



First Reformed Church, Schenectady
Those worshipping in person must wear masks, social distance, and not sing.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2020

Prelude Pianist: John Norton
Liturgist: Lynn Carman Bodden
Preacher: Daniel Carlson
Church Musician: Max Caplan
Designated Singer: Kate Rose

Prelude *Fugue #19 in A Major* JS Bach

Greeting and Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* 457

I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pains didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
And all our substance and our strength receive;
Sustain us by Thy faith and by Thy power;
And give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
No harshness hast Thou and no bitterness:
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,
That we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in Thee;
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

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

**Our sure Redeemer,
we have sinned against you and one another,
in thought, word, and deed,
in what we have done and in what we have left undone.
(silence is kept for individual confession)**

**O gracious God,
in your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 (Our Song of Hope)**

**The Holy Spirit builds one church,
united in one Lord and one hope,
with one ministry around one table.
The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus
to respond in worship together,
to accept all the gifts from the Spirit ,
to learn from each other's traditions,
to make unity visible on earth.**

**Come Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

***Sharing Christ's Peace**

Children's Message

Special Music *The Garden* C. Austin Miles

Introduction to the Scripture

First Reading *Psalm 123*

Second Reading *1st Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Sermon "*Essential Mutual Ministry*"

Musical Offering *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Thomas A. Dorsey

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** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 438

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil and pain,
And sin, we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

***Charge and Benediction**

Elders

Joanne Arnold, Senior Elder
Barbara Mancuso, Senior Elder
Sally Bestgen
Carol DeLaMarter
Karen Gonda
Laura Lee
Adam Mason
Amanda Potter
Florence Reed
Kate Rose

Deacons

Sarah Bachorik
Bill Brooks
Caroline Brooks
Dave Bundy
Christine Daniels
Lian Drisgula
Dave Hjelm
Christina Jones
Sharron McCullough
Brandon Stabler

Ministers

Lynn Carman Bodden, Interim Senior Minister
Daniel Carlson, Associate Minister

Other Officers

Catherine Lewis, Treasurer
Joanne Bedell, Clerk