



First Reformed Church, Schenectady

In-person worship requires masks, distance,
and no singing.

Order of Worship October 25, 2020

Preacher: Lynn Carman Bodden

Liturgist: Daniel Carlson

Church Musician: Max Caplan

Special Music: Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz

Hymns: Marey Bailey

Prelude *Romance*, Johan Svendsen
Rigaudon, Jean Sibelius

Greeting and Call to Worship

***Hymn** *Though I May Speak* 335

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; my words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

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

O Lord our God, we confess that we are not completely rooted in your love.

We give you some of our heart, but not all of it.

**We offer you portions of our minds and souls and substance,
but not all that we have and are.**

**We have not loved well those whom you see as our neighbors,
not as well as we love our inner circles,
sometimes not at all.**

**To be truthful, at times we do not even love ourselves very well.
Forgive us, O God, and fill us with your love.**

***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 *Berceuse*, Edvard Grieg

Introduction to the Scripture

First Reading *Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17*

Children's Message

Second Reading *Matthew 22:34-46*

Sermon "*For the Love of God*"

Musical Offering *Romance*, Jean Sibelius

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** *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling* 376

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down:
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction