



### **Grain**

One mistake we make with trust “is thinking we have arrived. We constantly are building and working on it.”  
Former Madison Police Chief Noble Wray

### **Field**

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Selah) 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (Selah) 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. 10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. (Selah) Psalm 46

### **Thoughts**

In a recent interview, Noble Wray briefly discussed a program he started to help police officers develop positive relationships with their communities. He said that trust was key and talked about building confidence through listening to one another and ensuring that everyone had a voice. But trust can be illusive. It is something to be built with every interaction, and we never arrive, Wray pointed out. That’s true in other types of relationships and areas in life, isn’t it?

Approaching Reformation Sunday, we may want to look back at the powerful, world-changing 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation and think that was that. There is no need for any more reforms within our denominations or in how we engage as a public church. But our lives are dynamic, not static. Just when we take trust in a relationship for granted we may recognize that relationship needs more attention. Upon resting in our success overcoming one problem, a new challenge appears.

Never arriving. Always having more to do. That sounds tiring, especially when reading the news and wondering about how to be a part of the many reforms needed in society. However, there is another place where we will never arrive – a place of perfection. By grace, Martin Luther realized that he would not achieve the sort of sinless state he once thought he needed to be worthy of God’s love. He didn’t then fall into quietism and do nothing, but gave up gritting his teeth trying to be sufficient for God as his norm. Being dynamic rather than static does not mean we have to be anxiety-driven.

Reformation Sunday reminds us that within the noise of our world and the echoing of voices telling us what we have to produce to justify ourselves, we are called to rest in God as our refuge and strength. Be still and know who is our God, our starting and returning place for reform. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy