

W E L C O M E T O W O R S H I P



**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
August 13, 2023
10:00 am**

**Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
102 West Rose Tree Road
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
www.relcmmedia.org**

Welcome to Reformation!

Land acknowledgement – Reformation is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking (Lenni-Lenape) people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

A special welcome to visitors – we pray that the encounter with God in worship will nurture us in Christian faith and equip us for our life of loving service and justice in the world.

Children in worship are a blessing. We invite our smallest members to sit toward the front where it is easiest for them to see and hear worship and to join the pastors for the Sermon on the Steps.



Worship bags (filled with coloring books and crayons) are available at the back of the sanctuary and can be taken to your seat.

A play space is also available at the back of the sanctuary with additional books and soft toys.

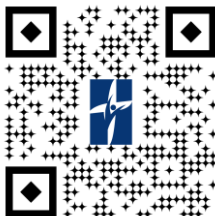
A professionally staffed nursery is available for children from birth to age 4. Patty Boccella is our nursery attendant. Worship is livestreamed to the nursery as well as to the lobby.

All are welcome at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ where God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. We believe Christ is present in the bread and wine. Instructions for distribution are printed in the service bulletin.

Our Prayer List can be found at relcmedia.org/virtualchurch. To make your prayer request known, please call the church office (610-891-0600, ext. 115) or send an e-mail to rlc@relcmedia.org.

Williams Personal PA Receivers are available for use by the hearing impaired.

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.



Scan to give online through our secure platform or through Venmo.

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☒ = Congregation

☒ = Assisting Minister

☒ = Presiding Minister

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Instrumental

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

☒ This is the day that the Lord has made.

☒ **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** (Psalm 118:24)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☒ In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**

☒ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☒ **Amen.**

☒ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☒ Most merciful God,

☒ **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

☒ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

My Feet Are on the Rock

Verse 1 **I can see the clouds roll in
I can feel the winds they try to shake me
I will not be moved my feet are on the Rock**

Verse 2 **I can feel the waters rise
I can hear the howling lies that haunt me
Fear won't hold me now my feet are on the Rock**

Chorus **When I feel my hope about to break
I will cling to Your unchanging grace
Let the waters come and the earth give way
I'll be dancing in the rain
(My feet are on the Rock)**

Verse 3 **I can see the morning light
I can feel the joy on the horizon
Here my faith is found I stand on solid ground**

Chorus

Bridge **On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
So stomp your feet and clap your hands
Our feet are on the Rock *(repeat 2 more times)***

Chorus *repeat Chorus*

Ending **My feet are on the Rock
My feet are on the Rock
My feet are on the Rock
My feet are on the Rock**

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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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9-18

A A reading from Kings.

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹¹He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A A reading from Romans.

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

An-cient words, ev-er true, chang-ing me, chang-ing

you; We have come with o-pen hearts, O let the an-cient words im-part.

☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☛ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

After the reading has concluded:

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☛ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

Pastor Eileen Ruppel-Doan

Silence for reflection

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Verse 1 **These are the days of Elijah Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days Of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored And though these are days
Of great trials Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice In the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord**

Chorus **Behold He comes Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun At the trumpet call
So lift your voice It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill Salvation comes**

Verse 2 **And these are the days of Ezekiel The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world And we are the labourers
In Your vineyard Declaring the Word of the Lord**

Chorus

Bridge **There is no god like our savior
There is no god like our savior
There is no god like our savior
There is no god like our savior *Repeat Bridge***

Chorus

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BAPTISM

God brings those who are baptized out of death and into life.

Hunter Michael Wayne

- P** God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. . . .

After the candidate is presented for baptism and parents make promises on behalf of the candidate for baptism, the assembly is addressed:

- P** People of God, do you promise to support this child and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

C **We do.**

After the parents and sponsors (on behalf of the candidate for baptism) renounce the forces that defy God, the assembly joins them in professing the faith:

- P** Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

- P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

The candidate is baptized with water, receives prayer with the laying on of hands, is anointed with oil, and presented with a candle


The assembly welcomes the newly baptized:

- ☐ Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- ☑ **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

ACCLAMATION You Belong to Christ (sung by the assembly twice)



You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Opportunity will be provided for you to offer prayers for concerns on your heart, silently or aloud. Please conclude each prayer petition with the words, “Lord, in your mercy.”

- ☐ With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

- ☐ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☑ **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

- ☐ Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- ☑ **Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Vocals

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.____

5
Heav-en and earth are____ full____ of Your glo - ry. Ho-

7
san-na____ in the high est.____ Bless-ed is He who comes in the

10
name of____ the Lord. Ho-san-na____ in the high____ est. Ho-

13
san - na____ in the high____ est.____

☐ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer...

Through him all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

☑ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

☞ With the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

☞ **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.**

COMMUNION

☞ The gifts of God for the people of God.

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at the table of the Lord! We believe and teach that Christ is present in the mystery of the sacrament of Holy Communion and that by communing with him we receive forgiveness of our sin.

Communion will be distributed by intinction – after you receive the bread, you may dip it in the chalice on the bread tray, which has grape juice, or the chalice held by the communion assistant, which has wine. Children who have not received instruction for communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to walk to communion, please let an usher know so that a pastor can bring communion to your seat. Gluten free wafers are available upon request to the pastor distributing the bread.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

The assembly sings the following during communion.:

Behold the Lamb of God

Matt Maher

Vocals

And now we see Your sac - ri-fice, the great - est gift, our
great - est prize. Be-hold the Lamb of God, be-hold the lamb of
God, who takes a-way the sins of the world.

COMMUNION SONG

Open My Eyes

Verse 1 **Open my eyes Lord Help me to see Your face**
Open my eyes Lord Help me to see

Verse 2 **Open my ears Lord Help me to hear Your voice**
Open my ears Lord Help me to hear

Bridge **And the first shall be last And our eyes are opened**
And we'll hear like never before And we'll speak in new ways
And we'll see God's face In places we've never known

Verse 3 **Open my heart Lord Help me to love like You**
Open my heart Lord Help me to love

Verse 4 **I live within you Deep in your heart O love**
I live within you Rest now in Me

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After all have communed, the assembly stands.

☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
☑ Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☐ Let us pray. Generous God, we give you thanks that again this day you have opened wide your hands and satisfied us with the food of life, the body and blood of Christ. Sharing your compassionate heart, may we be blessed and given to all who hunger and thirst; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

☞ Almighty and merciful God + bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and forevermore.

☞ **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Beautiful One

Verse 1 **Wonderful so wonderful is Your unfailing love
Your cross has spoken mercy over me
No eye has seen no ear has heard
No heart could fully know
How glorious how beautiful You are**

Chorus **Beautiful One I love You Beautiful One I adore
Beautiful One my soul must sing**

Verse 2 **Powerful so powerful Your glory fills the skies
Your mighty works displayed for all to see
The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing
How marvelous how wonderful You are**

Chorus

Bridge **You opened my eyes to Your wonders anew
You captured my heart with this love
'Cause nothing on earth is as beautiful as You (*Repeat Bridge*)**

Chorus

Bridge **My soul my soul must sing My soul my soul must sing
My soul my soul must sing Beautiful One**

Chorus

DISMISSAL

A Called by Christ,

C We invite all people, serve our neighbors, and build a living faith.

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

To see the list of today's worship volunteers, you can go to relcmedia.org/worshipteam, scan here:



or visit the **Worship Team** information stand in the lobby.

OUR MISSION: Called by Christ, we **INVITE** all people,
SERVE our neighbors, and **BUILD** a living faith.

WELCOME: Called by Christ we invite all people, celebrating the diversity of God's creation. Reformation is an affirming congregation for all: rejoicing with the young and old, welcoming people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, working to cultivate an accessible and inclusive community for all abilities, and embracing all races, cultures, and faith traditions.

We serve our neighbors following the teachings of Christ. Reformation responds to the needs of the most vulnerable - providing nourishment and comfort, supporting the work of the local and global church, and protecting God's creation for future generations.

We build a living faith emboldened by the Holy Spirit. Reformation embodies the unconditional love of God through worshiping and learning together and valuing the gifts of everyone. To create the fullness of our community of faith, we nurture relationships, pursue racial equity and gender justice, and advocate for the wellbeing of the marginalized.

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