

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 31, 2021

1st Presbyterian of Rockaway

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 9:30 AM EDT)

<https://zoom.us/join>

Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

<https://zoom.us/j/4683220487?pwd=OHBUb2V4RmJVMGF2U3VEVEFLMWNjUT09>

Meeting ID: 468 322 0487

Passcode: FPCR2021 One tap mobile)

+16465588656,,4683220487#,,,,*67022253# US (New York)

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Mighty Fortress”

Traditional

Words by Martin Luther

Arranged by Jim Brickman

Please use this time to silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God call us to worship, to service, to mission.

We come to discern the Word which can set us free.

In the Word we hear God’s voice, calling us, challenging us, and teaching us.

**In the Word is our freedom; in the Word we meet Christ,
our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN 624

I GREET THEE, WHO MY SURE REDEEMER ART

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,

My only trust and Savior of my heart,

Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,

Reigning omnipotent in every place:

So come, O King, and our whole being sway;

Shine on us with the light of thy pure day.

**Our hope is in no other save in thee;
Our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
That in thy strength we evermore endure.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We can no longer flatter ourselves about how good we are. We only need to confess our weaknesses and our failures, and God promises grace and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of mercy, we lament that even good actions of reform and renewal had often unintended negative consequences. We bring before you the burdens of the guilt of the past when our forbears did not follow your will that all be one in the truth of the Gospel.

We confess our own ways of thinking and acting that perpetuate the divisions of the past. As communities and as individuals, we build many walls around us: mental, spiritual, physical, political walls that result in discrimination and violence. Forgive us, Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ is the way, the truth and the life. He is our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide, who gives us, through the Holy Spirit, ever-new beginnings. In Christ, we receive forgiveness and reconciliation and we are strengthened.

Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI (581)**

**Glory be to the Father; and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM “Amazing Grace” Words by John Newton and John P. Rees
Music: Traditional American Melody

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, you are the source of all light. You divinely separated light from darkness so that we may have the beauty of the light of day. Dear Lord, illuminate this day and enlighten us as we seek to know you through your word. May we be led by your light so our hearts may be opened to your word. We pray that we receive every word you speak to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ **The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ **Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

JOHN 8:31-36

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

SERMON

ARE YOU FREE?

Rev. Dr. Nancy Young

***HYMN 275**

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

**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 power 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 powers, 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.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH THE BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,

**we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,**

**exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our
care.**

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,

the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people

to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

*HYMN 372 O FOR A WORLD

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccatà in d minor" by Johann Sebastian Bach
Please remain seated and give thanks to God.

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GIVING TO 1ST PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY

- Go to our web page (fpcrockaway.org), scroll down to “donate” and give electronically
- Mail your donation to:
1st Presbyterian of Rockaway
35 Church St.
Rockaway, NJ 07866

Offering plates are available in the narthex and at the exit door

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAYS, 9:00 AM GENESIS

For next Sunday, please read Genesis 24:1-67; 25:21 – 28:9

We meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Email Pastor Nancy for further information and the schedule.

Younqnancy501@gmail.com

TUESDAY MORNING STUDY – THE PARABLES OF JESUS

9:30 am. We meet on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83842008669?pwd=MnFSQlpgZXNKK2NvVIA4eFhoVTNnQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 4200 8669

Passcode: 749308

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83842008669>

HOLIDAY WISHES

There are almost 200 children who attend school in Rockaway Borough or Township who qualify for the federal program providing free (or reduced price) lunches. We have the opportunity to help them enjoy the holidays this year.

If you would like to provide gifts for one or more children you can contact Brenda Budd at Rockawayholidaywishes@gmail.com.

If you would rather send a check, make it out to Holiday Wishes and send it to her at 43 Willow Ave. Rockaway, NJ 07866. She is asking that all gifts be collected by Nov 30.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day, November, 1st, falls on a Monday. We will observe All Saints' on Sunday, November 7, and will include prayers for all those who have died in the last year. If you have a family member or friend that you would like to include in the prayers, please let the church office or Pastor Nancy know.

younqnancy501@gmail.com, 989.430.2185)