

reforming
worship

Catoctin
Association

Fall 2016
Meeting

About this morning's worship...

- There is no printed bulletin.
- Everything will be on the screen.
- Congregational responses are in **bold and underlined.**



Always reforming...



Call to Worship

Nearly 500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed 95
Theses to the church door at Wittenberg;

(Pound 1 time on pews)

He challenged the Roman church to repent of
selling indulgences;

(Pound 2 times on pews)



He called the church to embrace the Gospel message of “By faith alone”

(Pound 3 times on pews)

May we demonstrate Luther’s courage on matters of reform in our time

(Pound 4 times on pews)



*A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.*

Martin Luther (1529)



Gathering Prayer

Like a sacred, hot wind

Like a cool and gentle breeze

For 2,000 years

You have swept through the Church and reformed

us

Continue to reform us, O God



Blow the dust out of the corners of our faith
Revive, refresh, renew our vision
So it is more aligned with yours

Continue to reform us, O God



Come, Holy Spirit, Come
Continue to blow your welcoming wind
Through your church
Through the Central Atlantic Conference
Through the Catoctin Association
Through our home congregations
(name your congregation)



Continue to reform us, O God

We remember those reformers of faith; those who reformed our views on faith, and those who took a stand for faith.



Martin Luther
Ulrich Zwingli
John Calvin
John Wesley
Philip Schaff
Antoinette Brown
Martin Luther King Jr.
John Deckenback



*I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go
against conscience is neither right nor safe.
Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God.*

Martin Luther

German theologian;

A seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation

1483-1546



Almighty, eternal and merciful God, whose Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, open and illuminate our minds, that we may purely and perfectly understand thy Word and that our lives may be conformed to what we have rightly understood, that in nothing we may be displeasing unto thy majesty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Ulrich Zwingli

Leader of Reformation in Switzerland
1484-1531



The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.

John Calvin

French theologian

A principal figure in the theology which came to be known as Calvinism

1509-1564



*Do all the good you can, In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can, At all times you can,
To all people you can, As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

Anglican theologian who, with his brother Charles
and George Whitefield, founded Methodism

1703-1791



The history of the Church is the rise and progress of the kingdom of heaven upon earth, for the glory of God and the salvation of the world.

Philip Schaff

Protestant theologian and church historian
Influenced the German Reformed Church
through his teaching at Mercersburg

1819-1893



There were angry men confronting me and I caught the flashing of defiant eyes, but above me and within me, there was a spirit stronger than them all.

Antoinette Brown

First woman to be ordained as a mainstream
Protestant minister in the United States.

1825-1921



The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.

Martin Luther King Jr.

American Baptist minister and activist who was a leader in the African-American Civil Rights.

1929-1968



In Germany, church leaders do not speak of "THE Reformation" but rather Reformation; implying that reformation is not a one time event but rather the church is always reforming.

John Deckenback
CAC Conference Minister,
UCC Leader, Social Activist, and
Arbitrator of Justice and Peace
1946-2016



May we remain faithful to the wisdom of
those who have reformed us
and to the voices of those who still call us
to reform...



Offering

To be divided between Synod 2017 and
Syrian Refugee Children's Education Project
(SEPP)

An anonymous donor is matching today's offering
dollar for dollar

Checks payable to Catoctin Association



Enter, Rejoice and Come In

Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Enter, rejoice, and come in.

Today will be a joyful day;

Enter, rejoice, and come in.



Open yourself to the song.
Open yourself to the song.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice, and come in.



Open your hearts everyone.
Open your hearts everyone.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice, and come in.



Don't be afraid of some change.
Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice, and come in.



Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
Enter, rejoice, and come in



Prayer of Dedication

Giver of Life,


Prosper the work of our hands in faith.

Prosper the work of our gifts offered in gratitude.

Prosper the joy of our life in following the Christ.

Amen.





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