

WORSHIP SERVICE PLAN

(Traditional & Online Service)

October 26, 2025 • 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Reformation

Hymnal Dedication • 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Joel 2:23-32

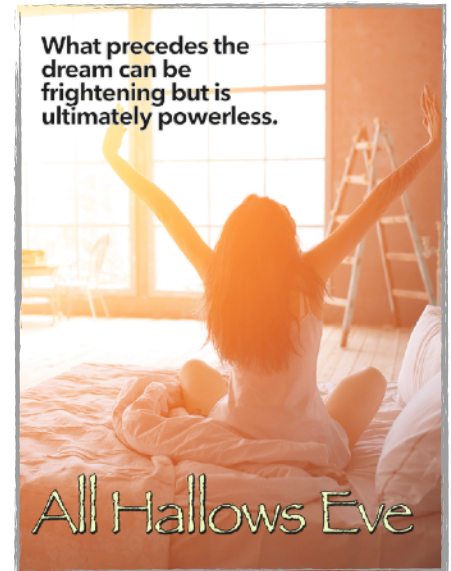
"All Hallows Eve"

What precedes the dream can be frightening but is ultimately powerless.

(online only) Preparation for Worship

Gather these items for worship. If an items unavailable, fret not:

- a piece of white cloth
- an end table or stand
- a plate
- a cup
- a glass or bowl
- a lighter/match
- blanket or quilt
- a computer or internet-accessible device
- a thank you card to God for something this week



For each item you have, thank God for the provision. For each piece you do not have, thank God you don't need it. Place the table/stand in the area you plan to worship. If more than one person will be present, place the table in the middle of where you will be seated. Drape the cloth over it. Arrange the cup, plate, glass of water, and other items on the table. Keep the Bible in front of you. Have enough elements for each person in your household.

Questions for the announcement loop

In preparing for Worship, consider the following:

- What do you think is the most useful thing about the past?
- Do the ends ever justify the means in your mind?
- Is it possible to nullify God's promises with our life experience?
- What are you willing to do to make the Church more of what God wants?

Opening Sentence

Joel 2:28 (CEB)

"After that I will pour out my spirit upon everyone..." –God

Welcome to this service of Worship, We are glad you are with us! We have a few Community Notes for you to consider as we worship throughout the week...

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are here! Our nursery is in the Education Building and our restrooms are in the buildings other than this Sanctuary.

Reformed, Always Reforming

With the effort to speak out against corruption in the Church and the invention of the printing press, The Reformation was one of the most significant periods in human history. The reformers set the stage for the myriad denominations that would follow and break away from the Roman Catholic Church. The most important contribution the movement made remains the gift of the Bible in each person's language and in their personal hands. As we celebrate this anniversary this weekend, take time to read your favorite passages and to thank God for the privilege and opportunity of owning your own Bible in your own language.

Emerging from It All

One of the difficulties with nightmares is how real they can feel. When in the midst of one, we're met with all the constraints and the non-sensical nature of impossible choices and pointless effort. But somehow, when we wake up, when we realize that the dream wasn't real, there's the profound relief. When looking at our world, the realities of our struggles, the weight of our worries, the inevitability (at least, it feels this way) of the very real pains we experience, it can be easy to believe that our nightmares are not dreams at all. But God promises

to have the last word. God promises to bring all of history to heel with God's will. Whatever nightmares we are experiencing will come to an end. So as you move through the week, and you're reflecting on those things that are challenging you, even those things that frighten you, turn your thoughts and prayers to God's Spirit within you, God's Word before you, and God's love in store for you.

Pumpkin Patch Is Here!

Sales are going strong, even with inclement weather! We will be selling the lot in the hopes of not just raising funds, but also raising awareness of our congregation. You *can* help! You can help run the sale by taking a shift or two (or five). You can post one of signs advertising the sale in your yard. You can make phone calls. Every effort adds up to a lot! You can sign up using the volunteer boards or contact Mandy Ealy, Nanette Pedelty, Chris Yow, Caroline Massey, Courtney Covington, Morgan Covington, Nancy Trollinger or Vicky MacLean for more information.



The Story of Our Church Is Written in Our Connections

Whether we're talking about history or our ever-emerging present, God's goal has always been to connect us with God's Spirit and each other. A big way this happens is through our stories. *Linking*

Lives is an opportunity for folks to share their stories and in so doing help link us together with each other. Over the next 12 months, there will be opportunities for us to learn more about and, most importantly, *pray* for every family in our congregation. We will feature profiles and have times for personal prayer and chatting as well as bi-monthly opportunities for a podcast featuring faith stories (1st week of the month) and/or burning faith questions or theology (3rd week of the month). Invitation letters have already started going out. You can view/listen to the podcasts on our church YouTube channel or from our website.

Trunk o' Treat!

This is a fun afternoon where we welcome the children of the community to come trick or treat with us. We need folks to decorate their trunks and hand out candy and we still need candy donations. If you can decorate your trunk, please let Carol Phillips know.

12 Years of Healing Work!

Believe it or not, 12 years ago Alcoholics Anonymous partnered with us to host a local meeting, regional gatherings, and celebrations here at Hawfields. Every year, our group celebrates their anniversary with us with a Halloween bash potluck. To put plainly, we are invited to attend! Costumes are welcome. Books for jails and prisons are welcome and being collected. Hosted on October 30th (Thursday), the meal starts at 6:30pm and the guest speaker begins at 7:30pm. come be a part of the celebration!

Directory Update

We're kicking off the update of our church directory, and we'd love for each of you and your families to fill out a directory update form. You can find it in the bulletin or online. Please fill out both sides of the form, including your name(s), addresses (college students too!), home and cell phone numbers, children, date of birth, baptism, and joining dates. No worries if you don't have all the dates—just fill out what you do have! Please return the completed form to the offering plate, church office, or mail. Also, we're taking photos for the directory each Sunday from October 26th to November 23rd, from 11:15 AM to 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall or during the week by appointment. Please use the sign up sheet in the sanctuary to have your photo taken for the directory.

(10am only) Greet one another in Christ!

(10am only) Introit

"We Are Called" by Noah Melton

(10am only) Prelude:

"Holy Spirit" by Katie and Bryan Torwalt; Piano Soloist: Delia Fahey

What precedes the dream can be frightening but is ultimately powerless.

In this moment, let us stand, take a deep breath, silence our devices, and continue in worship. Let us make use of the Call to Worship that is before you...

(10am only) Call to Worship

Whether the bad stuff is happening to us

Or because of us

Or through us

Or around us

God's good will prevail

God's will prevails

Sing:

"God of Grace and God of Glory" GTG #307

Prayer of Confession/Preparation

We sometimes face life, face the day, forgetting that God has dreams for us. It's not good that we do that. It's important to talk about our shortcomings so that we're ready to hear what God has to say. Let us begin with silent prayer...

(Please pray silently...)

Pray: Lord God, sometimes our dreams are too small. Sometimes our hopes are too little. Sometimes we look at the world and forget that you made it. Sometimes we doom-scroll rather than absorb your promises. Sometimes we wallow rather than emerge. Sometimes we sit on our hands and give up, rather than find our courage to act. Sometimes we allow our voices to be squelched rather than speak up, flee when we should fight, and stand by when we should stand up. In all of this, God, we seek to hedge against futures we cannot hope to control. Help us to trust your strength and the future you promise instead. Help us to move away from tracking our time and to track your faithfulness instead. Help us realize the truth of your love and grace in our lives and to hold on to those, to hold on to you, Lord. May we come to reflect your generosity as enthusiastically as we receive it. Thank you for listening, God. Amen.

(10am only) Assurance of Pardon

God's love can change everything, even the power of our sins over us. And it is God's will that we have this power:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

(10am only) Gloria Patri (Glory to God)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

And to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning

It is now and ever shall be

World without end: Amen, amen.

Presentation of 3rd Grade Bible

- In keeping with the legacy the Reformation provides to us, our congregation provides Bibles to our young folks. This is more than just a token. This is our conviction that actually reading the Bible for yourself and learning to be in conversation with God through it are critical to anyone's faith.
- Also in keeping with our tradition, we are determined that folks have Bibles in their own language, accessible and meaningful. For us, we provide the Common English Bible. Not only is it produced under the latest scholarship, it is also reviewed and edited by the Christian community to be readable and fitting with current idioms.
- And so on behalf of the congregation we present this Bible to Erin Rose Fahey. It is our prayer that as she turns its pages, God's Spirit would turn her heart. We pray that as she reads the texts ancient and far reaching that they would guide her path and allow her imagination to be made bright with God's love, God's hopes and God's joy. May peace govern her steps and may she always find help at home and in her larger community to interpret what she finds in Scripture.

Reading of Scripture

Say: When the temptation and tendency to overcomplicate God's will overtakes us, God's Word is given, accessible and ready. By God's Spirit, it can light up even the darkest recesses of our hearts and minds and show us something new. Let us be open to this gift of God and ask for help to understand. Let us pray...(everyone sings)

Pray/Sing: *"Make Me a Servant" CEL #669*

Make me a servant, humble and meek;

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant,

Make me a servant today.

Our Scripture lesson comes to us from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 16, verses 19-31. Listen closely to the Word of God to us all and to our ongoing place in God's story...

Read: Joel 2:23-32 (CEB)

God sets out an expansive promise.

²³ Children of Zion,
rejoice and be glad in the LORD your God,
because he will give you
the early rain as a sign of righteousness;
he will pour down abundant rain for you,
the early and the late rain, as before.
²⁴ The threshing floors will be full of grain;
the vats will overflow with new wine and fresh oil.
²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the cutting locust,
the swarming locust, the hopping locust,
and the devouring locust have eaten—
my great army, which I sent against you.
²⁶ You will eat abundantly and be satisfied,
and you will praise
the name of the LORD your God,
who has done wonders for you;
and my people will never again be put to shame.
²⁷ You will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God—no other exists;
never again will my people be put to shame.
²⁸ After that I will pour out my spirit upon everyone;
your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
and your young men will see visions.
²⁹ In those days, I will also pour out my
spirit on the male and female slaves.
³⁰ I will give signs in the heavens and on the earth—
blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun
will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood
before the great and dreadful day of the LORD
comes. ³² But everyone who calls on the LORD's
name will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in
Jerusalem there will be security, as the LORD has
promised; and in Jerusalem, the LORD will
summon those who survive.

*One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the
Word of God among us, for the Word of God within
us...*

All: Thanks be to God!

(10am only) Anthem:

*"Home In That Rock" arr. Greg Gilpin; Soloist:
Morgan Layfield*

Sermon: "All Hallows Eve"

***What precedes the dream can be frightening
but is ultimately powerless.***

Is fear ALWAYS a bad thing? The King James Version of the Bible frequently refers to the need to "fear the LORD" but that's not an admonition to be afraid of God. It's actually about respecting God and God's proper role. Yet I can think of many instances where fear is useful.

I have a healthy fear of other drivers so I drive "defensively." I live in fear of abject illness and so I get vaccinated. I live in fear of losing my house or having my power and water cut off and so I pay my bills. I fear getting a ticket and so I drive within certain limits. I fear getting arrested for shoplifting and so I pay for my things when I leave a store.

But there are also times that my fears do the exact opposite. Sometimes fear is crippling, debilitating, oppressive. My fear might keep me from trying new things. My fear of being wrong might keep me from apologizing or admitting that I messed up. My fear of not being liked might keep me from taking risks in my relationships or venturing my opinion about something. My fear of what God can do might make me miss what God has actually done.

One of the things that the other gods we might serve have in common is that they all don't care for our well-being. They all don't have our interests at heart. The gods of Mesopotamia or the Greek pantheon or even the gods of our self-interest could really care less if we live or die. They are all wrapped up in serving their own interests and agendas. But the God we serve, the one we believe in, loves us. When we're thinking about whether or not our greed serves us well, remember, whatever we're greedy for has no feelings for us whatsoever. When thinking about fame, that god lies about how very fragile it is. When thinking about lies, we can serve them all we want but they are never satisfied and will betray us at a moment's notice. The god of our pride will not only prevent us from getting the help we need,

pride can even convince us that getting help is a bad thing, an evil thing (even though that's not so). The god of our impatience makes us believe that waiting on the real God is for suckers.

And yet our God is faithful. That means that God can be trusted. Trusted to follow through. Trusted to be with us. Trusted to love us. Trusted with our secrets. Trust God to care enough about us to bother *trying* to discipline us. And most incredibly, God trusts us.

Oh we sing and write and say, "Trust in the Lord." We should, of course. But we tend to think of that in only one direction. We forget that God has demonstrated profound trust with us. We've been entrusted with blessings, with God's secrets, with God's Spirit, with God's grace, with the Gospel, with God's love. God takes a chance loving us because there is no guarantee that we will love God back. None of the other gods we might serve would ever take that risk. God opens God's Self to be hurt by us.

But why are we talking about all of this? Why are we spending time talking about stuff that doesn't *sound* particularly uplifting. Because it speaks to the passion that God has for us.

Read: Joel 2:23-32 (CEB)
God sets out an expansive promise.

The imagery is rich and visceral. Rain for thirsty crops. Vats (not vases) of oil. Eating until you can't eat anymore. No cause for shame. I don't even know what that last image looks like, but I like it. And all of it bookended with the promise of God's own Spirit falling on *everyone*.

Let's consider for a minute that all of humanity, all of life, bears God's Spirit, the life God intended for us to have, with no strings. We're suddenly immersed in the truth that God's trust with us is a trust God has in God's Self. God believes in what God created us and everything else to be.

But here, God is talking about next level inspiration. People prophesying (speaking for God), the elderly possessing divine dreams, the young having visions. Wow! It goes beyond family

lines, blood, generation, education, life-experience, station, economic power, political prowess, athleticism, reputation, persuasiveness, history, fears, desires, and any gods that might try to get in the way. And just to punctuate how widespread this will be, we get verse 29:

"In those days, I will also pour out my spirit on the male and female slaves."

That pretty much covers everybody. It's as beautiful and abundant a promise as we could ever hope to have from God. But then what are supposed to do with what follows?

"I will give signs in the heavens and on the earth—blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood before the great and dreadful day of the LORD comes."

What in the world?

What are we supposed to do with words like this? Why does any of that have to be part of the promise? Why does their have to be bad stuff at all? Why the suffering? Why the pain? Why does any of the *Day of the LORD* have to be "dreadful"?

Well consider that, for Joel and the people listening to him, the single most important event in their faith history is the Exodus. The plagues were all horrible. And before crossing the Red Sea, the nation was led by a column of smoke during the day and a column of fire by night. They were led by signs of God: things that indicated that, not only God is in charge, but that God is *WITH* them. God gave Moses signs that showed God had sent him and was with him. The people were given signs that showed God had not forgotten them.

Y'all, that's true for us now, right now. There are signs all around us that God has not forgotten us nor the promise God made to us. There are signs all around us that the nightmare we might feel like we're living through is not the final word on God's dreams for us. What precedes the dream can be frightening but is ultimately powerless. Those gods are ultimately powerless. Thanks be to God.

Hymnal Dedication

We thank God for the gift of music and verse! For instruments and voices and hearts that render songs and give voice to the very praise of God. As we dedicate these new hymnals, we acknowledge the memories these songs engender, the people who inspired their purchase, and the hearts that will employ these hymnals now and into our future.

Song of Reflection

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" GTG #275

Offering

God chooses to love us, abundantly. We should respond by choosing to be loving, abundantly. This is why we should give and share what we have and who we are. Let us reflect together on what has been given...

(10am only) Offertory

"Glorify Thy Name" by Donna W. Adkins; Piano
Soloist: Erin Fahey

(10am only) Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessing

(text is for the ONLINE service)

Let there be no doubt, Great God: you love us. And we are grateful. Let there be no doubt, Great God: we should be loving in turn. As we receive the gifts you provide, may the gifts we are meant to be emerge. In the great name of Jesus Christ, we pray this together. Amen.

Prayers of the People

- Say: The Lord be with you...and also with you. Let us pray...
- *"Come, Bring Your Burdens to God"* GTG #851
Come, bring your burdens to God
Come, bring your burdens to God
Come, bring your burdens to God
For Jesus will never say no. (2X)

- Holy God, when life feels desperate, feels hopeless, it can be hard to believe your best is yet to come. When we see evil prospering around us, notions like mercy, forgiveness and charity can ring hollow. But our strength isn't based on what we can do. Our strength comes from you and what you can do. Our hopes don't rest in what we can make happen. Our hopes rest with you. Even when our hearts feel homeless and our minds feel lost, we can always find our way home with you. Thank you for the giving of your Spirit and the efforts you yet make to write your will and love on our hearts. Thank you for thinking it's worth it to raise us up. Thank you for not letting go of us no matter what. Thank you for changing the rules whenever necessary and not waiting for us to be on board. And thank you for wanting us to be on board.
- As we think about what comes next, think about our futures, help us, Lord, please remember how good you've been to us and how you bless us presently. Let us interpret the future with the sure knowledge of your compassion and growing expectations. Take our love to the next level, God. Take our mercy to the next level. Take our knowledge, our courage, our sense of right and wrong, our urge to help, our hunger for your ways to the next level.
- Thus, let us be Godly people. Let us make a habit of compassion and consolation. Let us make second nature your grace and mercy and sense of justice. Let us set aside safety and embrace risk-taking with you. May your healing balm reach through us to those around us, especially those on our prayer lists and those we will come to know. Help us love and give love. Help us value mercy as you do. Despite our collective answer of violence, of disdain, of division, of cynicism, to your love, may we truly be washed by you and embrace hope instead...(take time to name your own prayers)
- Thank you for believing in us, Thank you for transforming us. Thank you for teaching us, even how to pray when words fail us, saying,
- **Pray: 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.

Hymn of Sending

(10am) "Now Thank We All Our God" GTG #643

Sending & Benediction

Let us say together our benediction...

***What precedes the dream can be frightening
but is ultimately powerless.***

(raise your hands and say) "Get up, take heart,
Jesus is still calling you..."; Go, and the peace of
God which surpasses all understanding guide your
hearts and minds this day and forever more. Amen!

Sing: "Show Me Your Ways" by Russell Forager
**Show me Your ways that I may walk with You,
Show me Your ways, I put my hope in You.
The cry of my heart is to love you more,
To live with the touch of your hand,
Stronger each day, show me Your ways.**

(10am only) Postlude

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr. Victor Labenske
