

November 21, 2021
Reign of Christ / Christ the King Sunday

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (in a setting of J.S. Bach's prelude in D major)
by George Elvey, Arr. by Cindy Berry

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

The God of Israel calls to us;

has made an everlasting covenant with us.

The Spirit of the Lord calls to us;

giving us strength and courage to live in truth.

Christ our King calls to us;

to be a nation of priests, serving God by serving the world.

Hymn VU 213 "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

Rejoice the Lord is King!

Your risen Lord adore!

Rejoice, give thanks and sing

and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:

rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns,

the God of truth and love;

when he had purged our sins,

he took his seat above.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:

rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail;

Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;

the keys of death and hell

are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:

rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope,

for Christ, the judge, shall come

to glorify the saints

for their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;

the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

God of power and love, you raised Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory, to rule over all creation. Yet we fail to recognize the legitimacy of His rule. We incite hatred, oppress one another, terrorize one another, war with one another. Free the world to live in His love, to glory in His justice, and to rejoice in His peace. Unite all humankind in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5U4IMtvp6bg>

Responsive Reading: Psalm 132

O God, remember David and all the hardships he endured,

**how he swore an oath to you,
a promise to the Mighty One of Jacob.**

'I will not enter my house, nor will I climb into my bed,
I will not give sleep to my eyes, not even let my eyelids droop

**until I find a place for God,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.'**

At Ephrathah we heard God's ark was there;
we found it in the region of Jaar.

**'Let us approach the place where the Most High rests,
let us kneel in worship at God's footstool.'**

Arise, O God, and enter your resting-place,
you and your mighty ark.

**Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;
let your faithful people shout for joy.**

For your servant David's sake, do not reject your Anointed.

**You made a sure promise to David,
a promise that will never be revoked:**

'One of your own children I will set upon your throne.

**And if they in turn keep my covenant,
the teaching that I give them,
their descendants too shall sit on your throne
in succession for ever.'**

God has chosen Zion, God desired it for a home:

**'Here I will rest for ever;
here I will dwell, for it is my delight.**

I will bless the city with abundant food,
and satisfy its poor with bread.

**I will clothe its priests with salvation;
its faithful people will rejoice and sing.**

There I will make a branch sprout for David;

I will prepare a lamp for my Anointed.

**His enemies I will clothe with shame,
but on his head the crown will sparkle.'**

Hymn VU 314 “Come Now, Almighty King” to tune 313 Moscow

Come now, almighty King,
help us your name to sing, help us to praise;
one God all glorious, ever victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come now, incarnate Son,
your life in us begun, our prayer attend;
come, and your people bless,
 come, give your word success;
stablish your righteousness, Saviour and friend!

Come holy Comforter,
your sacred witness bear in this glad hour;
your grace to us impart, now rule in every heart,
never from us depart, Spirit of power!

To the great One in Three,
eternal praises be for evermore;
your sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore!

Scripture: John 18:33-37

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ 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?” ³⁶ 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.” ³⁷ 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.”

*The other lectionary readings for this week are: **2 Samuel 23:1-7; Revelation 1:4b-8.** You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James – KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Meditation: “Not Of, But In”

Hymn VU 480 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.
 When I fall down on my knees
 with my face to the rising sun,
 Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Truly it is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. You fashioned this world in love, and govern all the earth with grace and peace. Nations and monarchs rise and fall, but your reign is for all time, and your mercy is without end. In love you made us to love and serve you. When we turned from you and bent our knees to gods of our own making, you spoke through the prophets to bring us back to your ways. You gave us a vision of your holy dominion that we might hunger after righteousness and thirst for justice, and long for the day when peace will triumph over the pride and greed of the nations. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the servants around heaven's throne and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born as king in David's line, he lived with the lowly and cared for the least of your children. His power was revealed in weakness, his majesty in mercy. His captors knelt to mock him, giving him bruises instead of praise, and piercing thorns for a crown. His only earthly throne was a cross on which to die. Even there his arms stretched out to embrace friends and foes in love. From the grave you raised him to your right hand where he rules again from heaven, and commands true loyalty from peoples and nations.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation, and the work of our hands, this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread that we break and the cup that we bless this may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit united us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

At this time, we also remember all those with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for your church that it may live out the mission you have given it. This week we pray especially for Bothwell – Wabash Pastoral Charge and their minister the Rev. Annalee Kerr. We pray for the nations as they strive for peace and justice, especially this week we pray for East Timor, Indonesia, and the Philippines..... We pray for all who grieve, especially the friends and family of David Gill, Lorne Scott, and Anne Smith for all who are ill, especially we think of Cecil Jenkins and Marlene Smith..... and their families and loved ones and caregivers and for those known only in the silence of our hearts.....Lead us, O God, to conform this world to your dominion of love, justice, and peace. Help us to live as you desire: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, our God. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal dominion. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

We continue praying, saying the words that Jesus, Lord of Lords and Prince of Peace taught us, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Prayer following Communion

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your dominion, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

VST professor, Jason Byasee says, "every gift we have is not for us, but through us." By which he means that every gift, talent, skill, and material and financial resource we have are gifted to us by God not for our benefit alone, but so that we may share them with others.

It doesn't seem like much, God. The need in the world today is so great, and we are so few. But you, Lord, have taught us that what we see as small gestures are really big things. May these small gifts give birth to wonderful, holy possibilities. Amen.

Hymn MV 154 "Deep In Our Hearts"

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Commissioning and Benediction

Now may the one who was, and is, and is to come,
**nurture and protect us, guide and strengthen us
to live God's truth in this world.**

May it be so.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 974 "Amen" x2

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Postlude: "Break Thou the Bread of Life" (in a setting of J.S. Bach's Prelude in C)
William F. Sherwin, arr. by Cindy Berry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorchester:

Union:

The Reopening Task Group is asking for volunteers to help take attendance each week. A list of attendees names and contact info would be already in a binder, the volunteer would need to check the list and record the attendance date. Please let Lynne Winter or Heather Schneider know if you are willing to help.

The Christmas Shoppe will be happening again this year. They are looking for donations of items or money as well as volunteers to help when the Shoppe is open. If you are able to volunteer, please let Pat Palmer know. 519-764-2368 (leave a message)

The Shoppe will be open: Tuesday Nov. 30, Wednesday Dec. 1, Thursday Dec. 2, and Friday Dec. 3.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day and also 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the Tuesday.

Donations may be delivered to the gym of First United Church on

Sunday, Nov. 28 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

OR bring to Union Church before Nov 28 and Roberta will deliver them.

Send monetary donations to: Sandra Taylor, Treasurer,

24 Caldwell St. St. Thomas, ON N5R 5J2

ALL:

The COVID-19 crisis won't end for anyone until it ends for everyone. And in some parts of the world, no end is in sight. Our Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reports that out of all the vaccines administered around the world, less than 2 percent reached Africa and less than 7 percent reached South America. Many countries in the Global South and East won't even be able to start a vaccine program until 2022. If this continues, these countries won't reach vaccination goals until 2024...if ever. For just \$25, you can save a life by providing a full vaccination to someone in the world who needs one. [Make a gift today!](https://giftswithvision.ca/products/pay-it-forward)

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Scripture Readings for next week:

(November 28, 2021, First of Advent, year C)

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36