

The Approach to God

Prelude

Call to Worship

by Rev. Ann B. Day

The heavens are telling the glory of God!

Day to day and night to night, unending is their silent speech of beauty and wonder.

How shall we join their joyful witness?

With words that proclaim God's inclusive love, with words that bring for God's powerful justice, with words that rejoice in God's wondrous presence, now and always, Amen!

*Opening Hymn

In the Midst of New Dimensions

verses 1, 2, and 5

Prayer of Confession

God, who made us in your image, we have sometimes blurred the you in us:

Teach us to love ourselves as you love us.

Allow us to show your image to the world.

Help us to see your image in all those we meet.

Teach us to conserve and protect all your creation.

God, who made us in your image, forgive, bless, protect, and keep all your children safe in your love.

Assurance of Pardon

Thanks be to God!

Affirming our Baptism and Sharing the Peace of Christ

* Hymn Response

When Peace Like a River

verses 1 & 2

The Service of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Galatians 3:25-28

Sermon

The You God Baptized

Rev. Renee House

*Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

1. *Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak but he is
strong!*

*Refrain:
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

2. *Jesus loves me, He will stay
Close beside me all the way.
He's prepared a home for me
And someday His face I'll see!
Refrain*

3. *Jesus loves us, room for all
Let us listen to His call.
Lesbian, bi, trans and gay
We are in the RCA!
Refrain*

The Response to God

Welcome and a Word about the Offering

Rev. Lou Lotz

Offertory Solo

Jesus, the Savior Divine

by Tim Sheppard

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ all creatures here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore.

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Liturgist: Blessed God, You are above us, beneath us, beside us, within us. You have baptized us as your own beloved.

We praise you.

(Pulpit side) We thank you for the sanctity of our bodies, the miracle that we are. May we always look at ourselves with tenderness. May we honor the temple in which you dwell.

We thank you.

(Lectern side) We celebrate our uniqueness, our worth as your own. We are your prophets and clowns, your dreamers, your sages and your mystics. We are your beloved community, black, white, and all hues in between; we are lesbian, gay, bi, trans, questioning, queer or

straight. We find expression as male, female, or gender-fluid. We are single, we are partnered. In all, we are yours.

We thank you.

(Pulpit side) We pray for those who cannot love themselves as they are loved; for those who experience rejection or violence, for those who are afraid or lonely. Send your Spirit to fill them with hope and pride in themselves.

We entreat you.

(Lectern side) Give us grace to lift them up, to stand with them, to empower them to claim their place as your own well-loved people.

We entreat you.

Liturgist: Lead us on our journey, O God, that we may follow in trust. Companion us, that we may walk without fear. Equip us, that we might share your love with those on the way. Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Oh How I Love Jesus

verses 1-3

***Benediction
Postlude**

** You may stand in body or spirit*

Worship Leaders

Reverend Renee House - Conference Preacher

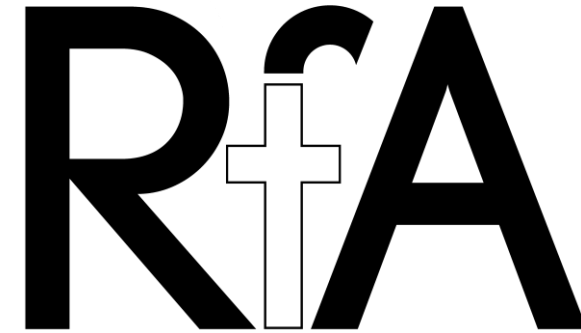
Reverend Paige Convis - Liturgist

Deb Tiemens - Soloist, RfA Board Member

Cameron Van Kooten - Liturgist, RfA Community Coordinator

Carl Haan - Music Leader, RfA Board Member

We give back to Central Reformed Church by designating our offering for Addie's Pantry, one of Central's signature ministries. Serving over 200 families every month, the demand on Addie's pantry has become so great that facilities and resources are strained. Space is being added to the pantry, and a new industrial sized refrigerator/freezer is needed. Your generous donations will help make that happen!



**Making Room for All
From Sorrow to Celebration**

Opening Worship
Friday October 23, 2015