



reformation
presbyterian church

September 1, 2024

A Congregation of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Please silence all cell phones.

* Those who are able, please stand.

† Latecomers may be seated.

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.

WELCOME TO REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christ-centered • Gospel-driven • Kingdom-focused

By God's grace and for his glory, we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ by reaching lost sinners with the free offer of the gospel and equipping Christians to love, serve, and share Christ in all of life.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS — (see page 11)

Rev. Matt Lucas

MOMENT OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

* CALL TO WORSHIP — Psalm 22:23-24

Rev. Austin Bollinger

You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

† * HYMN OF ADORATION — *Come People of the Risen King*

Words and Music: Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend

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Come people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth,
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach,
To gather children in.

Chorus:

Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev'ry tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ rejoice!

Come those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days,
With the certain hope of peace. *(Chorus)*

Come young and old from ev'ry land,
Men and women of the faith;
Come those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through ev'ry age,
"Our God is all in all." *(Chorus)*

*** 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** — Westminster Larger Catechism #80

Pastor: Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?

People: **Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience before him, may, without extraordinary revelation, by faith grounded upon the truth of God's promises, and by the Spirit enabling them to discern in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made, and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation.**

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.

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

Sermons available at
www.refpres.org

† * RESPONSE OF PRAISE — *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* (vv. 1, 2)

Words: Charles Wesley | Music: Greg Thompson

© 2000 Greg Thompson Music.

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
'Till life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
Help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.

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 — “Faith Seeking Assurance”

Rev. Matt Lucas

1 John 3:19-24; 5:13

[19] By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; [20] for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. [21] Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; [22] and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. [23] And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. [24] Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

[13] I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

SERMON OUTLINE

God assures his people that they are saved. Therefore, we must seek assurance by faith in him.

How can we seek assurance by faith?

1. Live by faith in the saving work of Christ
2. Walk by faith in the path of righteousness
3. Receive by faith the witness of the Spirit

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.

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.

* HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

It Is Well With My Soul Trinity Hymnal #691

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

Women: It is well **Men:** It is well

Women: with my soul; **Men:** with my soul;

All: it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul. (*Refrain*)

My sin— O the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (*Refrain*)

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
"Even so"— it is well with my soul. (*Refrain*)

* SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

* CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God,
You call us to draw near with confidence and full assurance of faith, not because of our own merit, but because of the new and living way opened for us through the blood of Jesus our savior. And yet, because of the many distractions of the world, our ongoing struggles with sin, and our failure to recall your goodness and grace, our hearts have at times condemned us. Forgive us for doubting. Remind us that the basis of our hope is Jesus and not ourselves. In his name, we pray, amen.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE — Philippians 1:6; 2:13

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PASSAGES FOR REFLECTION

1 Corinthians 10:14–17

[14] Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. [15] I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. [16] The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? [17] Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

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 6:25–35

[25] When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" [26] Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. [27] Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." [28] Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" [29] Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." [30] So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? [31] Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" [32] Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. [33] For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." [34] They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." [35] Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

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

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.

Isaiah 53:1-12

[1] Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? [2] For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. [4] Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. [5] But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. [6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. [7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. [8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? [9] And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. [10] Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. [11] Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. [12] Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

*** HYMN OF COMMITMENT** — *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Trinity Hymnal #679

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take him at his word;
Just to rest upon his promise;
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust his cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood! (*Refrain*)

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace. (*Refrain*)

I'm so glad I learned to trust thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end. (*Refrain*)

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** — *Blessed Assurance*

Trinity Hymnal #693 (v. 1)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

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.

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GET CONNECTED

Community Groups—Resume September 15

Weekly small group Bible studies in church members' homes.

Sundays – 141 Boyd Drive, Flat Rock, 5:00 PM—Contact: Ben Oldham, 912.531.5864

Mondays – 1915 Little River Road, Flat Rock, 6:30 PM—Contact: Glen Reid, 828.393.5004

Tuesdays – 116 7th Ave. W. (Kirkside Hall), 4:00 PM—Contact: David Taylor, 757.375.5062

Wednesdays (1st, 3rd & 5th) – 116 7th Ave. W. (Kirkside Hall), 6:00 PM—Contact: Neal Mathias, 803.609.1974

Thursdays – 464 Mine Gap Road, East Flat Rock, 6:30 PM—Contact: Doug Dolan, 301.384.4442

Fridays (1st & 3rd) – 116 7th Ave. W. (Kirkside Hall), 6:00 PM—Contact: Levi Friedly, 720.618.3533

Sunday School

Classes at Kirkside Hall (brick building next door), 9:30 am; nursery provided

Adult Class: *2 Kings*—Rev. Austin Bollinger (Fellowship Hall),
Personal Finance — Eric Warren and Mark Dugle (Sanctuary Basement)

Children: *The Gospel Story* - 3 Classes
Pre-K—Nancy George and Sarah De Hoog (Classroom)
K-2nd—Mary Keyzer and Sallye Lucas (Classroom)
3rd-5th—Mitch Harper and Levi Friedly (Kitchen)

Middle School: *Foundations for Faith: The Ten Commandments*—Tyler Blohm (Multi-Purpose Room)

High School: *The Power of God for Salvation: Romans*—Andrew Melton (Associate Pastor's Office)

Additional Connections this Week

Monday **Labor Day** Office Closed

Wednesday **5:00 PM** Outreach and Missions Team Meeting

SEPTEMBER USHERS

Seth Brown, Shaun Dukes,
John Horton, Nicholai Ronningen

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

SEPTEMBER GREETER

Abby Ronningen

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

September 1

Babies Adam and Sloan Glenn
Walkers..... Sallye Lucas

September 8

Babies Mark and Dotty Dugle
Walkers..... Dawn Warren & Cora Stage

Free church parking is available at the Bank of America, First Bank, Hill Law Office, and Allstate Insurance on Church Street. Please note that the lot directly behind the Hill Law Office is paid parking. All violators will be ticketed and towed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The monthly special offering for September will go to the local Backpack Ministry to provide meals for area children. Please look for the youth in the Narthex with their collection bags.
2. Refpres Youth and SNL (Sunday Night Live) resume next Sunday, September 8, at 5:00 PM.
3. Church Plant: The first core team interest meeting is Sunday, September 8 from 4:00-6:00 PM at Shaun and Melissa Duke's home (12 Pearson Avenue Fletcher). If you haven't already, please get in touch with Zack Keuthan if you plan to participate (828.702.6807).
4. The Women's Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 11. Books are \$9. Register at refpres.org/women or call the church office to sign up and request your book.
5. There will be a Visitor's Dessert at the Lucas home (102 Mary Place, Flat Rock) on Friday, September 20, at 7:00 PM. Please RSVP using the Get Connected tab or contact the church office.
6. Join us for RPC's Fall Church Picnic on Saturday, September 21, from 11 AM to 4 PM at Jackson Park! Enjoy a day filled with games, delicious food, and fun for all ages. It's a great opportunity for fellowship and making new friends. Mark your calendars. Next week we'll announce a sign-up page. Stay tuned.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Josh Grimm (RUF—Queens University)

Please pray for:

- The gathering, care, and assimilation of freshmen as we continue to hold weeks of welcome outreach events the weeks of 9/2 and 9/9.
- Students in our group who don't yet know Jesus to come to know him.
- The continued growth of our student leaders in their heart and capacity to reach out to others, and wisdom for me as I seek to disciple them.

GET CONNECTED

(Place in offering box)

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

RSVP for Visitor's Dessert

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

Rev. Austin Bollinger
Doug Dolan
Rev. Matt Lucas
Ben Oldham
Glen Reid
Michael Rhodes
David Taylor

Diaconate Members

Levi Friedly
Carlos Galvan
Vern George
Bill Goehring
Kevin Keyzer
Jeremy Maestro
Bill O'Brien
Ralph Polk

Bold: Denotes Officer of the Month

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Senior Pastor Rev. Matt Lucas
Associate Pastor Rev. Austin Bollinger
Church Planter in Residence..... Rev. Zack Keuthan
Custodian Michael Rhodes
Director of Children's Ministries Sallye Lucas
Director of Music Ministries Keith Rose
Librarian Elly Keuthan
Musician Chris Zhang
Office Administrator Beth Hill
Treasurer Bob Johnson

Reformation Presbyterian Church

120 7th Avenue W, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792

828.698.3536 | office@refpres.org



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