



**First Reformed Church, Schenectady**  
In-person worship requires masks, distance,  
and no singing.

**Order of Worship October 18, 2020**  
**Preacher: Lynn Carman Bodden**  
**Liturgist: Daniel Carlson**  
**Church Musician: Max Caplan**  
**Special Music: Marissa Scotti**

**Prelude** *La Cathédrale Engloutie*, Claude Debussy

### **Greeting and Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 263

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish; but nought changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

**\*Our Need for God (unison)**

**God of all times and places,  
of all peoples and all creation,  
we gather in uncertain times.  
The path ahead is not clear.**

**We are feeling tentative and fearful, anxious, angry, even empty.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Encourage us in head and heart and body**

**that as you have always been,**

**you are near us, with us, guiding us forward in love. Amen.**

**\*God's Forgiving Love**

**\*Response of Praise (hummed)**

**Our God, our help in ages past,**

**Our hope for years to come,**

**Be Thou our guard while life shall last,**

**And our eternal home.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith (A New Creed – United Church of Canada)**

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music** *Ich Folge Dir*, JS Bach

**Introduction to the Scripture**

**First Reading** Isaiah 45:1-7

**Children's Message**

**Second Reading** Matthew 22:15-22

**Sermon** "*Before and After*"

**Musical Offering** *Pie Jesu*, Gabriel Faure

**Prayers of the People**

**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 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.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *Help Us Accept Each Other* 358

Help us accept each other As Christ accepted us;  
Teach us as sister, brother, Each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us And bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted And meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, As in our daily life  
We struggle to be human And search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, For all, not just for some,  
To love them as we find them Or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us So that we may be moved  
In living situations To do the truth in love;  
To practice your acceptance Until we know by heart  
The table of forgiveness And laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters With all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, For righteousness and for bread,  
We need new eyes for seeing, New hands for holding on:  
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

**Benediction**