

Charge and Benediction (Responsive)

God has reconciled us to God's own self and to one another, and has made us one community of love.

We celebrate God's gift of unity, and claim it as our calling.

Separation, enmity and hatred are sins that Christ has already conquered;

they have no place here among the beloved of God.

God has given us many ways to enjoy our unity.

We commit ourselves to bless one another.

We will keep the one faith and fulfill our one calling.

We will be of one soul and mind.

We will share one baptism, eat one bread, and drink one cup.

We will confess one Name, and share one hope.

We will bear one another's burdens and build each other up.

We will suffer together for the sake of God's righteousness.

We will pray together and serve God together.

We will fight together against everything that threatens our unity.

We will use our differences to serve Christ, one another, and the world.

We celebrate God's gift of unity, and claim it as our calling.

The Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Postlude

"Toccata in E Minor"

Pachelbel

Charge and Benediction adapted from the Belhar Confession submitted by Paul Janssen, Pascack Reformed Church, Park Ridge, New Jersey

REFORMATION SUNDAY



CONFESSION OF
BELHAR



Grace First
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford, Texas 76086
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www.gracefirstpc.org



The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

October 25, 2020 10:40 A.M.

Festival of Banners

Today we celebrate our Reformed history as we reflect on each confession statement found in the PC(USA) Book of Confessions. Nine banners representing important Christian symbols testify to the historical settings of each of these confessions of faith. The most recently added confession is represented on the cover of your bulletin. Let us worship the God who has accompanied us through all of history.

Prelude *Buxtehude*
"We Pray to the Holy Spirit"

Litany Call to Worship (Responsive)

In this gathering to worship God, we celebrate the witness and work of the Reformers - for their courageous acts of faith in the midst of corruption, turmoil and sinister practices in the Church and the world.

They proclaimed fearlessly the centrality of scripture under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Symbolized by the Banners displayed, we honor the Reformers for their positive, transforming contributions to renew and restore the Church for the people of God.

Hymn 331 *National Hymn*
"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

THE FESTIVAL OF BANNERS

NICENE CREED

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Refusing to let chaos become our dwelling place, God of the ages, you called forth creation. Whether in the blink of an eye, or in moments spanning thousands of years, deep valleys of hope were carved, carpeted with grace renewed each morning. You created humankind in your image, knowing us face to face in love. But we turned our gaze towards that land of temptation. Forgive us, we pray. Help us find the celebration in each Confession representing the best of our Reformed faith for 500 years of knowing your love, opposing false creeds, and seeking justice. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

APOSTLES' CREED

Hymn 481 vs. 1, 3 *Genevan 42*
"I Believe in God the Father"

SCOTS CONFESSIO

Hymn 385 vs. 1, 3, 4 *Old Hundredth*
"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
Handbell Ringers
Susie Bossert, Sue Jones, Janice Smith, Linda Young

SECOND HELVETIC CONFESSIO

Hymn 366 vs. 1, 4 *Hyfrydol*
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

WESTMINSTER CONFESSIO

Hymn 826 vs. 1, 4 *Crucifer*
"Lift High the Cross"

BARMEN DECLARATION

Hymn 309 vs. 1,3 *Abbot's Leigh*
"Come, Great God of All the Ages"

CONFESSIO OF 1967

Hymn 12 vs. 1, 4 *St. Denio*
"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

THE BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

Offertory *Clerambault*
"Trumpet in Dialogue"

Doxology Hymn 606 *Old Hundredth*
**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (Unison)
God of our Ancestors, in every age You have raised up brave and able people to confess their faith. We thank You for all who have made a faithful witness of Your love, and we offer ourselves to You – our time, talents, and material possessions – that in the power of the Holy Spirit we also may truly confess Christ as Lord and Savior of all. Amen.

THE BELHAR CONFESSIO

Hymn 687 vs. 1, 4 *St. Anne*
"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"