Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga

Reformation Sunday
Oct 25, 2026

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

Welcome to worship at Prince of Peace! This is a pro-participation, anti-perfectionism worship service. Our ushers are ready guides and your pew neighbor a willing help.

May this time and space be a holy encounter.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Gathering

Prelude *Chorale Prelude on "A Mighty Fortress"*

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707), on a hymn of Martin Luther

Welcome

*Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

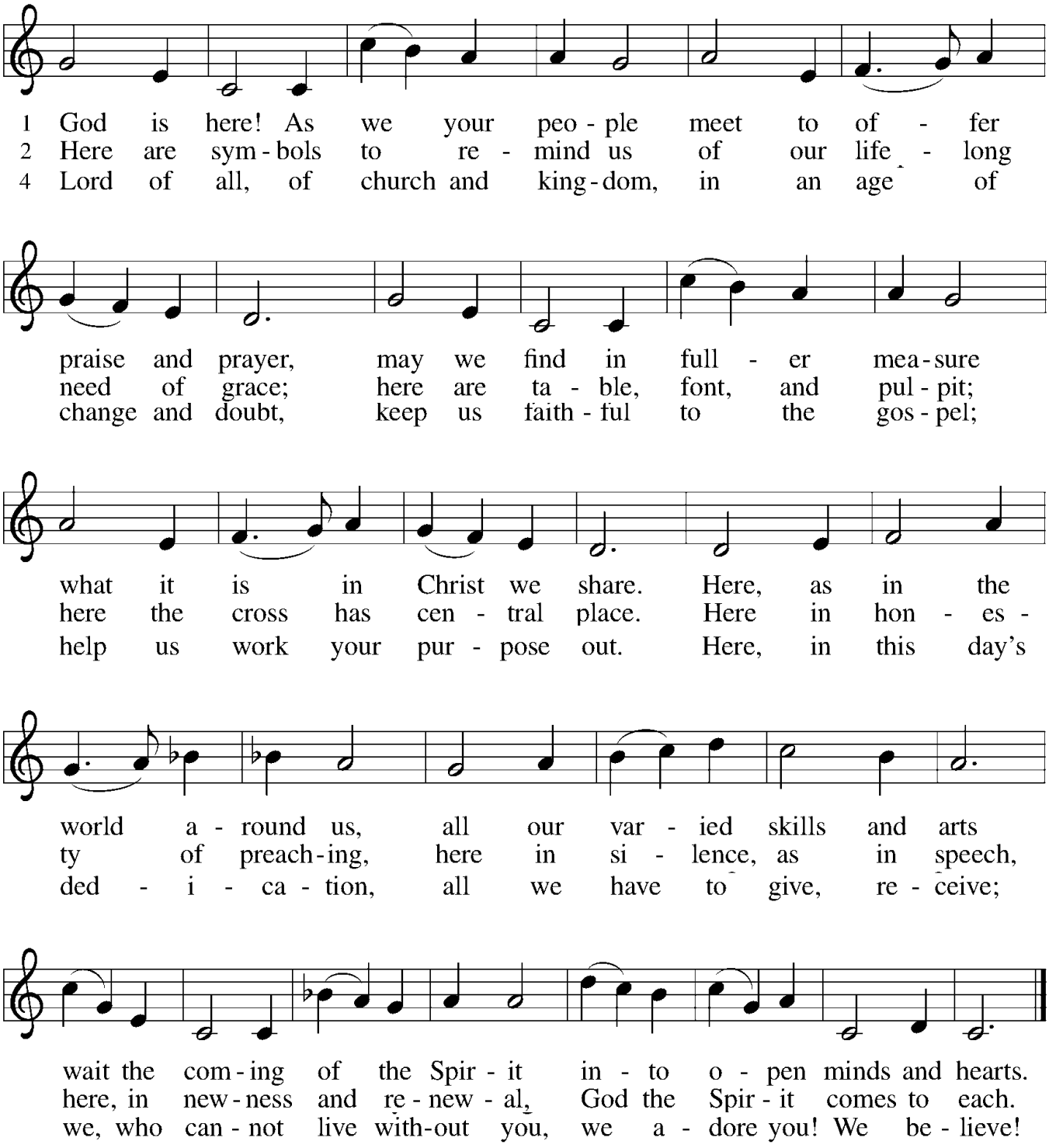
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn *God is Here!*

(next page)

God Is Here!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, **gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews 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 your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Word

First Reading — Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are
under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world
may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before
him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the
knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been
disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness
of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no
distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;
24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that
is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by
his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his
righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the
sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his
own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has
the faith of Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of
law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that
a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

***Gospel Reading** **John 8:31-36**

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my
word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the
truth will make you free." 33 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'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin
is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the
household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you
free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Sermon Veronica Robb

Sermon Pr. Rod Seeger

***Hymn of the Day** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* *(next page)*

***Prayers of the People**

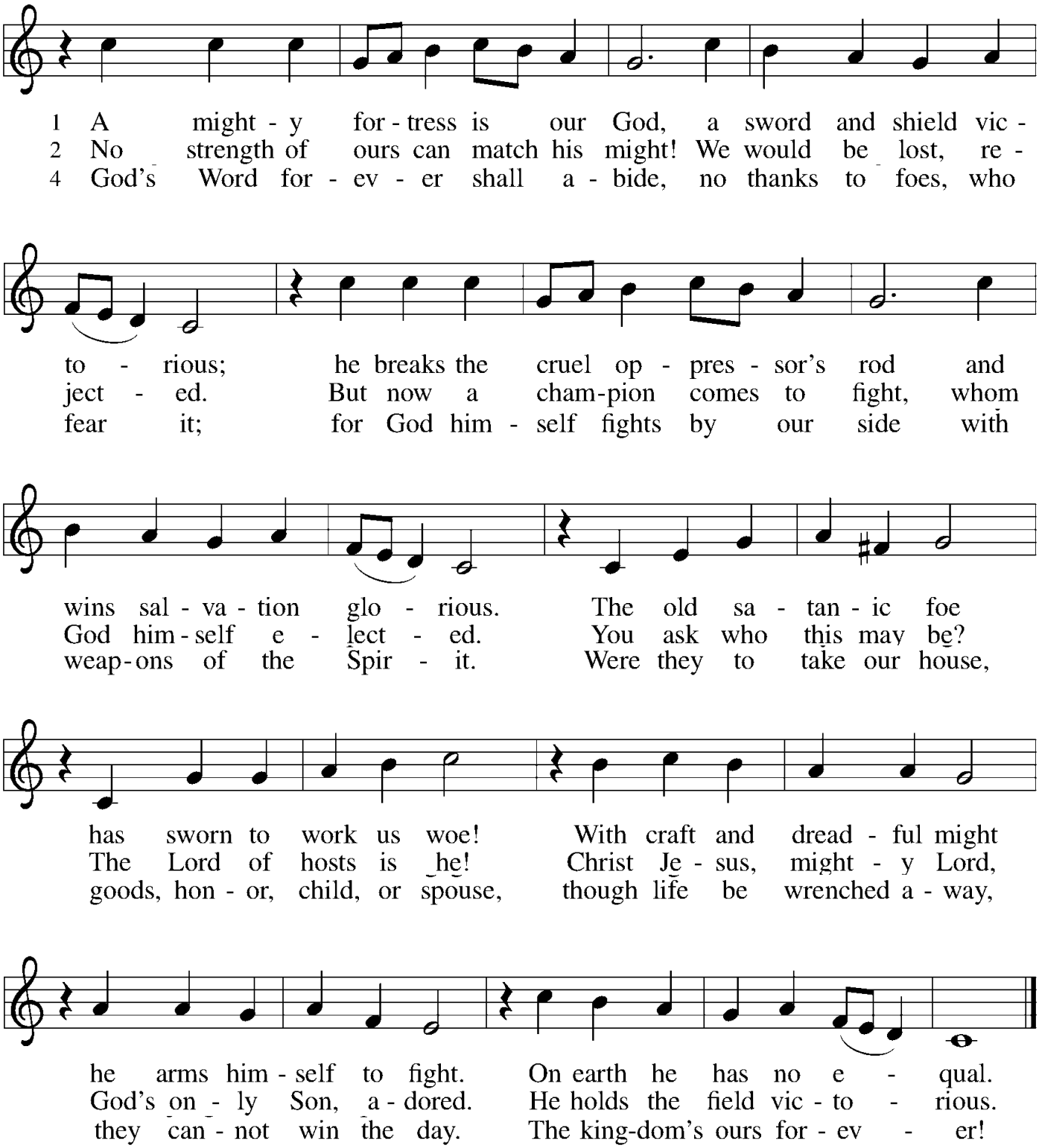
P: Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

The Passing of the Peace & Offering

We celebrate the gift of God-with-us as we offer to one another greetings of peace via handshake, hug or wave. Please practice consent when passing the peace by asking if someone wishes to be hugged or touched. This respects everyone's sensitivities and helps make worship more comfortable for all.

Your offerings help support the many ministries of this congregation. You may place offering in the plates at the back of the church; If you wish to give your offering electronically, please scan this image. Thank you!

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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The Meal

Holy Communion is by invitation of Jesus Christ. All people who desire to experience the grace of God are welcomed regardless of age, race, faith, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientations, gender expression, political party, or physical ability.
If you do not wish to receive communion, you may also come to altar with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like to receive a blessing instead..

♫ *MUSIC NOTES* ♫
San Francisco native Richard Purvis was a prolific composer and long-time organist at Grace Cathedral (1947–1971), St. Mark Lutheran Church, and the Palace of the Legion of Honor. During WWII, he penned two of his finest works in a foxhole under enemy fire. Following six months as a POW at Stalag 13B and a grueling recovery, Purvis triumphantly returned to music, leaving behind a rich legacy of organ and choral compositions.

*Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed…

*Lord's Prayer

You are invited to pray in the style and language most familiar to you.

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.

Welcome to Communion

*Communion is one of two sacraments in our ELCA Lutheran tradition. A sacred-moment combines God's promises with a tangible object. At this table you can receive the grace, goodness, and strength of Christ. And remember…**All** are welcome.*

Communion Music *Undulation* Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Anthem *Transforming God, Renewing Christ*

Kerry Lewis

Transforming God, renewing Christ, we live our lives in you.
Your Spirit gives us living faith; by faith you make us new.
By faith we walk, by faith we breathe, by faith alone we claim
The promise of salvation you give us in your name.

The Word of God is ever new: it lives, it blooms, it grows!
And when it falls on deep, rich soil, God's blessing overflows.
We take this Word into our hearts; it strengthens us each day.
It challenges and comforts us and guides us on our way.

Now lift us on the wings of faith, now fill us with your grace.
Feed us on Word and sacraments, hold us in strong embrace.
Transform our lives, renew your church, so all the world will see
The glory of God's saving pow'r, the love that sets us free!

The Sending

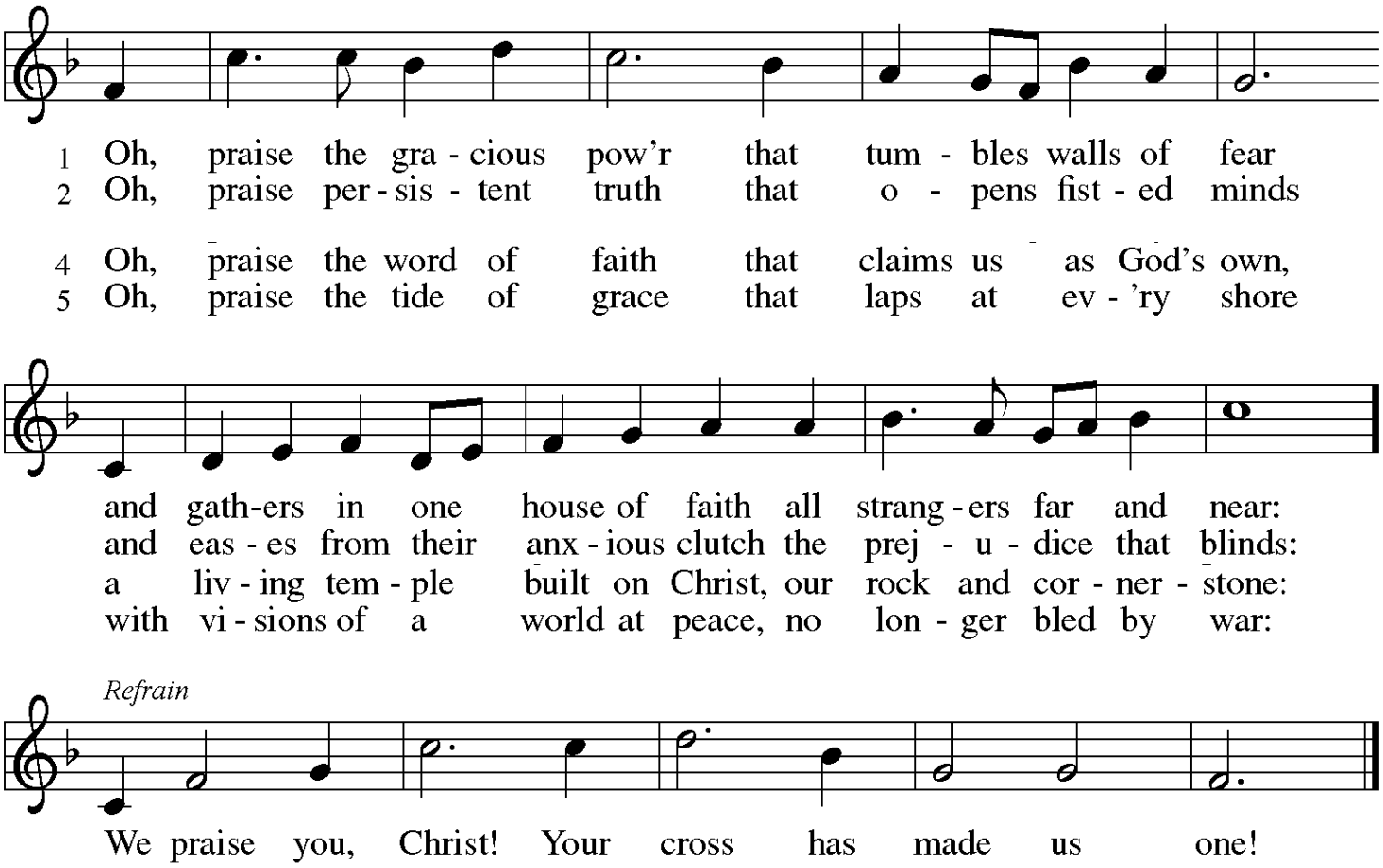
Announcements

*Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power* *(next page)*

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



Dismissal

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *"A Mighty Fortress"* Albrecht Hänlein (1840-1909), on a hymn of Martin Luther

[page intentionally left blank… doodle away]

If your doodles are liturgically inclined (church-related), we'd love to feature your artwork on the bulletin – turn them in to the offering plate!

REFORMATION DAY

It was a perfect storm,
resistance in spades thanks to
politicians with power,
artists with patrons,
a press for printing still new to the masses.

The church reformed in the public square,
where real people protested
with low approval ratings,
asking real questions and pushing
on church to meet them outside
in the mess of the day.

it is a perfect storm,
resistance in spades thanks to
rising generations calling
the church to step out from behind
its mighty fortress
for the sake of real people
and real questions
and the mess of today.

Come outside, church,
with eyes to see and ears to listen.
This is a perfect storm
of politic and art,
language and freedom,
inspired by heaven's refining
and a reforming song that is
both ancient and new.

Meta Herrick Carlson , speak it plain

Thanks to our worship participants:
Tech Team: Ethan W., David L., Leila S.
Guest Preacher: Pr. Rod Seeger
Ushers: Todd H.
Reader: Ginger D.
Altar Guild: Carol B. & Dave B.
Coffee Hosts: Jenny, Brian, Henry, & Rory T.

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Prince of Peace Staff
Anne Hess, *Office Administrator*
Veronica Robb, *Dir. Youth & Family Services*
Barbara Day Turner, *Music Director Emerita*
Daniel Hughes, *Interim Choir Director*
Michael Touchi, *Organist*
Katie Hoffman, *Office Associate*
Kerry Lewis, *Music Staff Associate*

Welcome Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us! If you feel inclined, and want a follow-up, use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate so our volunteers can deliver a welcome gift. Learn about upcoming events: ask for a copy of the "Peace Notes", our printed announcements and calendar.

We invite you to learn more about us on our website at propeace.org. Prince of Peace is a congregation in the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA. PoP is also a member of NAMI-FaithNet, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.

We are proud to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation, publicly affirming our commitment to both racial equity and being a welcoming community of faith for LGBTQIA+ people and their families.

PRINCE of PEACE
Celebrate. Share. Strengthen. Serve.
propeace.org

Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed
spselca.net

ELCA
elca.org

NAMI-SCC FaithNet
namisantaclara.org/classes/faith-net-2

RECONCILING IN CHRIST
reconcilingworks.org