



PLUM Afternoon Worship Reformation Sunday

God's Promise to David
October 25, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy worship; holy word. **Blessed be God's house!**
Place of prayer; singing temple. **Blessed be God's house!**
Let us bring our praises here. **Blessed be God's house!**

HYMN A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
on earth he has no equal.*
- No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.*
- Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat-'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot over-pow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage!*

*His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.*

- God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of the covenant,

You have never failed in your promises to us, but we often fail to be your faithful people. We waste our time and resources on things which do not give life. We doubt our abilities and hide our light away from the world. We flee from your call when it doesn't appeal to us. Forgive us and call us back to your sustaining love.

God hears us when we repent and is quick to pardon our failures. Hear the words of your forgiveness and believe that you have been restored by your creator's great mercy and compassion. Rejoice! **Amen.**

GREETING

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

PEACE

The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Eternal God, Your true dwelling place is with your people. Make of us a holy temple where you may be praised and your will carried out for the sake of all, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Reader 1: ¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See

now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.”³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:⁵Go and tell my servant David:

Reader 2: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. ¹

Reader 1: ⁷In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Luke 1:30-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the

Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN My Faith Looks Up To Thee

1 My Faith looks up to Thee

Thou Lamb of Calvary,

Saviour divine;

Now here me while I pray,

Take all my guilt away,

O let me from this day

Be wholly thine

2 May thy rich grace impart

Strength to my fainting heart,

My zeal inspire;

As thou hast died for me,

O may my love to thee

Pure, warm and changeless be

A living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread,

And griefs around me spread,

Be thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day,

Wipe sorrow's tears away,

Nor let me ever stray

From thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,

When death's cold, sullen stream

Shall o'er me roll,

Blest Saviour, then in love,

Fear and distrust remove;

O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

SERMON

PASTOR SUE DIVINE

LITANY

Live in love, my children.

We will build a house!

I do not need a house.

We will make it grand!

It's not necessary.

It will be a temple!

You are all my temple.

A place of awe and beauty!

Beauty comes with mercy.

God deserves a house!

All I want is faith.

An opulent cathedral!

I don't need a palace.

Decked with all the finest.

Your money's better spent.

We will raise the funds!

Less to serve the poor.

We will hold events!

There really is no need.

Everyone will come!

My people are already here.

We'll multiply our numbers!

Faith is more important.

And many will be jealous!

You are losing focus.

Our house will be the grandest!

Humble hearts are better.

With furnishings majestic!

I do not ask for luxury.

And then it will be obvious.

That you are very wealthy?

That we have honored God!

I need no ivory tower.

No palace or cathedral?

No temple made of marble.

Then what are we to do?

Serve others with compassion.

By showing them our wealth?

With justice and with mercy.

Then where are we to worship?

Wherever you may gather.

Without a throne or altar?

With honest hearts and spirits.

Then let us honor God!

Your worship is enough.

Prayer and praise to God!

MEANING OF THE APOSTLES' CREED LUTHER

I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil.

All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him.

I believe that Jesus Christ—true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary—is my Lord.

At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil—not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church day after day he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.

Let us pray. You don't want showy buildings and burnt sacrifices, O God, but rather honest and generous hearts. Receive these gifts we offer and bless them that your kingdom might come on earth, for the sake of our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

When David wanted to build you a house, you assured him that his faithful leadership was enough to please you and honor your word. Keep our vision focused on mission and service when we are tempted to be distracted by projects and ventures of little consequence. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

As our Hindu brothers and sisters celebrate the triumph of good over evil, we give thanks that you have destroyed death's power and expanded your love to encompass all of your people. May we be living lights of hope in all the places where we find ourselves. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

You have planted us here, O Lord, alongside animals and all that grows on the face of the earth. May we be sympathetic companions and faithful stewards of your creation. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

We live cut off from one another, divided by both physical and spiritual walls. Bring us back to each other and make us whole again as people created for community. Heal all those in need, especially... Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

We honor Lydia, Tabitha, and Phoebe, and the multitudes of unnamed faithful women who have

followed and served you throughout the ages. Bless all who dedicate their lives to you without receiving any credit. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant confidence and zeal to members of our PLUM congregations that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. Faithful God, **Hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered.

We have asked and you have heard, and it is enough, O God. We thank you for answering our prayers in your good time, for the sake of Jesus our brother. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord taught us.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN The Church's One Foundation

*1 The church's one Foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is His new creation,
by water and the Word;
from heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.*

3. *Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.*
- 3 *'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.*
- 4 *Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

PLUM Pastors:

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Paul Koch	773-848-1470
Vicar Mandy Gilberti	814-241-8150

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to:

Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries
405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110

FALL STUDY CLASSES ON ZOOM FOR PLUM

PLUM has begun a 10-week fall series of study, ending with the start of Advent. There are two different sessions each week: Tuesday (1:00) and Thursday (7:00). All are invited to one or both sessions. **It's not too late to join us!**

The Tuesday class focuses on **Scripture Study**. Emphasis will be on discussion. Discussion will lead us to applying Scripture to current issues of our day.

The Thursday Evening class focuses on a book entitled "**The Color of Compromise**," by Jemar Tisby. This is a serious look at Racism and, in particular, the Church's participation in the development of Racism and its potential role to overcome it. (Note: You do **not** need the book in order to participate.)

The call in line for PLUM Sunday 3 PM worship services and Bible Studies: Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>
Zoom by phone: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541



DELAYED EVENT RESCHEDULED!

For the third year in a row, PLUM will be working with the faith-based organization "Rise Against Hunger" to host a meal packaging event. We will coordinate an assembly-line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals. We will package more than 10,152 meals!

Saturday, November 7

at Christ Lutheran Church

2 Sessions: 10 a.m. – Noon and 1 – 3 p.m.

25 people per session*

Social Distancing, Masks and Gloves required

Children age 5 and up are welcome with parental supervision

contact Mary Anne Novak: 412-979-8574 or novakbbb@aol.com

TODAY IS THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE!



MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH FOR YOUR HOME THIS YEAR!

Let's begin a new tradition in our homes! The PLUM pastoral team welcomes you to a special ZOOM event on November 21, 2020 at 10 am. Vicar Mandy will lead a do-it-yourself class on creating your own Advent wreath. There will be a demonstration of a wreath using fresh greens as well as an artificial wreath. You can be as creative as you wish!

Ideas for your wreath: Candles- It is up to you! They can be 3 purple or blue and one pink. You could also place a white Christ candle in the middle. They can be real flame candles or LED candles/tea lights. Don't forget candle holders!

Wreath Form- A wire frame form of any size can be purchased at any craft store. There are also advent wreath forms with candle holders already mounted inside. An artificial wreath that is already around your house is a great idea, just take the old decorations off to create a new look.

Greens- Any artificial pine bough, or ready-made wreath will work. If you have access to fresh pine branches, cut some of them into six to eight-inch pieces or some size that you can easily work with for your wreath form size. If you are working with loose pieces, don't forget to pick up some craft wire that bends easily to attach the greens onto the wreath form.

Decorations- Although the Advent wreaths that we see in church are usually plain, there is no reason why you cannot add small pinecones, a red bow, holly with berries, or even a dusting of glitter so that your Advent wreath shimmers!

*Think about where you will place your Advent wreath. Fresh greens will require a place that is a bit cooler in your house to remain as fresh as possible, also you may wish to use a plastic tablecloth under the wreath. If you are using real flame candles, be aware of curtains, pets, children and flammable greens, etc. Your Advent wreath should be in a space where it is a reminder of the season, as well as a place where prayer is offered. A small

wreath in the middle of the kitchen table is a beautiful way for the whole family to celebrate the Advent Season!

Get all the items together to create your Advent Wreath and sign onto ZOOM on November 21 at 10 am. Let's spend some time together as we prepare for the beautiful season of Advent!

Please join friends from PLUM for
Advent Family Bible Study
on Zoom



This study starts December 1, 2020,

Tuesdays at 1 pm

and the same study will be offered on

Thursday evenings at 7 pm.

We will explore the meaning behind the four
candles of the Advent Wreath.

HOPE FAITH JOY LOVE

YOU are always welcome!

*** Rise Against Hunger ONLINE Auction ***

Saturday, November 14th at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

As you know, fundraising efforts in 2020 have been challenging with our pandemic environment. However, our Christian mission continues as the needs of our world have not taken a pause for the pandemic. So, Christ Lutheran Church is going to try a new type of fundraiser to help with the Rise Against Hunger campaign and this new fundraiser is going to be a virtual auction. The auction will be an online auction on **Saturday, November 14th at 6:00 PM** via Zoom.

What are we going to auction? Good question. We are planning to auction off prize baskets and other donated items. The goal is to put together some really nice prize baskets along with a side hustle: We are going to auction off 5 brown bags. One of those bags will have a \$100 gift card. The other 4 bags will have some other prize...but not a \$100 gift card. However, they will not be Zonks like on Let's Make a Deal...but something worth less than a \$100 gift card. The fun is when bidding on one of the bags, you will not know what it is and we will not reveal the bag contents until after all 5 have been auctioned off. Now doesn't that sound like fun? Yes, it does. And of course all proceeds will benefit Rise Against Hunger.

Would you like to help? We need folks to put together some prize baskets that we can auction off. You can get together with friends, your congregation, family members or yourself to put one of these baskets together. A theme for the basket is always fun and what we would need along with the donated basket is a list of the contents and an estimated retail value. We are asking that donations be sent to Christ Lutheran Church in Duquesne. Call Deann George (412-951-0466) to make an appointment to make sure someone is there. If that is problematic, just contact Deann and we will plan to socially distantly pick it up. Once we have all the donated prize baskets, we will post pictures online so that you know what you are bidding on.

We are asking that all the prize baskets be donated by Sunday, November 1st. Questions or concerns please contact Deann at Christ Lutheran Church at christluthduq@gmail.com or 412-951-0466..... or myself at rgeorge@clearviewfcu.org or 412-334-5830.

Thank You! Ray George, Christ Lutheran Church, Duquesne