

October 27, 2024
10:30 a.m. | Chapel
Reformation Sunday

Gathering Around the Word

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus is the Light of the World!

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress

Arr. by Joel Raney

Welcome and Announcements

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

Did You Know? Lives Impacted

Margy McLynn, Joanna Pope, and John Gutekunst

✠ **Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

Psalm 124 and 46

Aisha Furtado

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. **Amen.**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge Let us worship the living God!

✠ **Opening Hymn 22**

God of the Sparrow

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home

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✠ Please stand in body or in spirit.

Please silence your cell phones during worship.

Being Renewed in Grace

✦ **Call to Confession**

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

As we worship the living God, we remember all those who have walked this life of faith before us. They remind us not only of our triumphs, but also of our failures to be the people God has called and created us to be. With confidence that God is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, let us confess our sins:

(Time for Silent Confession)

✦ **Prayer of Confession**

(a prayer by Martin Luther)

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. **My Lord, fill it.** I am weak in the faith; **strengthen me.** I am cold in love; **warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.** I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. **O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have.** I am poor; **you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.** I am a sinner; **you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.**

✦ **Assurance of Pardon**

(a prayer by John Calvin)

Let us never forget you, O Lord, nor your goodness. **Let the remembrance of your mercy be always engraved on our minds. Hear and believe this good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

✦ **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

Sung Response 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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Anthem

God is Our Refuge
The Chancel Choir

Allen Pote

God is our refuge and strength; a present help in time of trouble
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam,
we will not fear.

Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God.
He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth.

He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song
We will celebrate his presence all the day long.

He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us. He is the air, we are his song
We will celebrate his presence all the day long.

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Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

(a prayer by Ulrich Zwingli)

Aisha Furtado

Almighty, eternal, and merciful God, whose Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path,
open and illuminate our minds that we may truly understand your Word and that our life may be
conformed to what we have rightly understood, that in all our ways we may be pleasing to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Aisha Furtado

Then Job answered the LORD: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing the Children

Children are invited to come forward at this time for a blessing before going to children's worship in the narthex.

Children: God be with you here.

Congregation: God be with you there.

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Goodbye Stranger

Rev. George Tatro

Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn 418

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. (Refrain)

Refrain: **Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."**

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? (Refrain)

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

(Refrain)

Words and music: Public domain

✦ Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

(from The Heidelberg Catechism)

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Offering Invitation

Out of gratitude for all that God has provided for us and with hope for a future that continues to unfold toward God's promised end, we bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us in this time and place.

Offertory

Give Thanks

Henry Smith/ Arr.by Seunghee Lee

✦Doxology *(all singing)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✦Prayer of Dedication

(a prayer by Martin Luther)

**O Lord, come to me and use my bread, silver and gold. How very well they are spent
if I spend them in your service. Amen.**

Prayers of the People *and* The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Rachel Mulgrave

We pray for the world, our community, the church, and each other saying:

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word Into the World

✦Sending Hymn 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

Words and music: Public domain

✦Charge and Benediction

(Numbers 6:24–26, as used in John Calvin's Strasbourg Liturgy)

The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to
you; The Lord lift up his countenance, and give you peace. Amen.

✦Postlude

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Arr. by Gordon Young

*The ushers this morning are Roy Davey and Christina Siewe.
The greeter this morning is Alice Ann Nilsen.
The Stephen Minister this morning is Mac Jordan.*

The Worship Leaders this morning are:

*Rev. George Tatro, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rachel Mulgrave, Director of Faith Formation and Discipleship
Heidi Chinnock, Director of Music Ministries and Organist
Amy Noel Welch, Collaborative Pianist
Ross Johnston and Steve Navarro, guitarists
Aisha Furtado, Liturgist*

Flowers in the Sanctuary

*The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given by Debi and David Doverspike to the glory of God
and in loving memory of her mother, Barbara Snelling.*



Reformation Sunday Prayer

John Calvin

My God, my Father and my Savior, you have been pleased to preserve me by your grace through the night and you have brought me to this new day. Grant that I may use it entirely in your service, that I may think, say, and do nothing but to please you and to obey your holy will. May all my actions be to the glory of your name and to the service of others. And just as you cause the sun to shine on the world to give physical light, let your Holy Spirit illumine my mind to guide me in the way of righteousness. In everything I do, let my goal and intention always be to walk reverently and to honor and serve you, relying only on your blessing for my well-being, and undertaking only what is pleasing to you. Amen.

Today we celebrate Reformation Sunday! This week (10/31) marks 507 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany thus marking the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. His list of complaints against the Catholic Church, which largely called out the corruption and abuse by clergy, led him to be excommunicated and eventually began the rise of the Protestant denominations. Luther never intended to leave the Catholic Church, but instead hoped that his condemnation of their practices would bring about reform. He was not the only figure of his time who had this intent - across Europe and the rest of the world were many other church figures who also cried out against the injustices they were witnessing. Of note for Presbyterians, John Calvin and John Knox participated in the movement that eventually became the Reformed Tradition.

For centuries, we have used the phrase "Reformed and Always Reforming". It is a slogan that pays homage to those who have come before us, paving the road for diversity in theological thought and expressions of worship. It also lends itself to the notion that God is still at work among us - reforming us into a future that He has set out for us. To celebrate this day is to celebrate the many ways that our creativity, imagination, and faithfulness keep us on our toes, always curious to what new thing God is doing in our community.

Upcoming Events at JCPC

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

2024-2025 Open Enrollment for Preschool is underway | jcpcusa.org/preschool

Text/Email Scam Alert

Please be aware that none of the church staff will ask you for money or gift cards.
If you receive this message from anyone, please delete it and do not act upon it.

Know How to Set Your Own Pace with Karen Stubbs, founder of Birds on a Wire

November 13, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.

Please register, however, all are welcome to attend without doing so.



Christmas Trees, Wreaths, and Garland orders are being taken.

Forms are in your worship bulletin, in the welcome center, and in Connections.

Pumpkin Patch Clean Up Day

Saturday, November 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night!

Wednesday, November 20 | 6:30 p.m. | The Great Hall

Giving Thanks Dinner

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4CAFAA2EAAFF2-52570496-giving#

Or sign-up sheets in the welcome center

Amani Women's Center

There are two plastic tubs in the Welcome Center. One is for sewing material and the other is for sewing notions. These will be taken to The Amani Women's Center to help with their work with west African women.

**JCPC PUMPKIN
PATCH**
OCTOBER 12 - 31
OPEN SUNDAY - FRIDAY
12:00 - 8:00
SATURDAYS 10:00 - 8:00
10950 BELL RD, JOHNS CREEK, GA

Fresh pumpkins / Halloween & Thanksgiving decor / carving & cooking / all shapes & sizes / photo opportunities

Proceeds go towards mission trips!
SEE YOU AT THE PATCH!

Contact Lisa 770-364-3230 or Honey 678-575-7471 for info.

**VOLUNTEER
SIGN-UPS**
TO SIGN-UP TO WORK A SHIFT AT OUR PUMPKIN PATCH:

To sign-up on paper, copies are in the Welcome Center.

Thank you in advance for volunteering!

See you at the Patch!



Session Elders

Class of 2024

Aisha Furtado (Youth Elder), Education Ministry Team
Dawn Melin, Mission Ministry Team
Zach Myers, Connecting Ministry Team
Rich Shuler, Stewardship Ministry Team
Tom Traylor, Clerk of Session and Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Class of 2025

Roy Davey, Worship Ministry Team
Marilyn Davis, Worship Ministry Team
Debi Doverspike, Mission Ministry Team
Vivek Furtado, Youth Ministry Team

Class of 2026

Craig Cunningham, Youth Ministry Team
John Gutekunst, Education Ministry Team
Alice Ann Nilsen, Caring Ministry Team
Jim Pope, Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Name Tags for Sundays

Please check on the round table in the Welcome Center for your name tag either before Sunday School or Worship. They will be in alphabetical order. If you don't have one, there are adhesive name tags you can use. There will be a clipboard with a list where you can add your name, and a name tag will be available for you the following Sunday. Please return your name tags to the table before leaving the church today.

Special note about our cameras

Welcome to worship! For many years, JCPC has recorded its worship services for those who are homebound or absent from worship. We are now able to Livestream the service from the worship hour. The worship leaders and the first few rows of the worship space are visible in these videos. The back rows are not visible in the Livestream or recording. Thank you for being with us this morning, and we hope you'll watch online when you can't be with us in person.

Scan to Give:



Would you like to receive Connections emails? Scan here:



Johns Creek Presbyterian Church | 10950 Bell Road | Johns Creek, GA 30097

www.jcpcusa.org | 770-813-9009