

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Mountain *Reformed Church*

Sunday July 23, 2023
8th Sunday After Pentecost



Your Church for Worship and the Arts!

WORD | CONNECTION | MUSIC

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Welcome to Mountain Reformed Church!

We are so grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today! The vision of our church is to provide an open door to relationship with God for all through worship, teaching God's Word, and by celebrating with music and the arts. Our mission is simple: All Glory to God! Our church is independent and non-denominational, with a theology based in the reformed way of being Christian. Please see our website at www.mountainreformed.org for more information about our church.

Liturgical Spotlight: What does the "IHS" symbol mean on the paraments?

There are many creative interpretations of this sign, often found stitched into paraments or inscribed on brass crosses — "In His Service," "I Have Suffered," "Jesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Humanity), or "In Hoc Signo" (In This Sign). These are all "backronyms," however, spurious acronyms created after the fact. The symbol is actually an ancient monogram for Christ (or Christogram), derived from the first three letters of "Jesus" in Greek: iota – eta – sigma: I H Σ.

Prayer of Meditation

Holy One, as I prepare my heart for worship, awake a sense of your presence with me. I know this place is holy because you meet me here. Shine on this day and open my ears that I may approach this holy hour with an expectant heart. Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth. Amen.

August 6th Benevolence Offering

The recipient of our Benevolence Offering taken on Communion Sunday August 6th will be the Life Pregnancy Resource Center in Chino Valley. Their motto is "always caring, always confidential, always free". This is a great organization that offers prenatal care, parenting classes, and so much more to moms in need. The purpose of the funds given through our Benevolence Offering will be to purchase diapers for babies in need. Cash donations should be dropped in the Benevolence basket, and donations via check can be made out to Mountain Reformed Church with the memo "August Benevolence". Thank you, MRC Family, for continuing to bless those in need!

Operation Christmas Child

It's never too early to start thinking about what to put in this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Right now during the back to school sales is a great time to stock up on pencils, pens, crayons, highlighters, and all things school related. Too early you think? Less than two months until we'll be handing out piles of empty shoeboxes for you to fill! Thank you for being a blessing to others!

A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS BULLETIN IS AVAILABLE.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
July 23, 2023 - 10:30 AM
8th Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering

Words of Greeting and Life of the Church

L: Blessings to you, servants of God.

P: We lift up our hands and bless the Lord!

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (announcements etc.)

Prayer of the Day

Prelude

Be Still My Soul (Hymn #514)

arr. Lorie Line

Lyndi Peacock, Recorder; Phil Kuhns, violin

Ryan Gastonguay, horn; Dr. Craig Ralston, keyboard

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

L: People of God, let us gather
To worship and praise God's name.

**C: I give thanks to you, O God,
with my whole heart.**

I will glorify your name forever!

Ps. 86:12

L: For great is your steadfast love for me.

C: You have delivered my soul from the depths.

Ps. 86:13

L: God says, "Know that I am with you and
will keep you wherever you go."

Let us worship God!

(Please remain standing)

Opening Hymn #107

Love Lifted Me

SAFETY

(Please be seated)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
your creatures cry—creation groans—
but we turn away;
we surround ourselves with noise.**

Rom. 8:12-25

**We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility:
we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy.
It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.**

**Life-giving God,
wash us clean.
Restore our imaginations and our hearts.
Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins
until we love with abandon
and our hands reach out in blessing,
for the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God.**

(Silent Confession)

L: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gloria Patri, Hymn #670

GLORIA PATRI (GRETorex)

Declaration of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

(Please be seated)

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Baptism of Ardith Drusilla Gastonguay and Rahab Sean Gastonguay

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea

you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By Baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to life in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Ardith Drusilla is baptized
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: Rahab Sean is baptized
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy God, sustain Ardith and Rahab with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

P: Ardith, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

P: Rahab, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

P: Through Holy Baptism, God has made Ardith and Rahab members of the priesthood we all share in Jesus Christ, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory

Children of the Heavenly Father (Hymn #123)

arr. Lorie Line

Ardith, Rehab and Tubal Gastonguay

Lyndi Peacock, recorder; Phil Kuhns, violin

Dr. Craig Ralston, keyboard

(Please stand as you are able)

Doxology, Hymn #668

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

(Please be seated)

The Word

Reading of Scripture

Romans 8:12-26 (ESV)

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: The Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please remain seated)

Response Hymn #10

Abba Father

ABBA FATHER

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (ESV)

24 He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“The Good, The Bad, and The Parable”

Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day #636

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

(Please remain standing)

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

L: Christians, what do you believe?

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Prayers for the People, concluded with The Lord's Prayer in unison:

**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.**

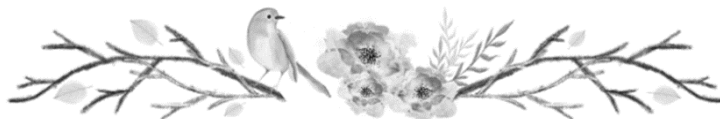
**Sending
Charge**

Benediction

Postlude

This Is My Father's World (Hymn #46)
Lyndi Peacock, Flute; Phil Kuhns, violin
Dr. Craig Ralston, keyboard

arr. Lorie Line



Flowers today celebrate the baptism of Ardith and Rahab Gastonguay.

Assisting in Worship:

Liturgist: Beth Wingate

Pianist: Dr. Craig Ralston

Acolyte: Rahab Gastonguay

Ushers: Joe Stratford & Mike Vest

Greeter and Coffee Fellowship Coordinator: Karen Thorstad

Mountain Reformed Church

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7/16/2023 Worship Attendance: 83

Bank Balances as of 7/19/2023: \$72,554

Pastor on Call

The Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm is the Pastor on Call. If you would like to get in touch, feel free to email eugenegrimm@me.com or call 928-925-6057.

MRC Bulletin and Weekly Email

Would you like to place an announcement in the Sunday bulletin or “This Week at Mountain Reformed Church” email? Please send your info to Ryan Gastonguay at ryan@mountainreformed.org. The deadline is Monday evening of each week for the coming weekend, but we always appreciate as much notice as possible.

MRC Name Badges

If you would like an MRC name badge, please send your name as it should appear to Mary Bricker: marybricker18@gmail.com and she will have one made. **New name badges with our MRC logo COMING SOON!**

Prayer Ministry and Prayer Chain

If you would like to be a part of our prayer ministry and prayer chain, please indicate this on your welcome card. Lyndi Peacock coordinates this ministry, and she will send prayer requests to you by email: lyndi@milehighlending.com. You can also call or text Lyndi at 928-899-2085. If you are seeking prayer please email Lyndi your request directly or fill out a prayer request card (available at the usher’s table) and place in the offering plate.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls serve as a tangible reminder of God’s love for those who are walking through difficult times. A prayer shawl can bring great comfort! Shawls can also be given in celebration of milestones such as graduations, weddings, and new babies. Our shawls are lovingly created by Sharon Tom, Barbara Poland, Sheri Simpson, and Debra Ochoa. Please let us know if you have someone who needs a prayer shawl! Recipients do not have to be local. Anyone with a love for knitting or crochet is welcome to participate in this ministry as well. Please email Sharon: sharonctom@yahoo.com.

Card Ministry

Cards for encouragement, celebration, sympathy, get well, birthdays, and more can be mailed out via our Card Ministry. Sheri Simpson, Carolyn Peterson, Lyndi Peacock, Pam Rineholt, Amy Greenland, and Beth Wingate are coordinating this ministry and can always use donations of cards and stamps. Please let us know if you have someone whose day would be brightened by receiving a card from Mountain Reformed Church! Please email Sheri: charlieandsheri@gmail.com.



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