

Pilgrim Congregational Church - United Church of Christ
October 31, 2021
Reformation Sunday

Prelude Adagio from Sonata I - Felix Mendelssohn Dot Bowe

Greeting and Announcements Rev. Reebee Girash

Call to Worship (from Psalm 46) Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

One: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

One: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**All: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

One: Be still, and know that the Lord is God!

**All: God is exalted among the nations;
God is exalted in the earth.**

One: The Lord of hosts is with us;

All: The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Opening Prayer

**Gather us together this Reformation Sunday, O God,
that we may celebrate the witness
of our ancestors in faith
and the courage that gave birth to the Reformation.**

**Teach us how to honor the saints of God in ages past
as well as in our present days.**

**May the conviction of your grace written on their hearts
be one that forms our own faith.**

**Inspire us in the continuing reformation of the church
and be present to us in your word.**

We pray as Christ taught us, saying together...

Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Creator), 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.

Stewardship Testimony

Sadhna Vora

Consecration of Pledges for 2022

Susan Carabbio

**Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true and beautiful and life-giving:
Bless these pledges to your purpose. Join our gifts with the gifts of your saints throughout the ages, strengthening this church and the wider church, serving our neighbors, and giving glory to you. Amen.**

Rhythm Moment

Dot Bowe and Max Evrard

***Children are invited to Sunday School at this time -
please meet Sarah and the teachers at the rear of the sanctuary.***

The Peace

Rev. Reebee Girash

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Rev. Reebee Girash

6:1 Now this is the commandment--the statutes and the ordinances--that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy,

6:2 so that you and your children and your children's children, may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long.

6:3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

6:6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

6:7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

6:8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead,

6:9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Mark 12:28-34

12:28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”

12:29 Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;

12:30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

12:31 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

12:32 Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’;

12:33 and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one's neighbor as oneself,’ --this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

12:34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

One: Here ends the reading. Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon		Rev. Reebee Girash
Prayers of the People		Rev. Reebee Girash
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Reebee Girash
Mission Moment		Sandy Gardiner
Invitation to the Offering		Rev. Reebee Girash
Offertory	God is Our Shelter and Strength - Richard Bruxvoort Colligan	Dot Bowe
Doxology		
Prayer of Dedication		Rev. Reebee Girash
	All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.	

*Hymn The Church's One Foundation - NCH#386

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation by water and the word:
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.

2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
our charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

4 Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,
and mystic, sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

1 The church's one founda - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Benediction

Rev. Reebee Girash

Postlude

Fugue in C minor - JS Bach

Dot Bowe

Thank you to **Jeff Boehm**, today's Zoom host.

Source Notes: The Opening Prayer is by Letty Russell. The Prayer of Dedication is from the New Century Hymnal.

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Sunday Worship 10:30 am