LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Isaiah 43:1–2

618 How Firm a Foundation

WORDS: John Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
MUSIC: Traditional American melody

FOUNDATION
11 11.11 11

October 18, 2026 – Reformation / Anniversary Sunday
Part Two: The Faith We Make our Own Series
Always Re-forming

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES **Mr. Kevin Crone & Acolyte**

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Good morning, and welcome to worship on Reformation Sunday. Today is not simply a day to remember reformers from long ago or to celebrate changes the Church has already made. It is a day to remember that Jesus Christ is still the Head of the Church and every church, including ours, must remain open to correction, renewal, and change. God has shown us what is good.

All: ***To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.***

Leader: In Jesus Christ, grace has come near.

All: ***We are saved by grace and called into lives of faithful service.***

Leader: Through the Holy Spirit, the Church is continually renewed.

All: ***Spirit of the living God, reform and reshape us.***

Leader: When inherited practices cause harm, Christ calls us to repentance.

All: ***Give us courage to tell the truth, repair what has been broken, and follow where you lead.***

Leader: We are rooted in faith, but we are not finished.

All: ***By the grace of God, we are always being reformed. Let us worship God!***

OPENING HYMN ***"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*** **RED Hymnal #281**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Reformation begins with the courage to tell the truth: the Church is beloved by God, and the Church can still be wrong. Trusting the grace that frees us from defensiveness and fear, let us confess where we have resisted the reforming work of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: ***Reforming God, we thank you for the faith handed down to us, yet we confess that we sometimes protect what is familiar more carefully than we protect our neighbors. We confuse tradition with faithfulness, comfort with peace, and good intentions with justice. We offer help without always asking why the need continues. We speak of love while avoiding the changes love requires. Sometimes we remain silent because public witness feels uncomfortable. At other times, we confuse loyalty to a party, movement, or opinion with loyalty to Jesus Christ. Forgive us when our teaching, worship, policies, or habits cause harm. Give us humility to listen to those who have been wounded or pushed***

aside. Give us courage to repent, repair, and change. Reform your Church, beginning with us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Leader: Hear the good news: we are saved by grace through faith. This is God's gift, not our achievement. Grace does not leave us trapped in what has been; grace frees us to begin again.

All: ***Thanks be to God! By grace, we can repent, repair, and begin again. Amen.***

PRAISE HYMN ***"Gloria Patri"*** **RED Hymnal #493**

PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: Because Christ has made peace with us, we can become people who seek peace with justice. The peace of Christ is with you.

All: ***And also with you.*** (*The congregation shares signs and words of peace.)*

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN ***How Firm a Foundation*** **Bulletin, Page 4**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 58:6–12**
SECOND SCRIPTURE READING **Ephesians 2:8–10**
GOSPEL READING **Luke 4:16–21**

SERMON **Ms. Cathy Rentzel**

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER *Using "sins")*

All: ***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.***

COVENANT OF A REFORMING CHURCH

Leader: We give thanks for the faith, courage, labor, and love of those who came before us.

All: ***We receive our tradition with gratitude, but we will not treat the past as though God's work were finished.***

Leader: We trust that we are saved by grace, not by our own achievement.

All: ***By that same grace, we will serve, seek justice, and make love visible.***

Leader: We know that the Church can cause harm, even when its intentions are good.

All: ***We will listen to those who have been wounded, tell the truth, repent, repair, and change.***

Leader: We will care for needs directly before us and ask why those needs continue.

All: ***We will join compassion with advocacy, service with justice, and prayer with faithful action.***

Leader: We will not surrender the gospel to any party, candidate, ideology, or nation.

All: ***Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, and love of God and neighbor will guide our witness.***

Leader: We are rooted, but we are not finished.

All: ***Reforming God, reshape our life together until it more clearly reflects the love and justice of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

ANTHEM ***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*** (Scott) **Chancel Choir**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Leader: We are saved by grace and created for lives of faithful action. Through these gifts, we feed, teach, welcome, advocate, repair, and serve. Let us offer what we have so that God's grace may take visible form in our community and world.

DOXOLOGY ***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*** **RED Hymnal #551**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: ***Reforming God, receive these gifts and reshape our lives. Use what we offer to meet immediate needs, challenge lasting injustice, repair broken relationships, and make your love visible. Give us wisdom to know what must be preserved, courage to change what causes harm, and faith to follow Jesus into the work before us. Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN ***Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*** **RED Hymnal, #324**

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go in the grace that has already claimed you and into the good work for which God has created you. May Jesus Christ remain the center of your discipleship. May the Holy Spirit give you courage to examine, repent, repair, and change. May God turn your faith into service, your compassion into justice, and your hope into faithful action.

All: ***The Church is always being reformed because the grace of God is never finished with us. We go in peace. Amen.***

POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING **Mr. Kevin Crone and Acolyte**

SENDING WORDS (Spoken from the rear of the sanctuary)

Leader: We are rooted, but we are not finished.

All: ***By the grace of God, we are always being reformed. Amen.***