

**Service of Holy Communion**  
**Reformation Sunday**  
**October 31, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**THE GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| “Erhalt uns Herr bei deinem Wort” | - Dietrich Buxtehude |
| “What God Ordains Is Good Indeed” | - Johann P. Kellner  |
| “Allegro in F Major”              | - G. F. Händel       |

**WELCOME & TEMPLE TALK**

**ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God promises to heal and forgive us. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

To you, O God,  
**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you,  
confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in  
your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in  
justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our  
Savior.**  
**Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

*The congregation may stand or sit.*

## GATHERING HYMN

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Red Book #596

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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 congregation may be seated.*

## THE WORD

### CHILDREN’S SERMON

*Following the message, the children are blessed to go downstairs to children’s church or to return to their families. The children’s church returns to the sanctuary during the sharing of the peace.*

### FIRST READING      **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they

broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 46**      *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields

with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**"Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## SECOND READING    **Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

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

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” *sts. 1 and 2* Red Book #517

## GOSPEL            John 8:31-36

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the eighth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>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’?”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” *st. 3* Red Book #517

*The congregation may be seated.*

## SERMON

*The congregation may stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth” Red Book #510

## APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of radical grace and perfect love, your word brings truth and freedom. Free us, we pray, from being so invested in our own thoughts, accomplishments, or politics that we fail to hear you and to reform what is needed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Free us, we pray, from wasteful habits that harm our planet and its climate. We pray for those who are especially vulnerable to flood, fire, or drought, and for the will to hold their interests in mind. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Free all those in elected positions of service to our community to work for justice, peace, and the common good. We pray for all who are running for mayor, city council, and local school boards, and we pray for all who will vote on Tuesday, remembering especially those who seek to serve. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Free from fear and anxiety all those who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit. We pray for patients and staff at Butler Hospital and all of our local nursing homes as they work through this current covid surge. Give them patience and strength. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Free all who seek to grow in faith and love of you from obstacles to learning. Guide our congregation's learning ministries. Bring many among us to open the scriptures and learn from them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation (*especially*). By their example, teach us to reform your church where it is broken and to set our hope always on your living word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"Give Us Faith for Today"*

– Harry Robert Wilson, ASCAP

*The congregation may stand.*

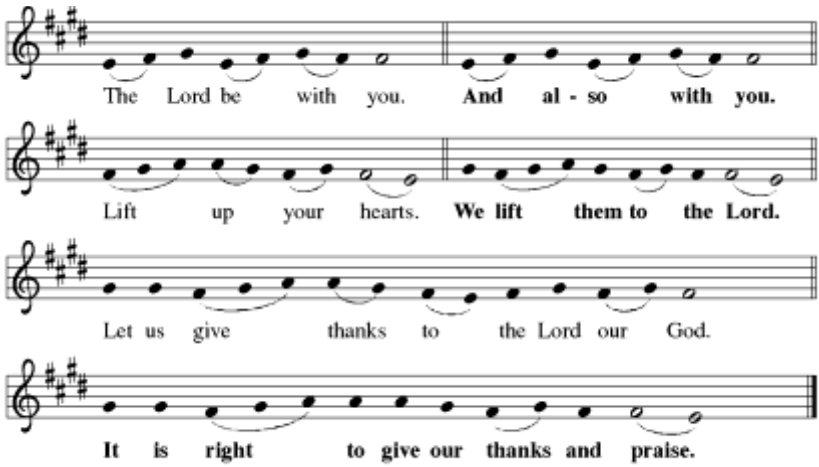
## **MEAL**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...*(the presiding minister continues giving thanks)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets... *(the presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)* ...As



often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the table, for all is now ready.



bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

**BLESSING**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Red Book #504

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" - J. Bent Carlson

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Marlin Boltz	<b>Reader</b>
Marlene Stein and Holly Schubert	<b>Children's Church</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Harry Cunningham	<b>Senior Choir Director</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Heather Helsel	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Ushers</b>
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	<b>Counters</b>

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.*

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH**

Monday, 11/1	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Wednesday, 11/3	7:00 PM	Book Study via Zoom
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 11/4	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Friday, 11/5		Pr. Kimberly's day off
Saturday, 11/6	9 AM – 1 PM	DAR Meeting (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sunday, 11/7		Daylight Savings Time Ends

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next week is All Saints Sunday.** We will remember those who have died in Christ over the last year. If there is a name you would like included in the prayers, please contact the church office by Thursday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> (724) 283-2378 or [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net).

**As you are able, please continue to support First English's ministry** financially during this time. Your gifts allow our ministry to continue. You can mail offerings into the church office (241 N. Main Street, Butler PA 16001) or give online at <http://firstenglishbutler.org/giving/>.

**Children's church has returned to First English!** This aspect of worship allows children under age 10 to experience the scripture readings in ways that are appropriate for them.

**Trunk or Treat at Lutherlyn is today from 11:45 am until 12:15 pm!**  
Please meet at the Dogwood Shelter.

**Sundays @ Lutherlyn** continues next Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for all children age 3 - confirmation age. We will gather at the Dogwood Shelter.

**Sign-Up Sheet: Snacks for Staff at Butler Memorial Hospital** – As part of the ministry of the Butler Clergy Network, Pr. Kimberly will be visiting with staff on the COVID unit at the hospital on Monday

mornings to offer support. If you would like to bake or purchase treats for her to take and share with the staff, please sign-up on the sheet in the Social Hall or contact Caitlyn in the office at (724) 283-2378.

**Book Study: *The Difficult Words of Jesus***

In this six-week study, we'll dive into Amy-Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus* and learn more about these hard sayings. The study will take place for six weeks on Wednesdays from October 13 to November 17 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Check the church email for a link. The book is available on Amazon and other online retailers.

**Butler Hospital is now allowing pastoral visitation.** If you are hospitalized and would like Pr. Kimberly to visit, please let the church office know.

**PRAYERS**

Emma Lee and David Hartle; Glenn and family; the family of Joyce Hall; Eric Levine; Lisa; Jan Nieto; Kathy Kline's niece Rose; Bill and Judy Vilcheck and family; Kara and family; family of Larry Kline; Jan Nieto; Jeff LaLonde; the Pelgrin and Buehler family; Jean Morrow; families of Joan Chew, Henry Sinopoli, and Mark Grossman; family of Shirley Sellers; family of Barbara Petanovich and Curtis Wilbert; friend of the Swansons; Don, Betty and family; Mia Gill; Claude and all the soldiers who have been recently deployed to Kuwait as well as their families; Eleanor Roth; Joe Roudebush; Joe and Linda; Dave Konesni; Raymond Sawyer; Donna; the family of Rita Wagner; the family of Carol Duffus; Judy O. and family; Graham Cannon; Anne Ferguson; Claudia; Karen; Anita; Kitty Walker; Nancy Hoehn; Tad Sellers; Aryl Bashline; Jenna; Tom Olson; Pam Patterson

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**Isaiah 25:6-9**

*The banquet of the LORD*

**Psalm 24**

They shall receive blessing from the God of their salvation. (Ps. 24:5)

**Revelation 21:1-6a**

*A new heaven and a new earth*

**John 11:32-44**

*The raising of Lazarus*