

Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday

November 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

[Jesus said] "...for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

John 18:37

### ***Greeting and Welcome***

***Prelude Music*** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" arr. G. Norian. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

***Choral Introit*** "He Giveth More Grace" Annie H. Flint. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

### ***Call to Worship***

Come, let us celebrate the goodness of God.

**God has blessed us with God's great love.**

Let us come to this time, letting go of our worries.

**Let us come to this time praising God.**

Come, now is the time to worship.

**We come rejoicing, for God is so good to us.**

### ***Opening Prayer***

**We come this day, rejoicing, in the presence of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. At his birth the angels proclaimed his name to be Emmanuel, God with us. Today in this place, in this time of worship, may we truly feel the power and presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. May our hearts and spirits be warmed and challenged to proclaim with our lives, "Christ is Lord!" Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise*** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" UMH #327. Words: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, and Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903. Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne,  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.**

2. Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save.

His glories now we sing,  
who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace,  
whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
and all be prayer and praise.

His reign shall know no end,  
and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of paradise extend  
their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love;  
behold his hands and side,  
those wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.

All hail, Redeemer, hail!

For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail  
throughout eternity.

#### *Prayer of Confession*

Merciful God, we confess that far too often we do not want a savior who is a king. We would prefer Jesus to be subject to us, rather than the other way around. We are not keen for a redeemer who has any claims on us and certainly not one who makes demands of us. We have our own plans and agendas, after all. We are happy for Jesus to rubberstamp them for us, but a savior who is a king to whom we owe allegiance and obedience? No thanks. Forgive our foolishness, O God! Forgive our arrogance and selfishness. We know that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from you, but we are forgetful, rebellious and stubborn. Thank you for not giving up on us. We ask for forgiveness and restoration, not because of anything we have or have not done, but only for the sake of Christ the King. Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor: Through the crucified body and blood of Christ the King, we have been given a pardon from God. "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14). Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, proclaiming Jesus as Lord of all. Amen.

**Anthem** "We Praise You, O God" arr. Carolyn Jennings. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

## **Gospel Reading** John 18:33-38 NRSV

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

The word of God for the people of God

## **Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** "What Is Truth?" Rev. Matthew B. Sergent

**Hymn** "Jesus Shall Reign" UMH #157. Words: Isaac Watts, 1719. Music: John Hatton, 1793. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**2. To Jesus endless prayer be made,  
and endless praises crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.**

**3. People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;**

and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns;  
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise and bring  
honors peculiar to our King;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen!

*Prayers of the People*

*Giving of our Tithes and Offerings*

*Offertory* "Now Thank We All Our God" Arr: J. M. Michel. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

*Doxology* UMH #94 Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Praise God all creatures here below!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Sending Forth Hymn* "Now Thank We All Our God" UMH #102. Words: Martin Rinkart; Trans. by Catherine Winkworth. Music: Johann Crüger; Harm. by Felix Mendelssohn. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.

1. Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

**2. O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us still in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed;  
and free us from all ills,  
in this world and the next.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.**

***Benediction***

***Postlude*** "Toccata Brevis" arr: D. Gawthrop. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*