless the LORD'S name; tell of the LORD'S salvation from day to day.

ALL: Declare the LORD'S glory among the nations, the LORD'S marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; the LORD is to be revered above all gods.

Leader: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before the LORD; strength and beauty are in the LORD'S sanctuary.

ALL: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due the LORD'S name; bring an offering, and come into the LORD'S courts.

Leader: Let us worship the LORD in holy splendor; let all the earth tremble before the LORD.

ALL: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let us worship the LORD!

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: The epistle to the Ephesians says, “You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world.” Together let us confess how we have been following the course of this world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God who loves us and saves us, we lift up our prayer of confession unto you. We confess that we have been following the course of the world rather than your way. We have accepted the authority of fellow humans over your authority. We have conformed to the patterns of society instead of your heavenly patterns. We have chosen the world’s way of fear and greed when we should choose your way of being in courageous community. Forgive us for following the wrong course. Help us to do better and be better. In the name of your son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

KYRIE (Instrumental)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! By grace we have been saved through faith!

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI: (Instrumental)

STATEMENT OF FAITH: (From *The Scots Confession*)

God’s promise was repeated and made clearer from time to time; it was embraced with joy, and most constantly received by all the faithful from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham, from Abraham to David, and so onwards to the incarnation of Christ Jesus; all did see the joyful day of Christ Jesus, and did rejoice.

We Hear God’s Word

PRAYER

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: *Genesis 22:1-19*

EPISTLE LESSON: *Ephesians 2:1-10*

GOSPEL LESSON: *John 3:16-18*

SERMON: For God So Loved the World Luke Walkup

MEDITATION TO MUSIC *There Is a Redeemer* Green/Phillips

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

Leader: God loves us so much! God loves the world so much! God gave us Jesus Christ so that we may not perish but have eternal life. Following God's example let us also give with open hearts. If you are worshiping here today, you can place your offering in the plate as you leave. If you are worshiping remotely, I encourage you to mail in checks or take advantage of our online giving options through the website. Now let us take a moment to reflect on stewardship.

DOXOLOGY (Instrumental)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

O God, we dedicate these gifts to you and your mission of love. Give us wisdom as we seek to use them effectively. We pray in the name of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Go Into the World

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

God Sent His Son

Gaither

Life of the Church

Announcements

- **YOUTH CONNECTIONS** will meet next Sunday immediately after the worship service. We will have a faith lesson and some other fun activities. We plan to be done by 1:00 PM. Bring your enthusiasm and a friend, and wear a mask. Meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, outside if possible.
- **BRING YOUR OWN BIBLE** This virtual study and discussion is ongoing on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 PM. Look out for an email with Zoom information. If you do not have email, please call the church office for details on how to join by phone. There is not an ongoing curriculum, so you can join any week even if you haven't been there before!
- **ADULT CONNECTIONS** will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. Carol Callaway, John Toren and Bonnie Perryman are leading in-person for those who would like to participate. Books are provided, but you may bring your own Bible. Please wear a mask and social distance as much as possible. If you have questions, contact Carol Callaway.
- **It's time for a tailgate party** -- A Reformation Tailgate Party! Join us after worship on Sunday, Nov. 1 in our large (north) parking lot as we celebrate being part of the Reformed (and always Reforming!) church. Bring a lawn chair and a sack lunch for yourself, water bottles will be provided. Enjoy some much-needed fellowship while we still remain safe with masks and social distancing, but also with games and trivia. Everyone is invited and welcome! If it rains or is too cold for outdoors, we'll tailgate inside the Fellowship Hall. Extra points for the best dressed "Martin Luther"!

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** – Our Blessing Box has gained even more importance in this season of pandemic. Economic impacts are on the rise, and the most vulnerable in our midst are the most harmed. Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates on food items before donating them.
- **TRUNK OR TREAT- HELP!** Our church is participating in Highland's annual Trunk or Treat event on Oct. 24. We need your help in providing lollipops for the hundreds of kids who attend this fun, safe event. We're asking for donations of bags of these specific lollipops:
 - Tootsie Roll Pops
 - Charm Blow Pops

- Caramel Apple Pops

Please bring your donations of lollipops to the worship service on Oct. 11 or 18, or you can drop them off at the church during normal office hours through Oct. 22. There will be a special bin to put the candy in. If you'd like to donate and cannot get to the church, contact Heather Casiano at 575-932-9716 to arrange for pick-up.

PRAYER LIST

Anthony	Jessica
Alaina	Janet Orem
Marge Ashton	Josh Orem
Avery	Sharon Orem
Bapst Family	Mildred
Betsy	Jill Muller
Brady Vanes	Jeanne Nestor
Sonny Buono	U. Chong
Ina Chappell	Rodney
Connor	Calvin Scott
Dakota	Jay Smith
Danielle	Bonita Sutton
Dave	Steve & Melinda
George Griner	Gary Studer
Guy	Tarsha
Gracie Helmer	Richard Terpstra
Bill Holmes	Dennis VanKooten
Daniel Litwicki	Mattie Welch
Frank	Cindy Waltz Family
Mary	Laura Buono Domsic
Abelardo Lacano	Susan Hanley
Family of Thierno Bah	McKnight Family
Tony Martinez	Rhonda Penman
	Fred Callaway Jr.

Genesis 22:1-19

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” **2** He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” **3** So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. **4** On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. **5** Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” **6** And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. **7** And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” **8** Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together. **9** When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10** Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. **11** But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” **12** He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” **13** And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

15 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and

have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, **18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” **19** So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 3:16-18

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.