



OCTOBER 29-30, 2022

REFORMATION AND 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit sets free the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church freedom to live as your children, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ *Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.* - Martin Luther
- ❖ *If he have faith, the believer cannot be restrained. He betrays himself. He breaks out. He confesses and teaches this gospel to the people at the risk of life itself.* - Martin Luther
- ❖ *I cannot choose but adhere to the word of God, which has possession of my conscience; nor can I possibly, nor will I even make any recantation, since it is neither safe nor honest to act contrary to conscience! Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise, so help me God! Amen.* - Martin Luther

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: We are called by God,

All: Drawn to the water,

One: Sprinkled with love,

All: Claimed forever.

One: We are loved by God,

All: Never forgotten,

One: Treated as honored and precious,

All: Receiving divine blessing.

One: We are sent by God,

All: To befriend the world,

One: We are free from all that would bind us,

All: And bound to all in the love of Christ,

One: We were once sinful and lost,

All: But now we are the children of God.

One: We affirm our new identity as God's children,

All: by living our lives as messengers of God's love and compassion.

One: A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.

All: A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all.

PRAISE SONG: *Build Up (music at end of bulletin)*

OUR CONFESSION:

All: Loving Jesus, saving Lord, you freely choose to love us from the cradle to the grave. There is no place or time or situation in which we are cut off from your care.

Remind us of that love whenever we doubt our own worth, forget our blessing in baptism or find ourselves slaves to fear or anger or selfishness. Turn our world upside down occasionally and surprise us with grace and joy. Reform us as your people and as your Church each and every day. Restore our souls and lead us to new life. Call us, gather us, enlighten us, and sanctify us for your purpose so that we may be who you intend us to be. And help us to look into each other's eyes and see there siblings in Christ who we are free to love. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *For All (music at end of bulletin)*

THE LESSONS: **Galatians 5: 6, 13-15, 18**

The Apostle Paul is writing to believers in an area of Asia Minor called Galatia, today part of Turkey, and says the Jewish identification with God through circumcision or obedience to the law is no longer valid. Now they have freedom not for self-indulgence, but to care for others as the Spirit guides them.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love...

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another...

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

THE GOSPEL:

John 8:31-36

Jesus is addressing some followers from a Jewish background. He says that truth is in His person and the kind of truth represented by Him will bring a new sense of freedom for them and all humans. Their previous Abrahamic heritage doesn't count.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?'

Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.'

MESSAGE: *"Freedom: From, To, and For"*

- Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *You Set Us Free (music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

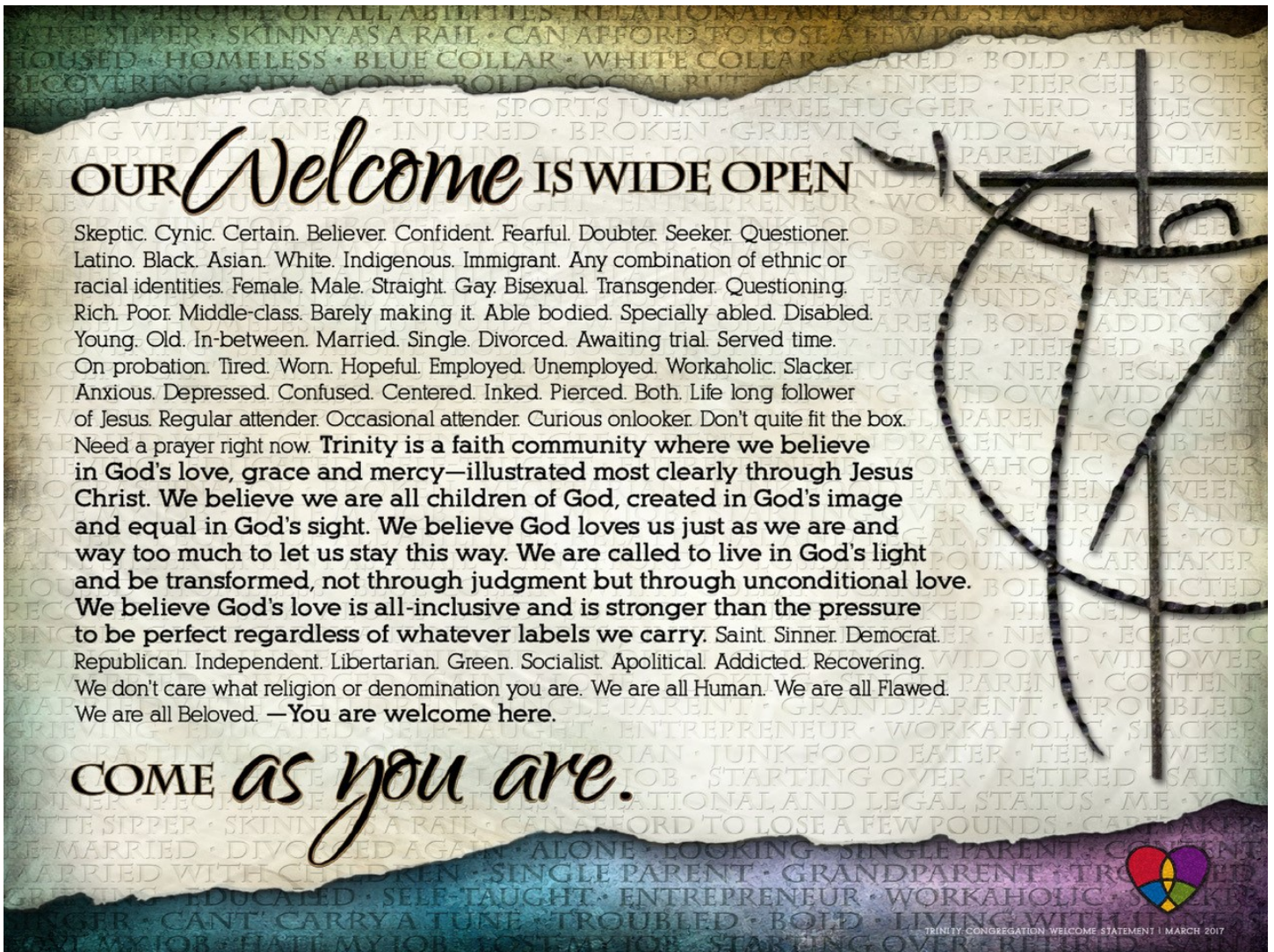
Pardoned by God's abounding grace, empowered by God's constant love and protected by God's peace, we are set free to serve God and others, always humbly aware of our own shortcomings, but always encouraged by the faithful and loving presence of God in Christ Jesus, to whom be glory and power, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: *May Love Rise Above (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



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Build Up

Chorus

Build up, pre - pare the way. Re - move the ob -
struc - tions from my peo - ple's way. Build up,
pre - pare the way. God is near.
God is here to - day. *3rd time to Coda*
Break the chains of in - jus - tice.
God sees all our de - struc - tion;
Let the op - pressed go free.
how we get in love's way.
Share our homes with the home - less and our
Still God comes and meets us with a
bread stead - y, with the hun - gry.
heal - ing em - brace.

Coda

Then your light will break forth like the dawn
and your heal - ing will break in - to song.

Repeat Chorus.

For All

Your love, your love has no bor - ders, Your love, your
 love has no walls. Your love, your love has no lim - its.
 You love the world. Your love is here for all. *Fine*

- | | | |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. For all | who are wand - 'ring, | for all who are weak, |
| 2. For all | who are strug - gling, | for all who have dreams, |
| 3. For all | who have plen - ty, | for all who have need, |
| 4. For all | who are suff - 'ring, | for all who seek change, |

for all who seek shel - ter, for all who seek peace.
 for all who are cap - tive, for all who are free.
 for all who are doubt - ing, for all who be - lieve.
 for all who are sin - ners, for all who are saints.

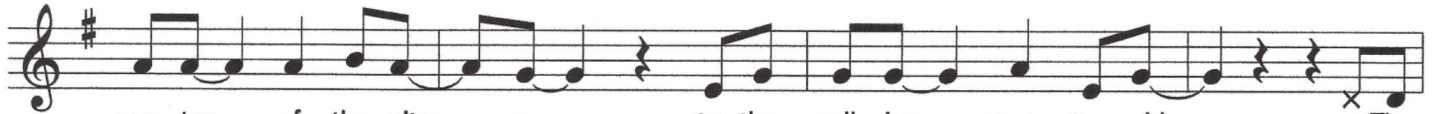
You Set Us Free

In the dark - ness, you bring light. In our blind - ness,
 In our thirst, you sat - is - fy. In our loss, our
 Gift of hope, a liv - ing faith. Gift of peace, for
 you give sight. In our strug - gles you give life.
 tears you dry. In our pain, you hear our cry.
 ev' - ry place. Gift of love for ev' - ry race.
 For our debts, you paid the price. You set us free to
 Through the cross, you pur - i - fy. You set us free. You
 Je - sus is our sav - ing grace. You set us free. You
 love al - ways. Your love has set us free. You set us free. You
 call us to be. Your love has set us free to be your hands, to
 change the world, to work for jus - tice and peace. You set us free. Your love has
 set us free. You set us free. Your love has set us free.

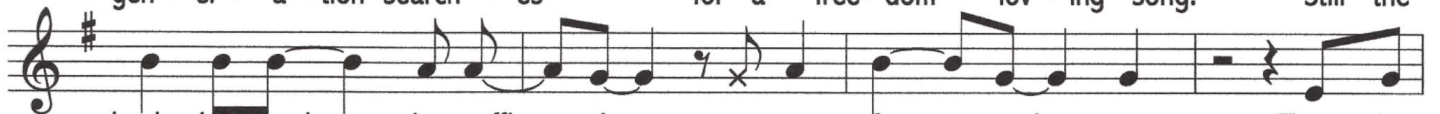
May Love Rise Above



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 _____