



"Moses Viewing the Promised Land"
painting by Frederic Edwin Church, 1846



**REFORMATION SUNDAY
and Heritage Celebration**

October 25, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

Reformation Sunday

“Already there’ and ‘not yet’ represent a complex structure, a ‘both-and’ which cannot be grasped within positivistic logic. They represent a dialectic, an indissoluble and necessary contradiction in which the church on the way to the kingdom of God shares.”

— *Dorothee Soelle, in Thinking about God: An Introduction to Theology*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ’s resurrection

Prelude — “Church Sonata in C Major,” KV 336, by Mozart

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Cristofer Zun, Marlow Hubbard, violin; Sofia DiNatale ‘cello

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship — *inspired by Psalm 90*

One: The Lord has been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Many: **In the Lord we come home—
to rest, to wrestle, to love to be loved.
We dwell in God.**

One: Before the mountains were born, before the Lord delivered the whole world from everlasting past to everlasting future, the Lord is God.

Many: **In the Lord, we are home—
we dream we flourish, we fade, we rejoice.
We dwell in God.**

Hymn — “The God of Abraham Praise”

this bulletin, pg. 6

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: Our great and gracious God,
you have called us to this place; we are grateful.
You have called us to live together in unity; we are grateful.
You have fulfilled your promises to us; we are grateful.
You have given us a Savior and your Spirit; we are grateful.
Now, from a deep well of gratitude,
help us to teach the next generation of your great and glorious deeds
and help us to live lives of service to you.
You are merciful and faithful beyond our comprehension.
Humbly we praise you, God, this day and every day. Amen.

News from our Life Together

Honoring Our History: Heritage Sunday Observances

RECOGNIZING OUR 'HERITAGE' MEMBERS

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION

THE COVENANT OF THE STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Many: We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us.

We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all people, exalting the worship of the one true God and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human fellowship.

Depending, as did our ancestors, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God; and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and the life everlasting.

PRAYER

One: God of new beginnings, this day we remember and celebrate those who challenge us to see things in new ways, to expand and explore our sense of what it means to be the Body of Jesus Christ.

Many: We give you thanks for the many people whose have helped to shape us as a church.

One: God of our past, our present, and our future, thank you for those who have gone before us and who share the wisdom of the ages with us all.

Many: We thank you for those who are young or new to our community, who bring a freshness and new way of understanding, whose new questions invite us, to reflect on the past and plan for the future.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Give us courage to let our future be guided by the Spirit's wind.

Many: We put our trust in you, O God, trusting that, through all changes, through all seasons, and even through the re-formation of our very lives, you are ever with us, preparing us for glory. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

The Word in Music — Motet: “*Ein’ feste Burg*,” TWV 8:7, by Telemann *Choral Scholars*
Cristofer Zun, Marlow Hubbard, Gabrielle Ger, Sofia DiNatale - strings

Ein’ feste Burg ist unser Gott,
Ein gute Wehr und waffen
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,
Die uns jetzt hat betroffen.

Der alte böse Feind,
Mit Ernst er’s jetzt meint,
groß Macht und viel List
Sein grausam Rüstung ist,
Auf Erd ist nicht seinsgleichen.

Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan,
Wir sind gar bald verlosren.

Es streit’ für uns der rechte Mann
Den Gott hat selbst erkoren.

Fragst du, wer der ist?
Er heißt Jesus Christ,
Der Herre Zebaoth,
Und ist kein andrer Gott,
Das Feld muß er behalten.

Preis, Ehr’ und Lob dem höchsten Gott,
dem Vater aller Gnaden:

der uns aus Lieb’ gegeben hat,
sein’n Sohn für unsre Schaden:
dem Tröster heil’gen Geist,
von Sund Er uns reiße,
zum Reich Er uns heiße,
dem Weg zum Himmel weiße
der hilft uns fröhlich, Amen.

SUBTEXT:

God’s word and Christi Lehr vergehet
nun und nimmermehr.

Our God is a secure fortress,
A good shield and weapon.
He helps us willingly out of all troubles.
That now have stricken us.

The old, evil enemy,
Is earnestly bent on it.
Great strength and much deceit,
Are his horrid armaments,
There is nothing like him on earth.

Nothing can be done through our strength.
We are soon already lost.

The right man battles for us,
Whom God himself has elected.

You ask, who is He?
He is called Jesus Christ,
The Lord of Sabaoth,
And there is no other God,
He must control the battlefield.

Glory, Honor and Praise to the most high God,

The Father of all grace,
Who has given us His Son
Out of love for our woe.
The Comforter, Holy Spirit,
From sin He draws us,
To the kingdom He calls us,
Pointing the way to heaven,
He joyfully helps us. Amen.

SUBTEXT:

God’s word and Christ’s law endure
both now and evermore.

— *German text from verses 1 and 2 of the hymn “Ein’ feste Burg ist unser Gott” by Martin Luther, 1529, with the addition of a paraphrase of the liturgical response Gloria Patri set to the same melody; Literal English translation prepared by Patricia Snyder*

During the music, feel free to reflect on the ways you are being called to continue writing the history of God's mission in and through this place by the offering of the best of yourself, your time, your talents, and your treasures!

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) during this time via the Chat feature in Zoom.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses was not allowed to enter the promised land, but he was granted the right to see it from Mount Nebo before he died. The statement that no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses (vs. 10) stands in tension with Deuteronomy 18:15 (God will “raise up for you a prophet like me”) and led to the expectation that another Moses would still come. In several New Testament passages, Jesus is identified as that prophet.

Sermon — “What a View!”

The Rev. Matthew Emery

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

The Prayers of the People, ending with The Lord's Prayer

***Many:* 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 glory forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

this bulletin, pg. 7

Benediction

Postlude — “Fugue in E-flat Major,” BWV 552b, by Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

49 The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a-bove,
 2 Your spir-it still flows free, high surg-ing where it will.
 3 Your good-ly land we seek, with peace and plen-ty blest,
 4 You have e-ter-nal life im-plant-ed in the soul;

the An-cient of E-ter-nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa-cred lib-er-ty and Sab-bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a-ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es-tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon-ey flow, and oil and wine a-bound,
 We praise you, liv-ing God! We praise your ho-ly name:

we bow be-fore your ho-ly name, for-ev-er blest.
 deep writ up-on the hu-man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for-ev-er grow with mer-cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be-yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

(Psalm 90)

1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Be - neath the shad - ow of thy throne thy
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 earth re - ceived its frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 bears all our years away;
 they fly forgotten, as a dream
 dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,
 be thou our guard while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

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- **Mail:** You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office.
- **Drop-off:** You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.
- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will take care of printing a check and mailing it to us—you don’t even need to find a stamp! There is no cost, either to you or to the church, for using this option!
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) Please note, if using a *credit* card: we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship for any of us! If using a *credit* card, please make sure for your own sake that it is a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God’s love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God’s love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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