

VERITAS REFORMED CHURCH

*Clay Staggs,
Leading Elder*

*Sunday Liturgy
September 10
Anno Domini 2023*

*The Fifteenth
Sunday
After Pentecost*



For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

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REFLECTIONS

If we understand the gospel, then indifference and apathy are irrational responses.

R. C. Sproul

As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death – we give our lives over unto death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God fearing and happy life but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I must confess that I have enjoyed being on this mountaintop and I am tempted to want to stay here and retreat to a more quiet and serene life. But something within reminds me that the valley calls me in spite of all its agonies, dangers, and frustrating moments. I must return to the valley. Something tells me that the ultimate test of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and moments of convenience, but where he stands in moments of challenge and moments of controversy. So I must return to the valley.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point, which means, at the point of highest reality. A chastity or honesty or mercy which yields to danger will be chaste or honest or merciful only on conditions. Pilate was merciful till it became risky.

C. S. Lewis,
from *The Screwtape Letters*

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PRAISE

***Call to Worship:** from Psalm 117

Leader: Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

People: **For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**

ALL: **Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Come and worship.

***Hymn of Praise:** This Is My Father's World

(Music on next page.)

***Prayer of Praise and the Lord's Prayer**

CONFESSION

***Scripture Reading:** Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, I have failed to make disciples of all nations. My sin is not due to lack of knowledge. I know the Gospel, I have studied Your Word. But my heart toward my neighbor is cold. I have enjoyed the comfort and safety of hiding behind the doors of my home. I have feared what my neighbor might say if I told him about You. I have desired the reputation of being a "good neighbor" more than I have desired Your glory in my neighborhood. Please forgive me. By Your Spirit, warm my heart, make me jealous for Your glory, and grant me courage to proclaim Your resurrection. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Silent Reflection and Confession

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This Is My Father's World

Sovereign Lord ... you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. Acts 4:24

1. This is my Fa - ther's world, and to my lis - t'ning ears,
2. This is my Fa - ther's world, the birds their car - ols raise,
3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get

all na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
the morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their Mak - er's praise.
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa - ther's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the
This is my Fa - ther's world: the bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me ev - ery - where.
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heav'n be one.

(Ending)

*This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!*

*The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!*

*Congregation Standing

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ASSURANCE

Assurance of Pardon and the Peace of God: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Leader: Christian, through the mercy of God who gives us both the needed grace and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and you are at peace with God.

People: **All thanks and glory to God!**

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

RESPONSE

**Collection of Tithes & Offerings
And Hymn of Response:**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

(Music on next page.)

Presentation of Tithes and Offertory Prayer

***Hymn:** Doxology

AFFIRMATION

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Heidelberg Catechism, Question & Answer 21: On True Faith*

Leader: What is true faith?

People: **True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction that everything God reveals in his Word is true; it is also a deep-rooted assurance, created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel, that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, not only others, but I too, have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.**

***Hymn of Response:** Gloria Patri

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Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No
2. Thro' death in - to life ev - er - last - ing He
3. His word shall not fail you— He prom - ised; Be -

5
light in the dark-ness you see? There's light for a
passed, and we fol - low Him there; O - ver us sin no
lieve Him, and all will be well: Then go to a

10
look at the Sav - ior, And life more a - bun-dant and free!
more hath do - min - ion— For more than con-q'rors we are!
world that is dy - ing, His per-fect sal - va - tion to tell!

16
Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His

22
won-der-ful face, And the things of earth will grow

27
strange - ly dim In the light of His glo-ry and grace.

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SUPPLICATION

Prayer of Intercession

*Hymn of Preparation: Father, Father of All Things

Father, Father of All Things



Fa - ther, Fa-ther of all things, we bless_ You. Fa-ther, we love and a -
Je - sus, the on - ly Son of the liv - ing God, Je - sus, You will - ing - ly
Spir - it, sent by the Son to dwell in us, Liv - ing and work - ing with -

3



dore You. For - ev - er will we praise Your name.____
suff - ered that thro' You we too might be sons.____
in us to make_ us more like the Son;____

5



Fa - ther, Fa - ther of glo - ry and po - wer, Fa - ther Your great-ness sur -
Je - sus, cleanse us, Your peo - ple and fill us. Pour down Your Spir - it up -
Spir - it, come do Your great work with - in us. Build up Your church in Your

7



rounds the earth and all of Your chil - dren de - clare____ You are Lord.
on____ us that we as Your bod - y may show____ forth Your love.
sov - reign pow'r. Cre - ate in us faith, love, and praise____ to the Lord.

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PREACHING OF THE WORD

***Scripture Reading:** Acts 17:16

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades,
People: **But the Word of our God will stand forever!**

Sermon: **Provoked to Preach** Rev. Todd Gothard

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Communion

Distribution of the Bread

Prayer

Distribution of Wine

Prayer

The Giving of Peace

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you!
People: **And also with you!**

***Closing Hymn:** A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

(Music on next page.)

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A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

A hymn of glo - ry let us sing; new
 O Lord, our home - ward path - way bend, that
 Be now our joy on earth, o Lord, and
 O ris - en Christ, asc - end - ed Lord, all

3
 songs through-out the world shall ring; O___ sing we Al - le - lu - ia! Christ,
 our un - wear-ied hearts asc - end. O___ sing we Al - le - lu - ia! Where,
 be our fu - ture great re - ward. O___ sing we Al - le - lu - ia! Then,
 praise to You let earth ac - cord. O___ praise Him! Al - le - lu - ia! You

7
 by a road be - fore un - trod, as - ced - eth to the throne of
 seat - ed on Your Fa - ther's throne, You reign as King of kings a -
 throned with You for - ev - er, we shall praise Your name e - ter - nal -
 are, while end - less ag - es run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it

10
 God. O___ praise Him, O___ praise Him! Al - le -
 lone.
 ly.
 one.

13
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

BENEDICTION

***Benediction:** 2 Corinthians 13:14

Pastor: The Grace of the Lord and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And God's people said:

All: Amen!