



reformation
presbyterian church

September 6, 2026

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 48:1-3**

Mr. Chris Price

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!
His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
Within her citadels God
has made himself known as a fortress.

† * HYMN OF ADORATION — *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Trinity Hymnal #92

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great;
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name,
From age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

*** 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 Nicene Creed***

Leader: What do you believe?

People: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 righteousness.

Sermons available at
www.refpres.org

† * RESPONSE OF PRAISE — *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Trinity Hymnal #38 (vv. 1, 4)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Matt Lucas

Children up to age 4 may be walked over to Kirkside for Children's Church

*** 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 — *"The Maturing Church"*

Rev. Matt Lucas

Ephesians 4:7-16

[7] But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. [8] Therefore it says,

"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men."

[9] (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, of the earth? [10] He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) [11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

SERMON OUTLINE

A church unified in ministry grows in maturity as all members work for the growth of the body.

What does Christ give that enables us to work for the growth of the body?

1. Christ gives gifts to all members for ministry.

2. Christ gives special gifts to equip all members for ministry.

3. Christ gives all members a role to play in ministry.
 - a. Speaking the truth in love

 - b. Functioning according to our capacity in love

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.

Parents, please pick up children from Children's Church at this time.

*** HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER — *Behold the Lamb***

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

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Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

* SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

* CONFESSION OF SIN

Lamb of God,

You have defeated all of your and our enemies, and have given us every grace for life and godliness. But we fall short of the fullness of Christ. We often minimize or ignore your spiritual gifts. Instead of relying on your Spirit, we trust our own strength and judgment. We evaluate our spiritual maturity by worldly standards, rather than your perfect example. We repent of these sins. Deliver us, Lord Jesus, and grow us in your grace. Amen.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE — John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Matt Lucas

PASSAGES FOR REFLECTION

Psalms 23

- [1] The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- [2] He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
- [3] He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- [4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- [5] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- [6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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.

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.

Psalm 116

- [1] I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
- [2] Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- [3] The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
- [4] Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"
- [5] Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
- [6] The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- [7] Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
- [8] For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;
- [9] I will walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
- [10] I believed, even when I spoke:
"I am greatly afflicted";
- [11] I said in my alarm,
"All mankind are liars."
- [12] What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?
- [13] I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
- [14] I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- [15] Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.
- [16] O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.
- [17] I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.
- [18] I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- [19] in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

*** HYMN OF COMMITMENT — *O Church Arise***

Words and Music: Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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O Church, arise, and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong,
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valour
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen.
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride,
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle;
That we may run with faith, to win the prize
Of a servant, good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

*** BENEDICTION**

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken***

Trinity Hymnal #345 (v. 4)

Savior, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name:
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

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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