

REFORMATION SUNDAY

MARKET SQUARE

Presbyterian Church

20 South Second Street ▪ Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 25, 2026 ▪ 11:00 A.M.

**SO TEACH US
TO NUMBER
OUR DAYS,
THAT WE MAY
APPLY OUR HEARTS
UNTO WISDOM.**

PSALM 90:12 KJV



OUR MISSION

To proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ by welcoming friend and stranger alike into our diverse and inclusive family of faith regardless of race, class, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or worldly condition of any kind as we celebrate our gifts, work for justice, peace, and a sustainable environment, reach out in mission, and witness to God's transforming love.

Children's Ministry

Children of all ages are always welcome! There are two shelves in our Narthex (at the back of the Sanctuary) with sequin boards, crayons, markers, coloring sheets, and puzzles as well as a few library books that go along with the theme of the worship service. From September through Memorial Day, education for children K-6 is offered in the Children's Education Room (Level 4) immediately following the children's sermon (around 11:15 a.m.). Every Sunday, nursery care is available for children (infants through 5-year-olds) in the nursery on the fourth floor. The nursery is staffed by Sidney Dame, our nursery caregiver, and volunteers.

The Beacon Light

Want to stay in the loop? The *Beacon Light* is our weekly email that goes out every Wednesday, featuring sermon previews, upcoming events, music for Sunday worship, and updates on our church family and friends. To sign up, simply contact Nancy in the church office or you may do it through our website.

Parking Validation

Market Square Presbyterian does not own the garage but is pleased to subsidize parking for worshipers as our gift to you today. Parking validation is available in the atrium before you leave. Please have your license plate number ready to give to a staff member. The garage has a new procedure this year, and we want to make sure you get out smoothly!

Welcome, Visitors!

We're so glad you joined us for worship today! Please take a moment to fill out the yellow visitor card in your pew and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. If you have any questions during your visit, our ushers are here to help. You'll find them at the back of the sanctuary wearing "Usher" name tags. They'd be happy to answer your questions, direct you to the restrooms or a drinking fountain, explain our parking arrangements, or help in any way they can. If you'd like to learn more about our community, the best place to start is our website at marketsquarechurch.org or our Facebook page at facebook.com/MarketSquareChurch.

Media & Privacy Notice

The church regularly uses photos, videos, and audio recordings of services and programs for printed materials, its website, and social media (Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube). Worship services and some events are livestreamed. Leaders (pastors, musicians, speakers, etc.) will appear on camera, and the backs of congregants' heads may be visible. If you prefer not to appear on camera, please sit on the right side (as you're facing the pulpit) near the wall and stained glass windows. During Communion, use the right-hand line, which is not on camera. Unless you tell us otherwise, the church assumes permission to use your photo or likeness. If you do not wish to be included, please contact the church office.

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

Market Square Presbyterian Church—October 25, 2026

*When you see this symbol † preceding a part of the worship service, please rise in body or spirit.
Bold type denotes parts spoken or sung by the congregation.*

WE APPROACH GOD

TOLLING OF THE BELL

*This morning we celebrate Reformation Sunday, remembering the courage and conviction of those who helped shape the Protestant Reformation and the Presbyterian tradition we cherish today. We give thanks for a faith that continues to grow, challenge us, and call us to seek God's justice, grace, and truth in the world. We are glad you are worshiping with us today. **Please silence your electronic devices.***

WELCOME

The Reverend Allison R. Smith

VOLUNTARY

Chorale Fantasy on 'Ein' Feste Burg'

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

CHORAL INTROIT

God Is Our Refuge

Psalm 46, text
Wolfgang A. Mozart (1756 – 1791), music

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

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Ruling Elder David Volkman

Leader: We gather here to worship God.

People: We are here, with heart, soul and mind.

Leader: We gather here as Christ's body.

People: We are neighbors, learning how to love each other.

Leader: The Holy Spirit gathers us in to be sent out again.

People: We are here to worship and to be transformed.

Leader: Let us worship the Triune God!

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Reverend Anne M. Ross

Lord, we hold on to so much grief, anxiety, fear, and anger. We carry it from day to day allowing these passions to rule us and hide from our view the goodness and richness of life. Lord, forgive us. Teach us to let go of the forces that cause us and our neighbors harm. Open us to gratitude, teach us to embrace all that is good, all that is hopeful, all that is true.

† SILENT CONFESSION

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

† KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

† GLORIA

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Passing of the Peace is an ancient Christian practice, a reminder that before we go any further in worship, we turn to one another and declare: you are seen, you are welcome, you belong here.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

At this time, children in the congregation may make their way forward for the children's sermon.

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

ANTHEM

My Hope Is Built

Edward Mote (1797 – 1874), text
Tom Trenney (b. 1977), music

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
(p. 191 in the Old Testament section of the pew Bible)

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Psalm 90:1-17
(p. 547 in the Old Testament section of the pew Bible)

SERMON

"Teach Us to Number Our Days"
The Reverend Allison R. Smith

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

† RESPONSIVE HYMN NO. 318 In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE 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.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

INVITATION TO GIVING

(If you would like to contribute online, please use the QR code. Thank you for your generosity.)



OFFERTORY

Christ Is Our Cornerstone John Chandler (1806 – 1876), translation
Philip Stopford (b. 1977), music

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone the courts of heav'n are filled;
On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

O then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise the 'Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long,
that glorious name.

Here, gracious God, do thou forevermore draw nigh;
accept each faithful vow, and mark each suppliant sigh;
In copious show'r on all who pray each hold day thy blessings pour.

Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, one giv'n, be with us evermore,
Until that day when all the blest to endless rest are called away.

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build!

† DOXOLOGY NO. 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavnly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† SENDING HYMN NO. 320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CORE VALUES

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† CHORAL RESPONSE

As we sing the first verse of “Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” you may notice people around you reaching for one another’s hands. This is a simple sign of our unity in Christ. You’re welcome to join hands, hold one another in prayer, or remain as you are, whatever feels comfortable to you.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.

† VOLUNTARY

Tu Es Petra

Henri Mulet (1878 – 1967)

+++

CORE VALUES

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Worship Leaders This Morning

PASTORS

Rev. Allison R. Smith, Pastor
Rev. Anne M. Ross, Pastor

MUSIC

Tyler Canonico-Dilley, Minister of Music & Worship
Caleb Leckrone, Organ Scholar
The Sanctuary Choir
Louise Poorman, piano
Sean Meara, Crucifer
Jamie Caffier and Lana Walmer, banner bearers

TECH/DESIGN

Newman Stare, Audiovisual Technician
Kari Hultman, Livestream Technician
John K. Robinson, Bulletin Cover Designer

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Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers are given by Bill and Jane Murray to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, William and Geraldine Murray, Wilson and Elizabeth Everhart, Aunt Ann Murray, Sister-in-Law Lynn Everhart and Nephew Michael Everhart.

Lectionary Readings

Sunday, October 25 (22nd Sun. after Pentecost)

First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1–12
Psalm: Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8
Gospel: Matthew 22:34–46

Sunday, November 1 (All Saints Sunday)

First Reading: Revelation 7:9–17
Psalm: Psalm 34:1–10, 22
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1–3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1–12

Staff Notes

Rev. Stan is on study leave this coming week. He returns on November 1.

Our Ministry Today

Breakfast Coordinator: Peter Ngang

Breakfast Preparers: Craig Partridge & Friends in memory of Bob DeVore & Bruce Eshenour

Breakfast Servers: Linda Then, Andrew Bargh, Laura Ruggiero, Judi Shepler, Max Stoner

Atrium Flowers: Sally Dieter

Nursery: Gail Laninga

Ushers: Jeremy Bair, John Dickinson, Marianne Flickinger

Elementary Teachers: Theresa Elliott, Caleb Stelle
10/30 Friday Dinner:

Shift #1 PJ Taylor, Steve Gaus, Dae Allen, Rizi Allen, Dolores Giorgione

Shift #2 Dae Allen, Friar Ishmael, Ken Bateman

Reformation Sunday Banners

The red and white banners hanging in our sanctuary today celebrate Reformation Sunday. Red reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit, who inspired the reformers and continues to breathe new life into the church. As we worship together, may these banners remind us that our faith is a living tradition, always growing and being renewed by God's love and grace.

All Saints Sunday

Next Sunday we'll gather for All Saints Sunday, a time to remember those we love and hold close in our hearts. During the 11 am English language service, the Sanctuary Choir will present Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, and we will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. As we do every year, we will name out loud and toll a bell in memory of our beloved saints. This year, we will remember Lois, Roger, Scott, Patty, Suzette, Sandy, Daniel, and Danny. You're invited to light a candle in memory of someone dear to you as we share in this tender time of remembrance, gratitude, and hope.

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

2027 Stewardship Update

THANK YOU to everyone who so generously submitted a pledge card this past Sunday! We continue to be blessed by the generosity and faithfulness of our church family. To date, we have received **51 pledges totaling \$338,086** for 2027.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to submit your pledge, there is still plenty of time to participate. You can click (Press CTRL, and then click) on the blue banner below or scan the QR code to submit your pledge.



Together, we look forward to all that God has in store for our congregation in 2027. We are grateful for your prayers, your support, and your commitment to our shared mission.

Arts on the Square: The Harrisburg Camerata

We hope you'll join us Sunday, November 8, at 4 p.m. for a beautiful afternoon of choral music with the Harrisburg Camerata. Born out of Market Square's pandemic-era "Quarantine Choir," this exceptional ensemble has grown into one of Central Pennsylvania's exciting new choral groups. Led by our own Tyler Canonico-Dilley, these outstanding singers will perform a dynamic program of choral works, accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

The program features a wonderful range of music, from William Byrd's joyful *Sing Joyfully* and Paul Mealor's beloved *Ubi Caritas* to Moses Hogan's stirring arrangement of *My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord*, along with works by Craig Carnelia, Eric Whitacre, and Ethan Sperry. Come experience the beauty and excellence of this remarkable ensemble!

Please consider a \$15 donation to support Arts on the Square and help us continue bringing exceptional music and the arts to our community. Complimentary parking is available in the Market Square Garage.

Building Heat

Good news! We've turned on the steam heat in the building. It may take a little while to warm things up, so our advice to dress in layers still stands. We want everyone to be comfortable, so thanks for bearing with us as the building warms up!

Market Square Merch for the Holidays!

Just in time for Christmas shopping, Market Square has an online storefront where you can find merch celebrating our faith community! Whether you're shopping for yourself or looking for a gift, it's a lovely way to share a little Market Square with the people in your life.

This isn't a fundraiser for the church. Rather, it's an opportunity to share the love for this extraordinary faith community and let others know what makes Market Square so special. Online readers, [CLICK HERE](https://www.bonfire.com/store/market-square-presbyterian-church/), or go to <https://www.bonfire.com/store/market-square-presbyterian-church/>

Offering Envelopes

Michelle Sheaffer will soon be placing our order for 2027 offering envelopes. If you'd like to receive envelopes in the coming year, or if you no longer need them, please let Michelle know so we can be sure to have what you need. You'll find her contact information on the back of the bulletin. Thank you!

You're Invited: Annual Beacon Society Celebration Breakfast

Join us on Saturday, November 7, from 9–11 a.m. at Dame Leadership (350 Poplar Church Road) for our Annual Beacon Society Celebration Breakfast! Enjoy a light breakfast as we share updates on the Beacon Society and Endowment Fund, review the fund's current uses, and hear Rev. Stan Jenkins present "A Mission Vision for the Endowment Fund." Free parking is available next to the entrance, and an elevator provides access to the Dame Leadership office. Please RSVP to Nancy Sheets so we can plan for breakfast and seating. We look forward to gathering with you!

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

NEXT SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

WORSHIP

Korean Language Worship

9:30 am • Davis Chapel

The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching

English Language Worship

11:00 am • Sanctuary

All Saints Sunday: *On All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us in faith and give thanks for the people whose lives have shaped our own. As we honor those we have lost, we celebrate the enduring bonds of love that connect us across generations and find comfort in the promise that we are held in God's grace, now and always.*

Rev. Stanley J. Jenkins preaching •

Rev. Allison R. Smith • Rev. Anne M. Ross •

Minister of Music & Worship Tyler A. Canonico-Dilley • Sanctuary Choir • Chamber Orchestra

MISSION

Community Breakfast

8:00 am • Fellowship Hall

Charging Center

9:00–10:45 am • Fellowship Hall

Breakfast guests are invited to remain in Fellowship Hall to charge their devices and keep warm/cool and dry.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Room for the Inner Way

10 am • Room 420

RFIW offers a unique time on Sunday mornings to rest in this sacred space where participants are led in prayer and meditative practices to quiet the soul and prepare the heart prior to worship. Elizabeth Terry and Rev. Anne Ross are the guides in spiritual practices.

EDUCATION

Adult Forum: "Epic Heroes, Epic Tales"

9:30 am • Conference Room (3rd floor). Rev. Allison will lead a series of classes examining the story of 1 and 2 Samuel alongside the Homeric Epics of the Iliad and the Odyssey. We'll take a closer look at the way these two different and yet similar epic tales portray their heroes, who are sometimes not very heroic at all. Our final session on November 1 will include some reflections from Market Square's Lunch and Learn participants who studied the books of 1 and 2 Samuel last year.

Children's Sunday School

11:15 am–noon-ish • Children's Education Room, 4th floor. For children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Children begin worship with their parents and leave after the children's sermon with their Sunday School teachers.

Lunch and Learn

12:30 pm • Dave Volkman's office

Join Rev. Stan for an exploration of the "family stories" of Genesis and how they helped shape a new identity for the people of Israel after the trauma of exile. What can these ancient stories teach us about who we are as God's people today—and what it means to live as a community shaped by covenant rather than power and profit?

Christmas Pageant Practice

12:30 pm • Fellowship Hall

Arts on the Square Gallery Opening

Unfortunately, because our elevator is still out of service, we must postpone the opening reception for "Painting to Poetry: Works by Georgia Earp" once again. We're sorry for the continued changes and will let you know as soon as a new date is confirmed. We look forward to celebrating Georgia's art in the near future (and thank her for her patience).

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

Calendar: October 25 – November 1

Sunday, October 25

Community Breakfast • 8 am
Health Clinic • 8:30 am
Charging Center • 9 am
Confirmation Class • 9 am
Korean Language Worship • 9:30 am
Adult Forum • 9:30 am
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal • 10 am
Nursery opens • 10:45 am
English Language Worship • 11 am
Korean Language Bible Study • 11 am
Children's Sunday School • 11:15 am
Outreach & Marketing Committee • 7 pm

Monday, October 26

Worship Leaders meeting • 10 am
Organ practice • 1 pm

Tuesday, October 27

AOTS gallery installation • 10:30 am
Staff meeting • 11 am

Wednesday, October 28

Centering Prayer Online • 12 pm

Thursday, October 29

Choir School Team Meeting • 11 am
Market Square Ringers • 6 pm
Sanctuary Choir • 7:15 pm

Friday, October 30

Organ practice • 9 am
ISC Food Pantry • 1 pm
Community Dinner • 5:30 pm

Saturday, October 31

Fauré Requiem rehearsal • 10 am

Sunday, November 1

Community Breakfast • 8 am
Charging Center • 9 am
Confirmation Class • 9 am
Korean Language Worship • 9:30 am
Adult Forum • 9:30 am
Room for the Inner Way • 10 am
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal • 10 am
Nursery opens • 10:45 am
English Language Worship • 11 am
Korean Language Bible Study • 11 am
Children's Sunday School • 11:15 am
Lunch and Learn • 12:30 pm
Pageant Rehearsal • 12:30 pm
Harrisburg Camerata Rehearsal • 2 pm
Outreach & Marketing Committee • 7 pm

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Worship services are livestreamed through our YouTube Channel. Find us on Facebook and Instagram

275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

TEXT: Martin Luther, 1529; trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852
 MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.

EIN' FESTE BURG
 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

In Christ There Is No East or West 318



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in



him no south or north, but one great fel - low -
 high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the
 him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are



ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.

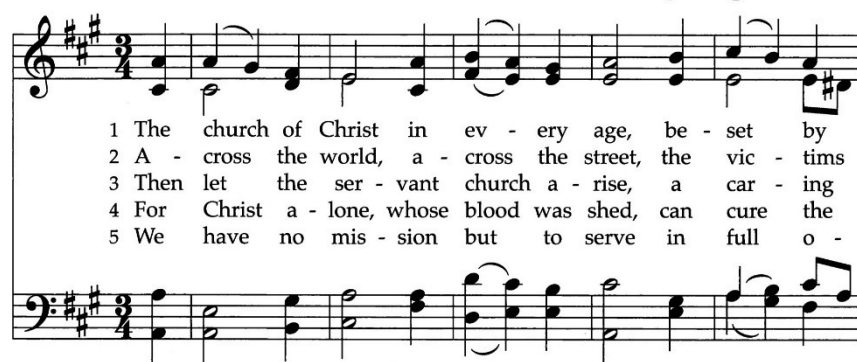
TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.
 MUSIC: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

ST. PETER
 CM
 (alternate tune: MC KEE, 317)

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

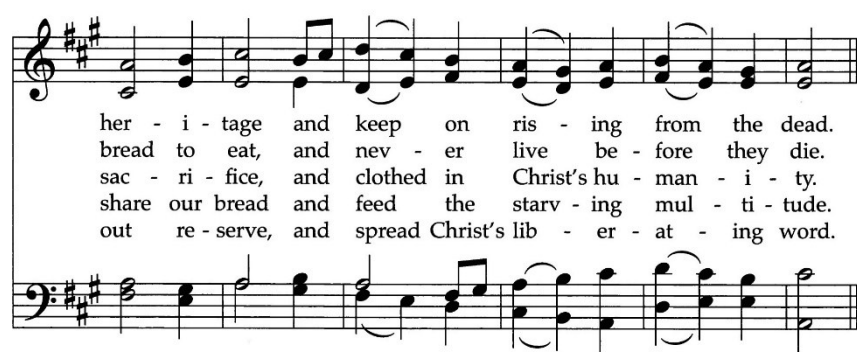
320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1969
 MUSIC: William Knapp, 1738
 Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

WAREHAM
 LM
 (alternate harmonization, 665)

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

Music This Week

Good morning! Today is Reformation Sunday, a time for us to remember the movement that transformed Christianity in the sixteenth century and, in particular, Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-Five Theses in 1517. What began as a call for reform within the Church grew into a broader renewal of Christian theology and worship, emphasizing the grace of God, the authority of Scripture, and the promise that salvation is a gift received through faith.

Few hymns are as closely associated with the Protestant Reformation as Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Written around 1529, the hymn is based on Psalm 46 and proclaims God as the steadfast refuge and strength of God's people. Its bold text and powerful melody, *Ein' Feste Burg* ("A Mighty Fortress"), have made it a defining musical expression of the Lutheran and broader Protestant tradition. The hymn does not suggest that faith makes us immune to difficulty; rather, it declares that God remains faithful in the midst of every trial. Luther's sturdy melody, with its memorable opening and confident rhythmic character, gives musical voice to this assurance. As we sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" on this Reformation Sunday, we join generations of Christians who have proclaimed through this hymn that our ultimate strength and security rest not in ourselves, but in God.

Our anthem is a setting on "My Hope Is Built" and it is probably one of the best-loved hymns of the Christian faith, with words by English hymn writer Edward Mote dating from 1834. The hymn's central image is that of Christ as the "solid rock" upon which our lives and faith are built. In contrast to the shifting circumstances of life, God's faithfulness provides an unshakable foundation. Tom Trenney's choral arrangement brings fresh energy and color to this familiar hymn. He invites us to hear these words anew with his upbeat arrangement. This anthem ultimately becomes a musical confession of faith: whatever storms we may encounter, our hope rests securely in Christ. As the choir sings this morning, may be we reminded that the foundation of our hope is not found in what we can accomplish or control, but in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God.

The responsive hymn, "In Christ There Is No East or West," was written by John Oxenham in the early twentieth century and draws its inspiration from Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew or Greek...for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." The hymn proclaims that radical unity of the Christian community, reminding us that the boundaries that often divide us – nationality, culture, race, sexual orientation, and social status – do not have the final word in Christ. Set to the beloved English folk melody *St. Peter*, the hymn's simple and memorable tune carries a message that is both joyful and profound. As we sing, we are invited to imagine the Church not as a collection of separate peoples, but as one family gathered around Christ. The hymn challenges us to make that unity visible in the way we welcome, serve, and love one another, celebrating the breadth and diversity of God's people while remembering what we share in common: Christ is our peace, and in Christ there is no east or west.

Philip Stopford's setting of "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" offers a beautiful musical meditation on Christ as the foundation of the Church and of our lives. The text is based on an ancient Latin hymn, *Angularis fundamentum*, traditionally associated with the eighth century, and draws upon the biblical image of Christ as the cornerstone – the stone upon which the whole building is established. Stopford's setting unfolds with warmth and reverence, allowing the text to speak clearly while surrounding it with rich choral harmonies. The music builds a sense of unity and strength, reflecting the hymn's central message that Christ holds the Church together. As we hear these words and music, we are reminded that the Church's foundation is not found in any one person, tradition, or institution, but in Christ himself. May this anthem encourage us to build our lives and our community upon that enduring foundation.

Our sending hymn "The Church of Christ in Every Age," with text by Fred Pratt Green, reflects on the Church's calling to proclaim Christ's love in every generation. Rather than viewing the Church as a static institution, the hymn reminds us that the Church is a living community, continually called to respond to the needs of the world with compassion, justice, and faithfulness. Set to the sturdy English hymn tune *Wareham*, the music gives the text a sense of dignity and resolve. The hymn challenges us to consider what it means to be the Church in our own time: to recognize suffering and injustice, to offer hope, and to put our faith into action. As we sing, we are reminded that the Church's mission does not belong to the past. In every age, Christ calls us to be his hands and feet in the world, carrying the gospel of love wherever we are sent.

CORE VALUES

Faith – Community – Compassion – Justice – Service

Henri Mulet was a French organist and composer whose works capture the grandeur and color of the French Romantic organ tradition. A student of Charles-Marie Widor and Alexandre Guilmant, Mulet's music bridges the rich harmonic

language and of the 19th century with the emerging modernism of the early 20th century. "Tu es Petra et portae inferi non praevallebunt adversus te" (You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it) is one of his most celebrated organ works. It serves as the triumphant finale of his *Esquisses Byzantines* (Byzantine Sketches), a collection inspired by the architecture and spiritual atmosphere of the Basilica of Sacré-Coeur in Paris. Its jubilant energy makes it a fitting musical symbol of faith's enduring power and victory, and a grand ending to our Reformation Sunday worship!

Music next week – Next Sunday is All Saints' Sunday and the Sanctuary Choir will sing Gabriel Fauré's beautiful and moving "Requiem." The hymns for the morning will be, "For all the Saints," "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God," and "Rejoice in God's Saints."

~ Tyler Canonico-Dilley

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