

**Sunday November 24, 2024
Reign of Christ Sunday**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Jesus Shall Reign" John Halton. Arr. by Cindy Berry

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

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 314 "Come Now, Almighty King" Words: anonymous 18th C, as in George Whitfield's Collection of Hymns.
Music: anonymous, as in Samuel Sebastian Wesley's European Psalmist
Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Come now, almighty King,
help us your name to sing,
help us to praise;
one God al 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
forevermore;
your sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore!

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, wage 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.

Ministry of Music: “Take Now My Voice” Words and Music: Douglas Nolan

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn MV 154 “Deep in Our Hearts” Words: John Oldham, 1995. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1996.
 Words © 1995 John Wesley Oldham. Music © 1996 Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com.
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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.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God’s Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 132 VU 854-855

Arise, O God, make this the place wherein your name shall dwell.

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 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.

Arise, O God, make this the place wherein your name shall dwell.

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.

Arise, O God, make this the place wherein your name shall dwell.

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 teachings 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.**

Arise, O God, make this the place wherein your name shall dwell.

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 clothe with shame,
but on his head the crown will sparkle.”**

Arise, O God, make this the place wherein your name shall dwell.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 The Last Words of David

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me;
his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken;
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

“One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.”

Is not my house like this with God?

For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away,
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

The other readings for this week are: **Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37**

Meditation: “Endings and Beginnings”

Hymn VU 341 “Fairest Lord Jesus” Words: from the German. Translated by Church Chorals and Choir Studies.

Music: Silesian folk melody in Schlesische Volkslieder. Words, Translation and Music in the Public Domain.

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down:
thee will I cherish, thee will I honour,
thou my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes my troubled heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and fair the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.

All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly,
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
none can be nearer, fairer or dearer
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

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. Let us share through our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Hymn VU 218 “We Praise You, O God” Words: Julia Cory, 1902. Music: Netherlands melody, 1626.

Harmonized by Edward Kresmer. Words, Music and Harmonization in the Public Domain.

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayer of Dedication

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. May these gifts help birth the Kingdom of God into being, here on earth as in heaven. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, last Advent you prepared our hearts to receive your Son, and at Christmas he arrived. It has taken us a year of listening to stories, listening with our hearts, contemplation, prayer and worship to arrive at the realization of who Jesus is for us – King. Not a king interested in colonizing the world, or ruling with an iron fist, but a king interested in building relationships with each and every one of us. A king who seeks what is best for each, and for all. A king of love, of justice, of peace, and of joy.

We pray for your church, that it may share a vision of your justice and peace, the Kingdom of God, with all, knowing that this will be welcome news to some, and will incite hatred and anger in others. This week we pray expressly for Blenheim United Church, a congregation without a building of their own, and their spiritual leader, the Rev. Wanda Burse.

We pray for the leaders of this world, many of whom believe that they are God. Grant them wisdom and compassion that they may lead as you would lead. We pray especially for the people of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore this week.

We pray for all who mourn a loss, especially the friends and family of Donna Harrison.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering, especially we pray for Anita, Christa, Curt, Erin, and Ernie Reid, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All of these prayers we gather together and offer them, in the name of our Lord, Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn VU 211 “Crown Him with Many Crowns” Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851. vs 2 Godfrey Thring, 1874.

Music: George Job Elvey 1868. Words and Music in the Public Domain.

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.

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.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Commissioning

As we go into the world, we go remembering God's holy vision,
a kingdom where God rules with justice and righteousness.
As we go into the world, we go remembering that it is we
who are charged with sharing that vision with all we meet,
and with working to make that vision a reality, here on earth as in heave.
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.

Response: VU 961 "Let us, O God, Depart in Peace" George Whelpton. In the Public Domain
Let us, O God, depart in peace, who in your name are gathered here.
Disclose the brightness of your face, and be forever near.

Postlude: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Oliver Holden. Arr. by Melody Bober

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dorchester United Church is invited to join with St. Peter's Anglican Church for a service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m.

ADVENT STUDY: *Wednesdays at 2 p.m., December 4, 11, 18. The study is from the group Prayer Bench and focuses us on "Longing" during the season of Advent.*

We (St. Peter's Anglican and Dorchester United) would like to share the faith that is ours as Christians with the Dorchester community. We ask that you unpack all those nativity sets you have stored away and bring them to the church where we can display them in the lower hall. We will invite the community to come and see them for the cost of a donation of a non-perishable food item for the Dorchester Food Bank. Perhaps we could even set up our outdoor nativity, so people know where to go! Dropoffs can be Wednesday mornings 10-11 am, or Sunday mornings. The display will be open to the public Saturday, December 7, 12 to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, 1 to 3 p.m.

The Thames Centre Community Choir presents a Concert of Sacred and Secular Song of the Christmas Season at Thorndale United Church on Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m. Admission by donation.

Fishbowl: Cross-Generational Discussion. ARWRC is holding an online discussion between youth (teens to twenty-somethings) and elders (45+) to better understand one another and their context within the church. To learn more, go to <https://arwrcucc.ca/youth-and-elders-fishbowl-discussion/>

LECTIONARY READINGS:

December 1 – First of Advent – Year C – VU 998

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