



reformation
presbyterian church

August 7, 2022

A Congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

How we worship: Each church has its own worship style, but worship is more than style. It begins with a heart for God through faith in Christ. It is also a dialogue between God and his people; he speaks, and we respond. Finally, worship is defined by God, not our imaginations. All that we do in worship (e.g. singing, praying, affirming our faith, preaching, etc.) comes from God's word. He promises to meet with us as we praise him in these ways.

Call to worship: God calls his people into his holy and loving presence in worship. As we worship we are blessed with the joy of the Lord. Today he graciously invites all people to worship through faith in Christ.

Worship through singing: God delights in hearing his people sing. As we sing our faith, we give praise to God and he transforms our hearts so that we are more like His Son.

WELCOME TO REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *Christ-centered · Gospel-driven · Kingdom-focused*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS — (see page 11)

Rev. Matt Lucas

MOMENT OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP — Psalm 135:1, 5-6

Mr. Austin Bollinger

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD.

People: **For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.**

HYMN OF ADORATION — *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Trinity Hymnal #53 (vv. 1, 3-5)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty will do,
If with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief
Hath not he brought thee relief,
Spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
Sound from his people again;
Gladly fore'er we adore him.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

LORD'S PRAYER — Matthew 6:9-13

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.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH — *The Heidelberg Catechism #28*

Leader: How does believing in the providence of God help us?

People: **We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love. All creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.**

RESPONSE OF PRAISE — *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!*

Trinity Hymnal #498 (vv. 1, 3)

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!
Jesus! lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! what a Savior!
Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul.
(Refrain)

Prayer of invocation:

Invocation means “to call upon.” Even as God calls us to worship, we call upon God to fill our hearts with his Spirit to assure us that we belong to him and to help us worship him in Spirit and truth.

Affirmation of our faith:

Believing God’s truth sets us free from the lies of Satan, the world, and our sinful hearts. We affirm our faith in the truth each Sunday in order to worship God, strengthen our faith, and encourage one another.

Children's Sermon:

Please come forward for the children's sermon as we sing the last verse of the hymn. The children's sermon makes the Bible accessible to young children.

Parents: You are welcome to accompany your child to the front. Afterward, children 2-3 years of age may be dismissed to the nursery. Please gather in the narthex, and a deacon will lead you to the nursery.

Doxology: Doxology means "praise." We praise God because of his generosity to us.

Sermon: The Bible teaches us how to know Jesus and experience his saving work. The sermon is for proclaiming Jesus and how we can trust in him for salvation and live for his glory. For those who receive the Bible as the word of God, it is profitable to teach us, rebuke our sins, build us up in his grace, and train us in righteousness.

Sermons available at
www.refpres.org

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Matt Lucas

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SERMON — "Lord, I Don't Understand!"

Rev. Matt Lucas

John 11:1-16

[1] Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. [2] It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. [3] So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." [4] But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." [5] Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. [6] So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. [7] Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." [8] The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" [9] Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. [10] But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." [11] After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." [12] The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." [13] Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. [14] Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, [15] and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." [16] So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

SERMON OUTLINE

The reasons for Jesus' actions are often hidden from view.

We must trust that his revealed purposes are motivated by love.

What are his revealed purposes for our lives?

1. The glory of God

2. The growth of our faith

Confession of sin: Our sin isn't just about breaking rules, it's about hurting our relationship with a loving God who gave up his Son to save us. Grace softens our hard hearts so that we freely confess our sins during a time of silent confession. We also confess our sins together as the people of God have always done in worship.

Words of assurance: God assures us that we are forgiven in Jesus Christ and dearly loved.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER — *Behold Our God*

Words and Music: Jonathan Baird | Meghan Baird | Ryan Baird | Stephen Altrogge
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Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music [DC Cook]))

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Chorus:

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King, nothing can compare,
Come, let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? (*Chorus*)

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! (*Chorus*)

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Based on Isaiah 55:8-9)

God,
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are your ways higher than our ways and your thoughts than our thoughts. Forgive us for the ways we doubt you. Sometimes we critique your plans and purposes. Sometimes we doubt you are able to turn to our good whatever adversity you send us. Sometimes we grow weary and want to give up because we do not understand what you are doing. Lord, forgive our doubt and help us to trust your love for us. In Christ's name, we pray.
Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE — Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Matt Lucas

PASSAGES FOR REFLECTION

Psalm 130:1-8

[1] Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! [2] O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! [3] If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? [4] But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. [5] I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; [6] my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. [7] O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. [8] And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

John 14:1–6

[1] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. [2] In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. [4] And you know the way to where I am going." [5] Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" [6] Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Lord's Supper: The Lord's Supper is a family meal in which Jesus, as the host, offers himself and all the blessings of salvation to his people. All who trust in Christ, who are baptized members of a gospel church, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live faithfully unto God are invited to partake. However, if you are not a Christian, or not prepared to partake of this meal, we encourage you to remain in your pew and spend this time seeking God in prayer.

Notes about partaking:

We come forward in groups around the table to receive the bread and wine. We eat and drink as we receive the bread and cup.

We serve a mixed tray of wine and grape juice. The outer ring contains grape juice, while the inner rings contain wine.

All bread is free of gluten, soy, dairy, nuts, and peanuts.

Philippians 3:3–9

[3] For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—[4] though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: [5] circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; [6] as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. [7] But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

Revelation 19:6–9

[6] Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

[7] Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;

[8] it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure”—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

[9] And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

HYMN OF COMMITMENT — *All Must Be Well*

Words: Mary Bowley Peters & Matthew S. Smith | Music: Matthew S. Smith
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Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well.
Free and changeless is His favor; all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us,
Perfect is the grace that sealed us,
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us;
All must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well.
Ours is such a full salvation; all is well.
Happy still in God confiding,
Fruitful if in Christ abiding,
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding;
All must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well.
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, "All is well."
On our Father's love relying,
Jesus every need supplying,
Yes, in living and in dying,
All must be well.

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *O God, beyond All Praising*

Trinity Hymnal #660 (v. 1)

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

POSTLUDE

Benediction: A benediction is not a prayer, but a pronouncement from God of his blessing and approval. God sends his people out to live in the strength of his blessing upon our lives.

GET CONNECTED

Next Step

NEXT STEP is for those who want to learn more about RPC. We gather on Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday mornings to talk about our vision, beliefs, and ministries. Participating in NEXT STEP does not require you to become a member of RPC but may help in making an informed decision about membership. Next Session TBD.

Ways to Serve

If you would like to serve in the nursery during Sunday morning worship or work in another area of children's ministry, contact Sallye Lucas at 828.702.2892.

If you would like to serve as an usher during Sunday morning worship, contact Mark Dugle at 828.707.4839.

Community Groups

Weekly small group Bible studies in church members' homes are currently on summer break. We will resume mid-September. Information coming soon!

Additional Connections this Week

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Monday | 4:00 pm Session Meeting 6:00 pm Diaconate Meeting |
| Saturday | 7:30 am 2/4 Men's Study |

USHERS

August
Andy Coe, Levi Friedly, Chris Hill

Valet Parking is available
between 10:15 - 10:40 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The August Special Offering will go to ONA church plants we support, Living Hope Mission in Belmont, NC, and Trinity Chapel, located in Charlotte, NC.
2. There will be no Sunday School in August.
3. Join us this Wednesday, August 10, at 5:30 PM for a celebration of our Interns! The church will provide pizza. Please bring your favorite side dish to share! Mary Neill Lucas will be heading to Davidson College, where she will serve as an RUF Intern. On Wednesday, Austin Bollinger finishes classes for his Master of Divinity degree. RSVP on the Get Connected tab or to the church office.
4. The Esther Circle Women’s Bible Study begins Wednesday, September 14! This Bible Study is open to all women. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:45-11:15 AM. Childcare provided upon request. We will be studying “Revelation for You” by Tim Chester. The books are \$10. Contact the office to request a copy.
5. The Blast-Off Water Party will take place at Camp Greystone on Sunday, August 28, following worship. All children, youth, teachers, and families are invited to bring a picnic lunch and swimsuit and enjoy the water park and camp until 3:00 PM.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

August 7

Babies Cindi Faga & Mary Neill Lucas
Walkers Jeremy and Natalie Maestro

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GET CONNECTED

(Place in offering plate)

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

RSVP Intern Celebration

I am visiting today

I’D LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT:

ARP Denomination

Baptism

Children’s Ministry

Community Groups

Membership

Men’s Ministry

Missions/Outreach

Music Ministry

Women’s Ministry

Youth Ministry

Receive a call from a pastor

COMMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

(Continue on the back)

OFFICERS

Session Members

John Gates
Rev. Zack Keuthan
Rev. Matt Lucas
Michael Rhodes
David Taylor
Joseph Warren

Diaconate Members

Mark Dugle
Carlos Galvan
Phil Hanna
Kevin Keyzer
Bill Mitchell
Bill O'Brien

Bold: Denotes Officer of the Month

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Senior Pastor Rev. Matt Lucas
Associate Pastor/Youth..... Rev. Zack Keuthan
Children's Ministry Director.....Sallye Lucas
Custodian..... Michael Rhodes
Librarian..... Elly Keuthan
Music Director Keith Rose
Musician Chris Zhang
Office Administrator Beth Hill
Treasurer Bob Johnson
Women's Ministries.....Gail Mitchell

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