



2023 Reformation Sunday Liturgy “Hope and a Future”

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

All: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Happy are those who have God as their helper,
whose hope is in the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

All: For God is faithful;
the Lord gives justice to the oppressed
and food to the hungry.

Leader: The Lord will reign forever, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord!
(Based on Psalm 146)

♪ Song of Praise and Procession

Votum and Greetings

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.

All: Amen.

Leader: Grace, mercy, and peace to you
from God our Creator,
Christ our Redeemer,
and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.



All: Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Adoration

♪ Song of Thanksgiving

Confession of Sins

Leader 1: Sisters, brothers, kindreds in Christ,
God created us good and in God's own image,
that is true righteousness and holiness,
so that we might
truly know God, our creator,
love God with all our heart,
and live with God in eternal happiness,
to praise and glorify God.

Leader 2: When we see God's beautiful holiness,
we recognize our brokenness.
When we hear God's commandments,
we recognize our failure to live in righteousness.
When we see God's light and truth,
we recognize that we live among shadows and lies.
When we hear God's promises of hope,
we recognize that fear, despair, and hopelessness grip our world.
Let us, therefore, confess our sins and ask for God's mercy.
Let God's words illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus, our
Lord.

Leader 1: Thus says the Lord:
Seek welfare wherever you are,
and pray to the Lord
for your welfare shall be found in the welfare of the community.

(Silence)



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Leader 2: Merciful God,

when we focus only on seeking our own welfare;
when we are indifferent toward our community;
when we ignore our neighbors in need;
when we fail to bring peace and unity in community,
in your mercy:

All: Forgive us.

Leader 1: Thus says the Lord:

Surely, I have plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.

(Silence)

Leader 2: God of hope,

when we doubt your promises of abundance,
we live in fear of tomorrow;
when we forget that your plans of welfare are not only for us,
we become covetous, hoarding your blessings and destroy the
earth,
in your mercy,

All: Forgive us.

Leader 1: Thus says the Lord:

See, I am making all things new.
It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End.

(Silence)

Leader 2: God of the past, present, and future,

the brokenness of our past still creates divisions among churches,
preventing us from welcoming those who are different from us,
from working together for the unity of the Body of Christ



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and the renewal of our congregations.
May your Holy Spirit set our gaze to the future with hope
and reform our vision according to your will.
Trusting the fulfillment of your promises,
we are empowered to seek the welfare of all creation
and to become your co-workers in making all things new,
as we await for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in glory.
In your mercy,

All: Forgive us.

♪ Kyrie Eleison

Assurance of Pardon

Leader 1: Sisters and brothers, kindred in Christ,
hear the good news!

Leader 2: There is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set you free from the law of sin and death.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone;
a new life has begun.

Leader 1: Know that in Jesus,
God embraces you, forgives you,
and strengthens you to live a renewed life.
Words of grace from the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

♪ Gloria

The Peace



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Leader 2: Hear the teaching of Christ:
A new command I give you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
The peace of Christ be with you all.

(based on John 13:34)

All: And also with you.

Leader 1: Let us now share the peace of Christ to one another.

[Congregants greet each other by shaking hands or other gesture while singing a song about peace such as "Hevenu Shalom Alechem."]

Prayer for Illumination

Holy Spirit,
pour out upon us
wisdom and understanding,
that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture,
our hearts and minds may be opened to receive
all that leads to life and holiness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 29: 4-7, 11-14

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46 (spoken or sung)

New Testament Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.



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All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!
Hallelujah!

♪ Hallelujah

Sermon

Silence

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.

Intercessions



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Leader: Gracious God,
We pray for the faithful all over the world,
that all who love you may be united in your service.
We pray for the church....
Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray of the peoples and the leaders of the nations,
that they may be reconciled to one another,
in pursuit of your justice and peace.
We pray for the world....
Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence,
that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness.
We pray especially for all prisoners of politics or religion,
and for all refugees.
We pray for all who are oppressed....
Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all in need because of famine, flood, or earthquake,
that they may know the hope of your faithfulness,
through the help of others.
We pray especially for the people of....
Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the land, the sea, the sky,
for your whole creation, which longs for its redemption.
We pray that we may live with respect for your creation



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and use your gifts with reverence.
We pray for the creation....
Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

*(Or with optional sung response:
"Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Incline your ear to us,
and grant us your peace. Amen.")*

Offering

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.
(Psalm 96:8-9, NRSV)
Friends, as recipients of abundant life in Christ,
we now offer our gifts to God.

♪ Offertory Song

*[Before the offering or while the offering is collected, a choir or all
congregants may sing an offertory song.]*

Offering Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.



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Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Leader: With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you created heaven and earth,
made us in your image,
and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his life, death, and resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
On this Reformation Sunday,
we praise you for living in us now by your Spirit,
and we pray that this bread and this cup
may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: May we and all your saints be united with Christ
and remain faithful in hope and love.

Leader: Come, now, for all is ready!
The gifts of God for the people of God.
The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,



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“This is my body, which is for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup,
and gave thanks and gave to them, saying,

“Drink of it, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant,
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Take, eat, and drink, remember, and believe
that the precious body and blood of our Lord
was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

*[Congregation comes forward to receive communion or receives
communion in their seats.]*

Response of Thanksgiving

All: Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.

Sending

Leader: As you leave the sanctuary today,
may you know the hope to which God has called you,
experience the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints
and trust his incomparably great power for us who believe.
(based on Ephesians 1:18-19)

All: Amen.

♪ Song of Commitment to Mission



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Blessing

God bless you and keep you.

God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

God's face turn toward you and give you peace.

♪ **Amen or Amen, Hallelujah**



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The World Communion of Reformed Churches is comprised of 100 million Christians from more than 230 churches in Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, United, Uniting, and Waldensian and other pre-Reformation traditions in over 105 countries.

Called to communion and committed to justice, the WCRC believes that communion and justice are inextricably connected: communion without justice masks inequality, exclusion, and oppression; justice without communion is in danger of becoming divisive. Together the whole of the Communion works to renew and restore the economy and the earth, so that all humanity and the whole of creation might live life in its fullness (Deuteronomy 30:19).

The WCRC invites its members to both share information about the WCRC and dedicate their offering collection on Reformation Day to the work and witness of the Communion.



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