

Service of Worship for Christ the King Sunday, November 21, 2021

Welcome

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Prelude “Festival Trumpet Tune” *David German*
“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” *John Longhurst*

Question of the Day Why does the liturgical church year begin next Sunday?

Hymn #190 *UMH* “Who Is He in Yonder Stall”

Call to Worship

Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come,
**and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.**
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of God’s glory.

Prayer of Invocation

Sovereign God, come to us now in silent, holy power. Still our distracted minds, our bruised hearts, our longing bodies. Then speak the power of Jesus’ name in such a way that we might hear it, in such a way that we might bear it into the world – as a people who seek not to preserve what we know but to make palpable who you are – for we move and pray by the gift of your breath within us. Amen.

Hymn #327 *UMH* “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

John 18:33-37 *New Revised Standard Version*

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.”

Revelation 1:4-8 *New Revised Standard Version*

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him; and on his account
all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Hymn #715 UMH “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

Do our lives reflect the love of God revealed in Jesus? Is the rule of Christ among us our central concern? Do we daily join in ministry, following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ? This is our call, and for which we must give account.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that sometimes we repel rather than attract others to the gospel. Pride and deceit fill our days more than grace and peace. We tire of doing good and being faithful to you. We turn away from your anointed one, questioning his role in history and his relevance for us. We admit that our inner faith battles are often the screen we use to keep from facing our sin, admitting our guilt, and seeking reconciliation. Open our eyes, heal our open wounds, and embrace us in your love that we might be forgiven.

Time of Silent Prayer

God is Alpha and Omega, the source and the ending of all that is and yet will be. God knows us. God loves us. God forgives us. Know that you belong to the truth that comes from God, and join with Jesus Christ our Lord as we pray:

The Lord’s Prayer

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. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day Why does the liturgical church year begin next Sunday?

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Song of Offering #587 UMH “Bless Thou the Gifts”

Offering Prayer

Holy God, you stand at the *beginning* and at the *end* of history – for you all time is *now*. Every day we have a chance to participate in the work you are doing in the world. By bringing our gifts each week, by offering our lives each day, we affirm our trust in your power which is beyond violence, beyond greed. We gladly offer who we are – and what we hold – in your service. Amen.

Sermon “Who Needs a King?” Rev. Joyce Rich

Commission and Blessing

Sisters and brothers, there is no greater joy in life, no greater freedom, than to offer our lives in service to God.

**Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.**

May the Lord God who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty,

be our strength, our hope, and our joy, this day and forevermore.
Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn #569 UMH “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

Announcements

Readings For Next Week: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:59-79

Postlude “Guide Us, Oh Thou Great Jehovah” *Rebecca to Velde*

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; and **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2015 Westminster John Knox Press.*