



OCTOBER 25, 2020

REFORMATION SUNDAY AND 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING PRAYER:

Begin this Sunday's worship with a time of silence. Our lives are far noisier than wind, fire, or earthquake. In a great paradox, God speaks to us in sheer silence. Use this chance to listen as you pray.

Loving God, Wind, flood, fire, earthquake, and storm: each event reminds us of how little we are. Arguments at work, grumbling at home, disfunction in our systems of government: each event reminds us of how little we control and how much we fear. Help us, Lord, that we might listen for your voice in the least likely of places. And help us, Lord, that we might hear.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ “The first thing I ask is that people should not make use of my name, and not call themselves ‘Lutherans’, but Christians. What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone. St. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 3, would not tolerate anyone calling themselves Paul’s or Peter’s, but only Christians....dear friends, let us do away with party names, and be called Christians, for it is his teaching we have...I am no one’s master, nor do I wish to be. I share with all the one common teaching of Christ, who alone is our master.” - *Martin Luther (1522)*
- ❖ We are all recovering from something—and there is grace for that. (Whatever “**that**” is!) - *Will Starkweather*

PRAISE SONG: *Hope House (music at end of bulletin)*

REFORMATION CALL TO WORSHIP:

WORD ALONE

Leader: Your Word, O Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

All: Your Word is a Lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Leader: Jesus said, “If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples.”

All: “Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

LUTHER ON SCRIPTURE:

Leader: Dedicated to the Bible as the source of the church’s teachings, Luther spoke often to the supremacy of the Scriptures in the Church’s life. “The Christian church is God’s servant. It listens to and does nothing but what it believes to be God’s command.”

GOD’S GRACE ALONE

Leader: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.

All: That whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life.

Leader: For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves,

All: It is the gift of God!

LUTHER ON GRACE:

Leader: For Luther, no Scriptural teaching mattered more than the theology of grace. He said, “A good song may well be sung often. Grace consists of this: that God is merciful to us, shows grace for the sake of the Lord Christ, forgives all sins, and will not charge them to us for eternal death. This is grace: the forgiveness of sin for the sake of the Lord Christ, the covering of sins.”

FAITH ALONE

Leader: For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

All: The righteous will live by faith.

Leader: Therefore, since we have all been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

LUTHER ON FAITH:

Leader: Luther spoke for truth which comes only through faith – not through the good works we accomplish. “It is the will and pleasure of God that whoever sees the Son and believes in Him has eternal life.”

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

Leader: Creator God, we gather as your children in need of forgiveness.

All: We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

Leader: For the times we have failed to put you first in our hearts,

All: God forgive our lack of faith.

Leader: For the people we have failed to help because of our selfishness,

All: God forgive our lack of concern.

Leader: Most merciful God, forgive our sins, and hear the prayers of our hearts.

A time of silence to ask God to forgive our sins.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: God has heard our prayers and forgives our sin. We are no longer held captive by the chains of sin. We are free to fly like an eagle, released from the bonds of death. Jesus loves us! This is all we need to know, for we do not belong to the family of God because of our great faith, or by our kind deeds. It is because Jesus, who died on the cross and rose victorious over death, has made us heirs with Him of eternal life.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *May Love Rise Above* (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSON:

Romans 3:19-28

9-20 So where does that put us? Do we Jews get a better break than the others? Not really. Basically, all of us, whether insiders or outsiders, start out in identical conditions, which is to say that we all start out as sinners. Scripture leaves no doubt about it:

There's nobody living right, not even one, nobody who knows the score,
nobody alert for God.

They've all taken the wrong turn; they've all wandered down blind alleys.

No one's living right; I can't find a single one.

Their throats are gaping graves, their tongues slick as mudslides.

Every word they speak is tinged with poison.

They open their mouths and pollute the air.

They race for the honor of sinner-of-the-year, litter the land with heartbreak and ruin,

Don't know the first thing about living with others.

They never give God the time of day.

This makes it clear, doesn't it, that whatever is written in these Scriptures is not what God says *about others* but *to us* to whom these Scriptures were addressed in the first place! And it's clear enough, isn't it, that we're sinners, every one of us, in the same sinking boat with everybody else? Our involvement with God's revelation doesn't put us right with God. What it does is force us to face our complicity in everyone else's sin.

21-24 But in our time something new has been added. What Moses and the prophets witnessed to all those years has happened. The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for

everyone who believes in him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.

²⁵⁻²⁶ God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured. This is not only clear, but it's *now*—this is current history! God sets things right. He also makes it possible for us to live in his rightness.

²⁷⁻²⁸ So where does that leave our proud Jewish insider claims and counterclaims? Canceled? Yes, canceled. What we've learned is this: God does not respond to what *we* do; we respond to what *God* does. We've finally figured it out. Our lives get in step with God and all others by letting him set the pace, not by proudly or anxiously trying to run the parade.

THE GOSPEL:

John 8:31-36

³¹⁻³² Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. “If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you.”

³³ Surprised, they said, “But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, ‘The truth will free you?’”

³⁴⁻³⁸ Jesus said, “I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham's descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls. I'm talking about things I have seen while keeping company with the Father, and you just go on doing what you have heard from your father.”

MESSAGE: “*Re-Formed By/Through Love*”

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Amazing Grace, verses 1-4 (music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: God has transformed us from children of the night to sons and daughters of the light. We are loved by **one** God; we are redeemed by **one** Savior; we are empowered by **one** Spirit. As the people of God, let us love the unloved and unwanted, redeem the battered and tattered, and empower the weak and powerless, that God may be glorified in this world, now and the world without end.

People: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: All the People Said Amen (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

RE•FORMATION
THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attendee. Occasional attendee. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

COME *as you are.*



TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

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Hope House



Let's make a ti - ny lit - tle world and call it God's world, where
Let's build a world where love and mer - cy grow like gar - dens, where



peo - ple don't bul - ly and our hearts are true and kind.
peo - ple aren't hun - gry and no - bod - y's turned a - way.



Let's make a ti - ny lit - tle house and call it Hope House, where
Let's build a place where we can un - der - stand each o - ther, where

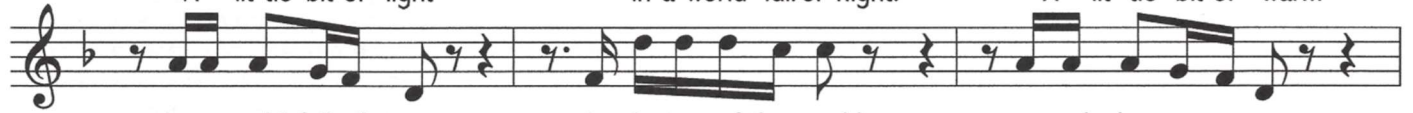


peo - ple aren't greed - y and we leave our fears be - hind.
an - ger and pre - ju - dice can nev - er rule the day.

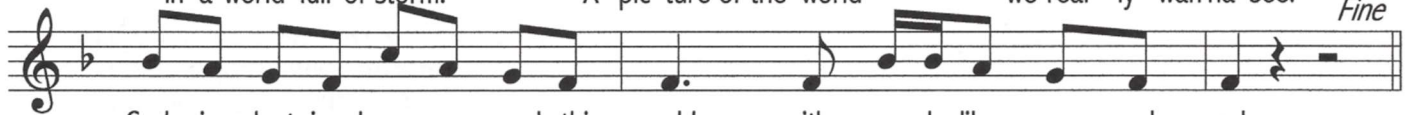


Chorus

A lit - tle bit of light in a world full of night. A lit - tle bit of warm



in a world full of storm. A pic - ture of the world we real - ly wan - na see. *Fine*



God is plant - ing hope a - round this world with peo - ple like you and me!



Oh, Let's build a place where the



door is al - ways o - pen, where friend - ship and for - give - ness is sim - ply what we do.



Let's build a place where we learn the art of lov - ing. We



love our friends and neigh - bors and love the strang - er, too.

May Love Rise Above

The beau - ty and the blood - shed runs deep and wide from the
The cour - age and the cau - tion, it fills the air from the
The pro - mise and the pas - sion rings loud and strong as a

cen - ter of the city - y to the roll - ing coun - try - side. The
chil - dren on the play - ground to the wom - an on the stairs. There's a
gen - er - a - tion search - es for a free - dom lov - ing song. Still the

heal - ing and the suff' - ring runs far and near. There is
calm up - on the wa - ter but down be - low on the
mem - o - ries are haunt - ing, will they block the way? What can

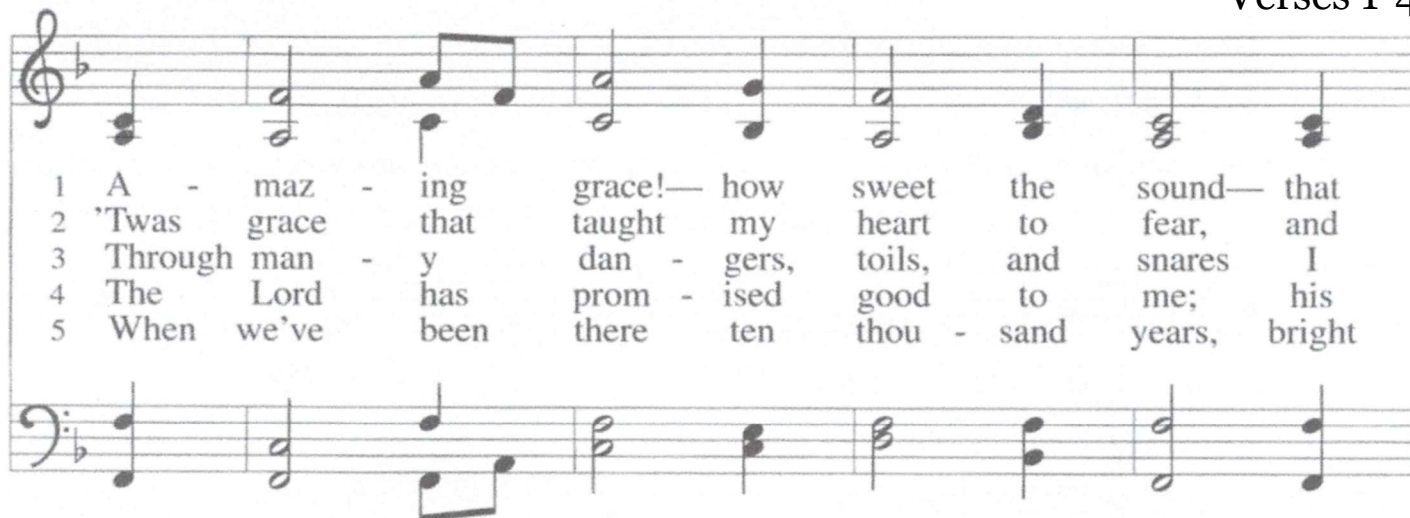
hope for each to - mor - row but still so man - y fears.
anx - ious hearts are beat - ing, will this peace ev - er hold?
bring us all to - geth - er to start a brand new day?

Oh may love rise a - bove the moun - tains. May love rise a - bove
the plains. May love rise a - bove the ha - tred. May
love rise a - bove all the pain, rise a - bove it all,
oh _____ rise a - bove it all, oh _____

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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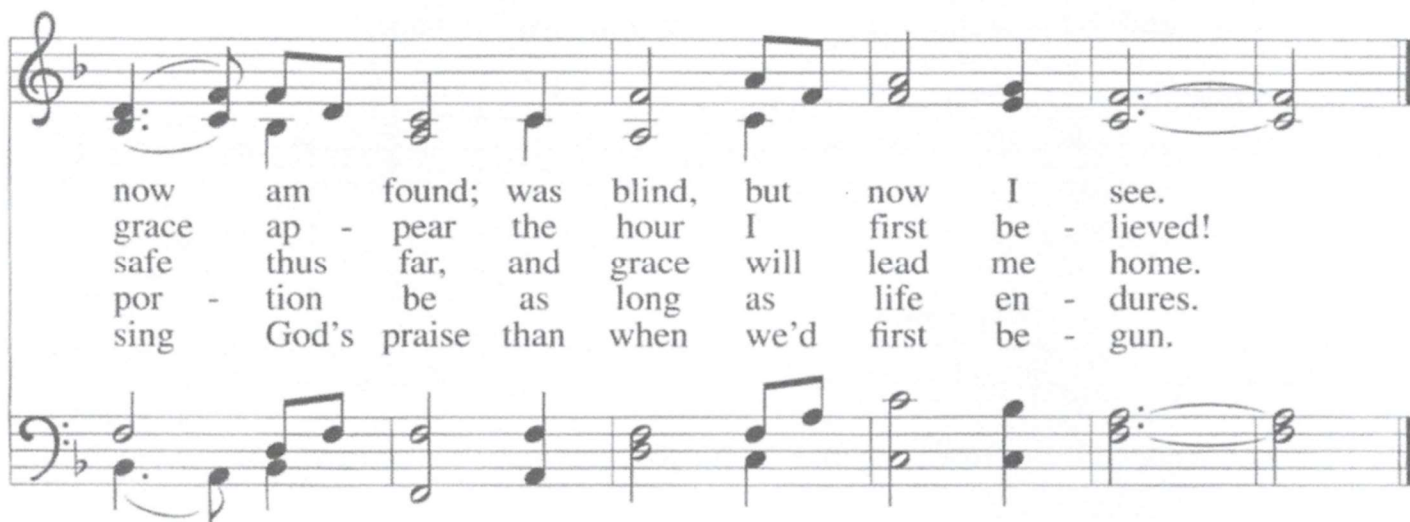
Verses 1-4



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



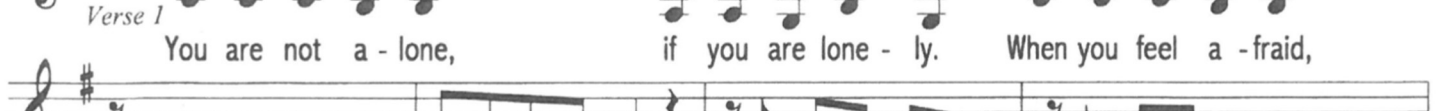
now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

All the People Said Amen

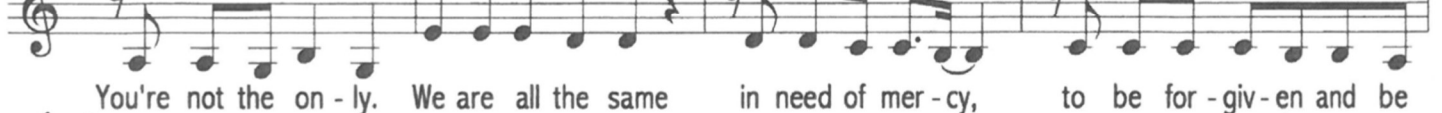
Verse 1



You are not a - lone, if you are lone - ly. When you feel a - fraid,




You're not the on - ly. We are all the same in need of mer - cy, to be for - giv - en and be

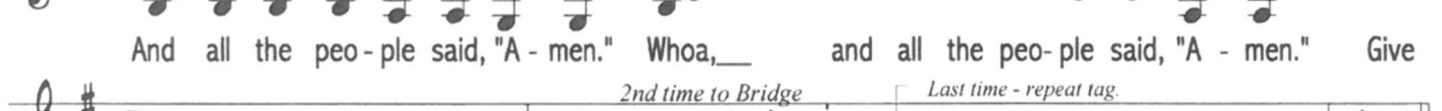


free. It's all you got to lean on, but, thank God it's all you need. _

Chorus



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Whoa, _ and all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Give



thanks to the Lord, for His love ne - ver ends. And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

2nd time to Bridge *Last time - repeat tag.*

Verse 2



If you're rich or poor; well, it don't mat - ter. Weak or strong, love is what we're af - ter.



We're all bro - ken, but we're all in this to - geth - er. God knows we stum - ble and fall,



and He so loved the world He sent His Son to save us all. *Repeat chorus*

Bridge



And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it who are torn a - part. Bless - ed are



the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless - ed are the peo - ple hun - gry for an



-oth - er start, for theirs is the King - dom, the King - dom of God. *Repeat chorus 2X*