

Order for the Worship of God

Highland Presbyterian Church

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2015

+HYMN

There's a Spirit in the Air

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

+CONFESSION

*Each of us must please our neighbor
for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. . . .
so that together [we] may with one voice glorify
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

~ Romans 15:2, 6

God of all that is,

seen and unseen,

come and work among us in the ways we need most.

We do doubt and wonder at times where you are or where you

Deliver us, O God, from doubts that lead to fear.

Pastor Kelly **Rather, channel our doubts into words and actions that seek**

Bring peace to our lives where we would otherwise grow anxious
see insert

Gift us with your unseen but powerfully felt Spirit to guide us

Doris M. Thompson **This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows and runs upon it.

Thanks be to God.

+ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

Thanks be to God.

+THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

Proclaiming THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 34:1-8

OPENING PRAYER

Spirit of God, move among us and free us to love and serve you and all people.

+HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Refresh our spirits, that we may not be weary in seeking your ways.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Whisper to us in a still, small voice; show us what you have for us to do.

Guide us to others with whom we may share the labors of peace and justice

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:46-52

through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERMON

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR

+At this sign, you are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

Bold: all people respond

Responding to THE WORD

+HYMN

Amazing Grace

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

Throughout the human story the Spirit of God continues to speak . . .

In visions and voices, in images and ideas,

And in all languages and all times, to all people in all places,

Inviting the people of God to discover new revelation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And a boy in seizures, and a woman caught in guilt

And a dying thief and a Roman soldier and to thousands of others

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

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

And the words and the life and the power of this Jesus have tunneled through tomb and have flown through time and culture and continue to live for us today. The Spirit continues to speak . . .

In visions and voices, in images and ideas, and in all languages and all times, to all people in all places.

To people like Irenaeus, Augustine, Aquinas, and Theresa,

To prophets and popes, preachers and priests, and peasants,

And through men and women whose names are forgotten but whose
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 shared and inspired.

Hymn 280

The Spirit has spoken through people of many faiths from the time of Jesus to Gandhi whose lives and teachings seem to echo those of Christ.

To Luther and Calvin and Wesley, and Mary Dyer, Susan B. Anthony and Rosa Parks; the Spirit came as a reformer's fire, blazing in the hearts of the people.

And still the Spirit comes to us today . . .

In new voices and new visions

And in new understandings

of the voices and visions passed on to us from yesterday.

It may burn in our hearts like fire or whisper in the silence as a still voice that 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.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

My Tribute

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing and Following THE WORD into the World

+HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+BENEDICTION

+SENDING SONG

Amen

+POSTLUDE