

October 30, 2022

Reformation Sunday

GATHERING MUSIC

HYMN 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

HYMN 267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP - Based on Luke 19

As Jesus called to Zacchaeus, so he calls to us. Jesus longs to abide with us:

Here in this place, in our homes, and wherever the body of Christ is gathered.

Jesus invites us, just as we are.

Let us worship God, who calls us by name, who came to seek and save the lost. Let us praise God's name together!

OPENING MUSIC

Procession of the Tartans
Stephanie Goodrich, bagpipes

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Saving God, we confess that we are caught in systems of privilege and power, and escape can feel impossible. It is easier to give our sacrifices and offerings than to work to change the systems. We confess our complicity in injustice, our comfort in inequality and our ease in stretching out hands in prayer rather than service. Forgive us, God. Strengthen us to answer Jesus's call to repentance, that we may learn to do good, seek justice and serve the oppressed. Amen. (silent prayers)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

RESPONSE

HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;

glad of heart your carols raise;

ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

who, like me should sing God's praise?

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Maker all your days!

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

***HYMN 275**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19: 1 - 10

SERMON

"Obstacles Overcome"

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

ANTHEM

Celtic Laud, Craig Courtney

Starmount Chancel Choir

Alicia Campbell, flute

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Stewardship – Sharing Hope Through Service

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – from a Declaration of Faith

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love siblings whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

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 450**

Be Thou My Vision

BENEDICTION

On this Reformation Sunday, we thank you for those persons you have poured your spirit into that then set about reforming your church. We thank you that you are still at work in the life of the church reforming us, reshaping us, and remaking us into your image. Where we are corrupt, purify us. Where we are in error, direct us. Where we are in need, provide for us. Where we are divided, reunite us. And where we are close-minded, reform us and make us new. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

BAGPIPE RECESSIONAL

***Please stand in body or spirit**

*The flowers today are given by David & Jinny Buchanan. David & Jinny invite anyone interested to please take some flowers home with them after the service.

Announcements



Serve with us! Scan the QR code to open our "Serve with Us" webform. Complete and submit the form on your phone, tablet, or computer!

Pumpkin Bash October 30, 2022 All children 5th grade and under are invited to join us at the church this afternoon, 3 – 5 pm, for crafts, face paint, inflatables and fun!!!

Service of Remembrance – Join us **November 6**, after church in the Columbarium for a brief service of remembrance.

Become a member of Starmount - On **November 13**, new members will be received into the Starmount community. If you are not a member, please consider joining us to build a better community. To learn more, email Scott Lawson at scott@starmountpres.org.

Stewardship Sunday is November 13! Be sure to check the weekly email, bulletin & newsletter for updates and announcements.

All Church Retreat November 18-20! Friday 6 pm to 8 pm there will be a semi-potluck cookout, with Connect Ministry grilling hot dogs and burgers outdoors and providing condiments, buns, plates, cups, napkins, utensils, and beverages. We will be asking the congregation to bring a side dish or dessert. Activities will include opening energizers, structured questions for table conversation, music, dancing, and singalong.; Saturday 9 am to 12 pm we will look at Numbers 27 and the daughters of Zelophehad and participate in a stocking stuffer mission project; Sunday 11:30 am to 1 pm will be our Advent Workshop! Check your emails and newsletter for more details and registration information.

Triad Health Project Stocking Stuffer Project - The Mission Ministry provides ongoing support throughout the year to THP and we provide a special focus for THP during the Advent season with our Stocking Stuffers project. Please check your church email, or call the church office, for the list of items and consider purchasing one of these items and placing them in the collection bin in the Gathering Space **before Sunday, November 13.**

2022 Angel Tree - Each year our church provides Christmas gifts for the children of Triad Health Project's clients. This year the Angel Tree will be up in the Narthex the first Sunday in Advent, **November 27, 2022.** You can choose a tag off the tree with item(s) to purchase that we would like wrapped with the tag on it and returned by December 11.

Honor Cards - The Mission Ministry will be selling Christmas Honor Cards beginning on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent, and continuing each Sunday through December 18. You can buy cards to honor your friends with your donation to Greensboro Urban Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, UKirk or Congo Farm/Nutrition Program. Each card is \$5.00. You will be sending Christmas greetings as well as helping a good cause.

Reformation Sunday- what's it all about?

As Christians, our faith began with the followers of Jesus. But the beginning of our Christian faith as *Presbyterian* is in the Reformation (16th century). The Reformation helps us to understand and acknowledge that the institution of the church is not equal to God. We are called to worship the triune God alone, to claim Jesus Christ as Lord of the church, and to seek the ongoing sanctification of the Holy Spirit.

God's ongoing sanctification of us is a gift for how we live together as the church, responding to God. This is why we place such a high value on communal discernment in our vision-casting and decision-making.

"According to the word of God" means that we remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our whole selves — heart, mind and soul. We have recognized for centuries that our Christian life is not just study and it's not just action: these two aspects of who we are (and they're not the only two) constantly deepen each other. The more we practice love for one another — for example, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's ongoing presence serving the people in southwest Florida— the more we understand what love of neighbor is.

Our response to God's grace reveals our gratefulness in our words and deeds. If we are being reformed by God according to the word of God, then we "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." We seek the well-being of others, "the welfare of the city in which we live, for in its welfare, we find our welfare." How we fulfill Christ's two greatest commandments to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves makes all the difference.



Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee, Pastor

Rev. Scott Lawson, Parish Associate

Robert Overman, Director of Worship Arts

Michael Parker, Pianist/Organist

Cindy Lee, Director of Children's Ministries

Laura Roberson, Director of Youth & Refugee Ministries

**Welcome to Sunday Worship
October 30, 2022 · 10:00 a.m.**