



Nassau Presbyterian Church

October 31, 2021 9:15 & 11:00 AM

REFORMATION SUNDAY



Gathering

God calls us together to offer praise, acknowledge sin,
and celebrate our adoption as forgiven children.

Prelude

Sonatine

Maurice Ravel

Mouvement de Menuet

♦ Call to Worship

Psalm 96 : 1-4 BCW

At the sign ♦ you may stand. Bold text is read in unison.

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

Come, people of God, let us worship God!

♦ Opening Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Red Hymnal 275

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love.

We have not loved our neighbors,

and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Words of Welcome



Proclaiming the Word

We encounter the Word in speech and song
as we interpret and expound scripture.

Presentation of Bibles for 2nd and 3rd Graders (9:15)

9:15 Children may leave for Church School classes. Teachers and ushers can assist in finding classrooms. Some classes will gather outside as weather permits.

Reception of New Members (11:00)

11:00 Children age three to grade three may leave for Worship Explorers. This class will gather outside as weather permits.

Prayer for Illumination

**God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

First Scripture Lesson I Corinthians 1:10–31

NRSV

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to

Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.



Thanksgiving

We respond by presenting our offerings, setting the table, lifting prayers, and praising the triune God.

- ◆ Sermon Hymn Open Your Ears, O Faithful People Blue Psalter 78 C
- ◆ Affirmation of Faith *From The Confession of Belhar*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

Offertory Speak, O Lord Keith Getty &
 Stuart Townend
 arr. John Ferguson

- ◆ Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Red Hymnal 608

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer



Sending

We follow the Word into the world, sent forth with God's blessing to lives of service and love.

- ◆ Closing Hymn Come, Great God of All the Ages Red Hymnal 309
- ◆ Benediction

Postlude Prelude and Fugue in A Minor J. S. Bach
 (BWV 559)

Preacher	Readers	Sound Engineer
David A. Davis	Elisabeth & Darren Kennedy	Nick Mastalesz
Liturgists	Musicians	Livestream Operators
Len Scales (9:15)	Frances Slade, pianist	Doug Ladendorf
Lauren J. McFeaters (11:00)	<i>Adult Choir</i>	Linda Gilmore
Presentation of Bibles	Noel Werner, director & organist	Cover Art
Corrie Berg		“River” a linocut by Elizabeth Steale Halstead

New Members Received by Session, October 24, 2021

By Letter of Transfer

Louise Yang, from Princeton Alliance Church,
Plainsboro, New Jersey

Samuel Yang, from Princeton Alliance
Church, Plainsboro, New Jersey

By Reaffirmation of Faith

Marissa Chalker
Patricia Costigan
Joshua Desai
Lisa Frevert
Rainer Muser
George Somerville
Cora Walker

TODAY AT NASSAU

Education for all ages
9:15/9:30 AM *Assembly Room,
Classrooms & Tents*

Worship
9:15 AM *Sanctuary & Livestreamed*

Joyful Noise
10:15 AM *Niles Chapel*

Fellowship
10:15 AM *Plaza*

Worship
11:00 AM *Sanctuary*

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