

Confirmation Week 14 Homework Assignment (1/18/23)

Theme of the Week: Worship and the Reformed Church

This week we continued our examination of the Church. We talked about churches as worshipping communities that come together to celebrate God. We also spent time talking about our church as part of the “Reformed” branch of Christianity, meaning that we are *reformata, semper reformanda* (“reformed and always reforming” in English). That means that our church is ever-changing; we grow according to how we think God is calling us!

Complete these two activities to explore this idea further.

ACTIVITY #1: Worship

- 1.) Attend this week’s worship service at First Pres, either in-person or online. Bring or print out the bulletin from it, and copy the order of worship below (all of the things we do, like the “Call to Worship,” the “Sermon,” and the “Charge and Benediction”).

There are four parts of our worship service. The service starts with the “Preparation for the Word,” then moves into the “Proclamation of the Word,” then “Response to the Word,” and finally “Sending.” The whole service revolves around our reading of scripture and the sermon that tells us what it means for us now.

Where you just wrote the order of worship on the previous page, try to guess where each of these four sections begins and ends, and bracket them.

ACTIVITY #2: Reformed and Always Reforming

Part of what makes us unique as a church is that we are always listening to how God is calling us to grow and change over time. If you went to a service at our church 150 years ago, it would look *very different* than it does today. That is because we evolve and let the Holy Spirit move through our church. Answer the following questions in at least 4 sentences.

Do you think change is good in a church? Is it better to have a church that never changes at all, or one that changes all the time?

As you just participated in a First Pres worship service and see how our church works and what we do, what are three things you would want to change about the church?