

**REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY  
GATHERING**

**Announcements**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

We light the paschal candle on this last Sunday of the season to remind us that light has not gone out of the world.

**It continues to burn brightly against the darkness.**

**Call to Worship**

God dreams that we can love one another in a world where political realities no longer stand between us.

**We dream of open doors where the rich and the poor go in and out freely.**

God has promised that milk and honey will full freely than power and money.

**We will walk together, in spite of age, culture and race, to change the way we live**

**We believe that God makes all dreams come true.**

**A Prayer for the Reign of Christ VU #214**

Mighty and tender God,  
voice of the voiceless,  
power of the powerless:  
we praise you for your vision  
of a community of wholeness,  
a realm of peace,  
in which all who hunger and thirst are nourished,  
in which the stranger is welcomed,  
the hurting are healed,  
and the captive set free.

Guide us by your truth and love,  
until we and all your people  
make manifest your reign of justice and compassion.

We pray in the name of your anointed one, our servant-king,  
to whom with you and the Spirit, one Holy God,  
be honour, glory and blessing  
this day and forever. Amen.

## Opening Hymn #339 **When Morning Gilds the Sky**

1 When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awakening cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
When evening shadows fall,  
this rings my curfew call:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

2 To God, the Word on high,  
the hosts of angels cry:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let mortals, too, upraise  
their voice in hymns of praise:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

3 Let all of humankind,  
in this their concord find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Be this, while life is mine,  
my canticle divine:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this th'eternal song,  
through all the ages long:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Giver of dreams and visions, we confess that we do not always reflect Your ways in our lives. We pass up opportunities everyday to create a more inclusive, just and peaceful world. Give us courage to face today's challenges filled with a vision of Your reign. Amen

## **Assurance of Pardon**

God is always ready to hear our prayers.

**God's readiness to forgive us is greater than ours to be forgiven.**

God's gift of love is offered freely and without condition.

**We will forgive one another in Christ name. Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn #820 **Make a Joyful Noise**

Chorus: Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Worship your God with gladness.  
Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Come to this place with a song!

1. Know that your God has made you.  
Know its to God we belong.  
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.  
Worship your God with a song!

2. Enter these gates with thanksgiving,  
And into these courts with praise:  
Sing thanks to your God and bless the Holy name.  
Worship your God with a song!

3. Ages through endless ages,  
Seasons of endless years,  
The love of our Maker ever shall endure,  
Worship your God with a song!

## **Children's Time**

**Song: I just want to be a sheep**

Chorus: I just wanna be a sheep  
Baa, baa, baa, baa  
I just wanna be a sheep  
Baa, baa, baa, baa  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep  
I just wanna be a sheep  
Baa, baa, baa, baa,

1: Don't wanna be a goat...nope  
Don't wanna be a goat...nope  
Haven't got any hope...nope  
Don't wanna be a goat...nope

2: Don't wanna be a hypocrite  
Don't wanna be a hypocrite  
'Cause they're not hip to it  
Don't wanna be a hypocrite

3: Don't wanna be a Pharisee  
Don't wanna be a Pharisee

'Cause they're not fair you see  
Don't wanna be a Pharisee

4: Don't wanna be a Sadducee  
Don't wanna be a Sadducee  
'Cause they're so sad you see  
Don't wanna be a Sadducee

5: Just wanna be a child of God  
Just wanna be a child of God  
Walkin' the same path He trod  
Just wanna be a child of God

## **The Word of God**

### **Ezekiel 34: 11-16**

#### **God the True Shepherd**

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

### **Ezekiel 34: 20-24**

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

### **Matthew 25; 31-46**

#### **The Judgement of the Nations**

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, \* you did it to me." <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

**Message: “*Life under God’s rule*”**

**We Respond to God's Word**

**Offertory**

**Offertory Song: We Are an Offering**

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
Lord use our voices  
Lord use our hands  
Lord use our lives they are Yours  
We are an offering

All that we have  
All that we are  
All that we hope to be  
We give to You  
We give to You

**Offertory Prayer**

**The Prayers of the People**

**The Prayer of Jesus (The Lord’s Prayer)**

**Closing Hymn #681 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear your words of life again.
2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,  
from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
we catch the vision of your tears.
- 1.
3. The cup of water given for you  
still holds the freshness of your grace;  
yet long these multitudes to view  
the sweet compassion of your face.
4. O Jesus, from the mountain side,  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide,  
and tread the city's streets again;
5. Till all the world, shall learn your love,  
and follow where your feet have trod;  
till glorious from your heaven above,  
shall come the city of our God.

**Commissioning**

**Blessing**

**Musical Postlude**