

Worship on the Lord's Day

A Joint New River Valley Service

Reformation Sunday

October 25th, 2020

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE - "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Brant Adams

First, Pulaski (Brenda Williams & Melissa McNair-King)

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Christiansburg (Don Makin)

Full text available at the end of the bulletin

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Carl Utley, General Presbyter

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Matthew 22:34-45

SERMON

Carl Utley

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

MUSICAL RESPONSE - "The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young"

Northside (Simple Gifts)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PC Radford (Kelsey & Peter Hawisher-Faul)

These intercessions were prepared by the Liturgical Task Force of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity for the Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017.

Full text available at the end of the bulletin

Response:

Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

Northside (Linda Dickerson)

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER - Full Text
Christiansburg (Don Makin)

The Lord be with you.

Greetings, everyone. My name is Don Makin. I'm the pastor at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, and on behalf of the churches of the "Presbytery of the New River Valley" I'm very happy to welcome you to this online worship service.

Of course, as you know, we're actually part of the Presbytery of the Peaks, right? Yes. "Presbytery of the New River Valley" is the tongue-in-cheek name for the colleague group of PCUSA clergy here in the New River Valley.

This group – NRV Presbytery, as we usually call it – goes back to 1997, when the Presbyterian ministers in our area began meeting together on a regular basis over lunch for fellowship, mutual support and encouragement, learning, and so forth. Our group has also done several projects together over the years. Some of you may remember the "Great Pulpit Swap" (as we called it) a number of years ago, a Sunday when NRV ministers swapped places and preached at each other's churches. It was a lot of fun!

Melissa McNair-King, who is pastor at First Presbyterian in Pulaski, had the idea for today's joint online service, and it's being led by several of the NRV Presbyterian ministers, with Carl Utley (General Presbyter of Peaks Presbytery) preaching.

So again, a welcome to all of you, and thanks for tuning in for this service.

Let's pause now for a word of prayer. Please pray with me:

Lord God, you are with us wherever we are. In the crush of traffic, in the push and shove of shopping, in the quiet of the night as we lie awake, you are there. Thank you for your constant presence. We praise you, for you have the whole world in your hands; there is nothing outside your care. You know us, each one by name and each one by need. Here and now we offer our lives in gratitude. With courage and full assurance, we worship you, our God, through Christ Jesus the Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - Full Text
PC Radford (Kelsey & Peter Hawisher-Faul)

God of mercy, throughout history your goodness prevails.
Open the hearts of all people
To find you and your mercy that endures forever.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God of peace, bend that which is inflexible,
The barriers that divide,
The attachments that thwart reconciliation.

Bring peace in this world...
Restore wholeness among us.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God of justice, healer and redeemer,
Heal those who suffer from illness, poverty, and exclusion.
Hasten justice for those suffering under the power of evil.
Give new life to all.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God, our rock and fortress,
Protect refugees, those without homes or security,
All the abandoned children.
Help us always to defend human dignity.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God our creator, all creation groans in expectation;
Convert us from exploitation.
Teach us to live in harmony with your creation.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God of mercy, strengthen and protect
Those who are persecuted for faith in you
And those of other faiths who suffer persecution.
Give us the courage to profess our faith.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God of life, heal painful memories,
Transform all complacency, indifference and ignorance,
Pour out a spirit of reconciliation.
Turn us to you and one another.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God of love, your Son Jesus reveals the mystery of love among us.
Strengthen that unity that you alone sustain in our diversity.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

God our sustenance,
Bring us together at your eucharistic table,
And nurture within and among us
A communion rooted in your love.
Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

And now we pray as Christ taught us, saying,
***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 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.***