

October 27, 2024

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship – Sentences of Celebration: Reformation Sunday**

Leader: Throughout the human story
the Spirit of God continues to speak

People: in visions and voices, in images and ideas,

Leader: and in all languages and all times,
to all people in all places,

**People: inviting the people of God
to discover new revelation.**

Leader: To Abram it came as a sign in the stars and the sand
that he had been chosen by God.

**People: To Moses it came in the sense that earth
was ablaze with God's glory.**

Leader: To Rahab it came as an unexplainable feeling
that her enemies should be befriended.

**People: To Esther it came as courage to speak, to act,
to imagine, to risk.**

Leader: To Mary it was dramatic, angelic, unbelievable,
an overpowering realization
that neither her life nor the world
would ever be the same.

People: To the disciples and a blind man, and a bleeding woman

Leader: and a boy in seizures and a woman caught in guilt

People: and a dying thief

Leader: and a Roman soldier

People: and to thousands of others

Leader: it was the personal touch,
the eyewitness experience
of the teacher-healer storyteller-lover
the human being they called Jesus of Nazareth.

**People: To three women at the empty tomb
it was a gift in return of their faith,
an ecstasy no one else remained to enjoy,
a story no one else had faith, at first,
to recount or believe.**

Leader: And the words and the life and the power of this Jesus
have traveled through the tomb
and have flown through time and culture
and continue to live for us today.

People: The Spirit continues to speak,

Leader: in visions and voices,

People: in images and ideas,
Leader: in all languages and times
People: to all people in all places.
Leader: To people like Irenaeus, Paula, Aquinas, and Teresa,
People: through prophets and popes and priests and peasants,
Leader: and through women whose names are forgotten
but whose faith will endure
etched in the hearts of those
they have taught and nurtured,
resounding in the songs they have sung
and passed on,
incarnate in ideas and questions
they had shared and inspired.

People: **The Spirit has spoken through people of many faiths
from the Buddha to Gandhi,
whose lives and teachings seem to echo those of Christ.**

Leader: To Luther and Calvin and Wesley and Mary Dyer
Susan B. Anthony and Rosa Parks,
Spirit came in a reformer's fire, blazing in the heart.

People: **And still the Spirit comes to us today**
Leader: in new voices and new visions
People: **and in new understandings of the voices and visions
passed on to us from yesterday.**

Leader: It may burn in our hearts like fire
or whisper in the silence of a still, small voice.
It may sing to us from the stars
or sneak up on us from within,
or embrace us in the touch of another child of God.

People: **But we are here today,
because the Spirit speaks to us
and we respond.**

***Hymn #286:** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

***Passing the Peace**

Stewardship Moment: Karen Jones

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52 Terry Henderson

Anthem: God's Mercy, by Larry Shackley

Time With Young Disciples

Unison Prayer

**Living God, we pray this day that the church universal may heed the gospel call
to be a people of understanding of others, patient toward those with whom we**

differ, and loving toward those who are outwardly and inwardly hostile to us and to others. May we celebrate Reformation Sunday with a re-forming of those truths which are the building blocks not of dissent, but of reconciliation and peace. May the ministry of our family of faith and of the universal family be enlivened by the image of Jesus Christ, the life of the church and the world! Amen.

Sermon: "Reimagining Bartimaeus"

***Hymn #547:** "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

The Community at Prayer (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received: accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all your people and advance the realm of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Hymn #439:** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

***Commissioning and Blessing**

***Choral Response**

***Postlude**

Sentences of Celebration: Reformation Sunday from Touch Holiness, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.