

OCTOBER 25: REFORMATION SUNDAY

The Barmen Declaration

The Theological Declaration of Barmen, drafted by theologians Karl Barth and Hans Asmussen, is in the Book of Confessions—one of only three additions to the book made in the 20th century.



In 1934, representatives of Germany's Protestant churches gathered in Wuppertal, Barmen, and wrote a letter to the German people on the unity of the church and its freedom in Jesus Christ. We remember this modest text because of its situation—it accused the official church of Nazi Germany, the Reichskirche, of error.

Antisemitic and nationalistic sentiments inside German Christendom had been stoked during the period of celebration in 1917 of the 400th anniversary of Luther's Theses. By 1933, a movement of Protestants called *Deutsche Christen*, which sought to further align the churches with Nazi ideology, had taken control of Germany's pan-church assembly.

The Theological Declaration Concerning the Present Situation of the German Church, without naming the Nazis, holds that the *Führerprinzip* is incompatible with Christianity (Book of Confessions, 8.12), it avers that the Church does not orient itself based on "prevailing ideologies and political convictions" (8.18), and, at its most forceful, it says: "We reject the false doctrine, as though the State, over and beyond its special commission, should and could become the single and totalitarian order of human life, thus fulfilling the Church's vocation as well" (8.23).

In preparing a new Book of Confessions for the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in 1965 and 1966, the General Assembly's Committee of Fifteen selected Barmen to represent modern Christendom.

Few German Protestants opposed the Nazis. Only about 10 percent of German ministers were members of the Confessing Church. And the drafters made clear that Barmen was a theological document, not a political one. Wilhelm Niemöller—brother of Martin Niemöller, a Barmen drafter known for his text "First They Came"—wrote in 1956: "The confessing Church has never, neither during Hitler's reign nor afterwards, made a point of being understood as a 'resistance movement,' or as an 'opposition,' or as a 'front.' It wanted to witness the one Word in our world and time."



The banner representing Barmen was designed by the duo Avery and Marsh, better known for their musical theater and hymns. It shows the swastika struck through and the cross rising.



For more Reformation Sunday resources, visit www.pcusa.org/rf



The Celebration of Worship

October 25, 2026 • Reformation Sunday

Worship Team

Guest Preacher:

Sue Goodwin

Worship Leader:

Judy Fukuman

Pianist:

Janet Hill

Choir Conductor:

Ben Pryor

Japanese Reader:

Aki Kumagai

Y.E.S. & Keiki:

Cathy Nishizaki, Luyan Tang

Centering Prayer for Worship

Lord, we come to you with all kinds of worries and distractions. Please help us to lay those aside so that we can focus more fully on You. Fill us with Your peace and strength. Thank You for Your promise in Scripture that if we draw near to You, You will draw near to us. (James 4:8). We lift up our hearts and this time of worship to You, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Prelude

Janet Hill

*Introit

All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.

Welcome and Announcements

Sue Goodwin

* Those who can, please stand

Call to Worship

Judy Fukuman

Leader: We gather to worship the One who is the True Vine, and we are the branches.

People: Connected to God, we come to bear good fruit.

Leader: Hear the word of Christ: "As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love."

People: Teach us how to stay connected, Lord, so that our joy may be complete.

Leader: Come, let us abide in God's love and worship together in spirit and truth.

*Opening Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (# 464)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun
above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of
doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of
day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee; earth and heaven reflect
Thy rays; stars and angels sing around Thee, center of
unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery
meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call
us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Invitation to Confession

Judy Fukuman

Leader: Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."
Remembering that God called us before we ever turned toward
God, let's lay down our burdens and confess our sins in
humility and faith.

*Response: "Shalom"

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom,
Kami no mi megumi.** (*Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace,
peace, may we be blessed with grace from God.*)

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom
yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani.** (*Peace, peace, until we meet
again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly, abundantly.*)

In Appreciation:

Greeters:

Maurine Huang, Maria Mar

Ushers:

Terri Bowman, Julie Chew

Parking:

Russ Hart

Sound System:

Dave McGill

Zoom Moderator/Greeter:

Lori Hart

Altar Flowers:

Russ & Lori Hart



Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer Congregation

All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

***Sending Hymn: "Take My Life" (#391)**

Sing verses 1, 2, 3, 5, 6.

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee, swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing, always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee, filled with messages from Thee.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

***Benediction**

Sue Goodwin

Prayer of Confession

Judy Fukuman

Leader: Almighty God, You chose us for a life of purpose and joy, but we confess we often wander down our own paths.

People: We remain silent when we should speak; we stay comfortable when we should act.

Leader: Forgive us for doubting Your choice in us, and for failing to live as citizens of Your kingdom.

All: Please renew our joy, sustain our branches, and keep us faithful to Your call. Amen.

A Time for Silent Contemplation

This time of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Assurance of God's Grace

Judy Fukuman

Leader: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Christ has laid down His life for you. By His grace, you are made clean. Rise up and bear fruit in His name!

All: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God hymnal)

All Sing: Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

Judy Fukuman

Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children's Message

Sue Goodwin

***Hymn of Reflection: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” (#438)**

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our
fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Unison Prayer of Guidance

**All: Now may the words of our mouths, the meditations
of our hearts, the interpretation of our minds, and the
response of our hands be acceptable to You, our Lord and
our Redeemer. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese)

Aki Kumagai

*This first reading is recited in Japanese to honor our church founders, who
established this church in 1912 in the original Japantown of Sacramento.*

Psalm 34:17-18

Is anyone crying for help? God is listening, ready to rescue you.
God is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are
crushed in spirit.

2nd Scripture Reading

Judy Fukuman

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your
own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge God, and
God will make your paths straight.

Sermon and 3rd Scripture Reading

Sue Goodwin

“Connecting to the Vine” John 15:1-5

Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He
removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that
bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already
been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as
I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it
abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the
vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them
bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Musical Interlude

Janet Hill

Opportunity To Present Offerings Megan & Kaya Toyama

**All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the
Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ,
God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, “I am
strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich” because of what the
Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.**

***Doxology**

**All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God
all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly
host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Judy Fukuman

Joys & Concerns

Judy Yee