

# First United Church

---

October 29, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Reformation Sunday**



Purpose: Building Relationships,  
Living God's Transforming Love.

16 William Street West,  
Waterloo ON N2L 1J3

Office: 519-745-8487 x 201

Email: [office@firstunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@firstunitedchurch.ca)

Web Site: [www.firstunitedchurch.ca](http://www.firstunitedchurch.ca)

Chair of the Board: [firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com)

Bulletin Art: Reformation Sunday, Bethel Lutheran Church



- **Call to Worship**

ONE: The earth shakes, the mountains quake—tempting our hearts to fear.

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

ONE: Storms rage, winds swirl—destroying schools, hospitals, homes.

**ALL: Still, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

ONE: Violence comes to light in our communities

and violence continues around the world—

causing us to wonder if our prayers for peace are futile.

**ALL: Yet God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

ONE: For those mourning and rebuilding after the storms,

**ALL: God is their refuge.**

ONE: For those living in fear of their neighbors,

**ALL: God is their strength.**

ONE: For those dreading the hiss of a drone-fired missile,

**ALL: God is present.**

ONE: For the distraught and displaced and dismembered in Syria, Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan and elsewhere,

**ALL: God is a very present help in trouble.**

ONE: Therefore, we will not fear.

**ALL: Therefore, we will lay down our weapons and worship our God.**

*written by Joanna Harader, and posted on **Spacious Faith**.*

<http://spaciousfaith.com/2013/05/21/cALL-to-worship-psalm-46/>

- **Opening Hymn** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

VU 262

### Prayer of Approach

**ALL: God of the faithful, we give thanks for Your abundant blessings.**

**Thank You for our fathers and mothers in the faith who,  
sometimes with significant risk, stood up for their beliefs.**

**Give us the courage to speak out and speak up,  
that we might share Your merciful love and grow in grace.  
In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## ***Listening For God's Word***

- **Hymn** Like a Rock

MV 92

**The Story for the Young at Heart**

Rev. Eva Mezo

## Scripture Readings

Romans 3:19-28

(Reader: Kristin Snell)

ONE: Herein Lies Wisdom.

**ALL: Thanks Be To God.**

**Responsive Psalm 46** VU page 770 , Refrain 1

## Gospel Reading

John 8:31-36

ONE: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

**ALL: Praise to Christ, the Word.**

**Ministry of Music - Gallery Choir:** A New Commandment Kirkland Adsett

**Message:** A Reformation Message, Who You Are Matters! Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer

• **Hymn** Our God, We are a Church Reformed Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

## ***Responding to God's Word***

### Invitation to Offering and Dedication

**Offertory** O God of Love (from "Orfeo") C. W. Gluck, text: N. Grundahl  
Kate Markwart and Hannah Haworth

• **Dedication of Offering** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU 541

### Prayer of Dedication:

**Call to Prayer** Come and Fill Our Hearts

MV 16

## PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND 2023

ONE: Let us pray for peace in a land God has made Holy.  
Holy One, comfort all who mourn the loss of those they love due to this war.

**ALL: God the Comforter/ Hear our prayer.**

ONE: Holy One, console all the victims and heal all those injured by the barbarity, trauma and violence ....

**ALL: God the Consoler/Hear our prayer.**

ONE: Holy One, give strength and release to all captives and prisoners in this conflict that they may be reunited with those who love them....

**ALL: God who frees the captives/Hear our prayer.**

ONE: Holy One, help our leaders end our relentless cycles of revenge and retribution. Inspire in them with your wisdom and give them the will to pursue peace in a land you made holy for all people ...

**ALL: God of Peace/ Hear our prayer.**

ONE: Holy One, help us to fear no evil but walk confidently with you as peace-bearers of light and hope amidst the darkness and divisions ....

**ALL: God of Light and Hope/Hear our prayer.**

ONE: Holy One, calm and assure all troubled hearts and minds during this frightening time that is often beyond human understanding. **God our strength/ Hear our prayer.**

(David Pfrimmer, 2023)

ONE: God of stability and change,  
we thank you that true reformation is always your work  
and always being done in us  
out of your love for your whole creation.

**All: We are ever reformed by the work of your love.**

We ask all this and so much more that fills our hearts, in the name of your Son, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father (and Mother), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin(g)dom 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 kin(g)dom, the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen

- **Sending Hymn**            The Church's One Foundation

VU 331

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

ONE: For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us,

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

ONE: For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

ONE: For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us,

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

ONE: The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and on your way together, now and forever. **Amen.**

- **Benediction Response** Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen

VU 974

### **Recession of the Light and Word**

**Postlude:**    A Mighty Fortress

T. Albrecht

## **GUEST BIOGRAPHY:**

**Dr. David Pfrimmer** served as the principal-dean and professor of applied Christian ethics at Martin Luther University College (formerly Waterloo Lutheran Seminary) from May 1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2015. After stepping down as principal-dean, he continues to serve as fellow in the school's Centre for Public Ethics.

David was the executive secretary for the denomination. For 25 years, he served as director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy. He has served as chairperson of numerous ecumenical and multifaith organizations including the Canadian Council of Churches' Commission on Justice and Peace and was a founding member and chairperson of the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition.

He has represented the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) on a wide range of ecumenical and multifaith coalitions that have addressed issues of economic globalization; social and health policy; Canadian foreign policy peace and disarmament; human rights and aboriginal rights. He has represented the ELCIC on the governing council of the Lutheran World Federation and has been frequently a member of numerous election observer, human rights and ecumenical delegations.