

Celebration of Worship

Christ the King Sunday

November 20, 2016

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thoughts for Reflection

“We talk about Christ controlling our lives, but in fact we do as we please.”

Robert Shannon

“Between a tyrant and martyr there is, of course, an enormous difference, although they both have one thing in common: the power to compel. The tyrant, himself ambitious to dominate, compels people through his power; the martyr, himself unconditionally obedient to God, compels others through his suffering. The tyrant dies and his rule is over; the martyr dies and his rule begins.”

Soren Kierkegaard

At God's Invitation We Gather

WELCOME AND GREETING

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* arr. Smith

OPENING SENTENCES

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (responsively) *Psalm 136:1, 4, 6, 25-26*

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,

For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Who alone does great wonders,

For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Who spreads out the earth on the waters,

For God's steadfast love endures forever.

Who gives food to all creatures.

For God's steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

For God's steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

* *Please stand, if you are able*

* PRAISE SONGS *You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)* Praise Team
Shine, Jesus, Shine

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINUTE FOR MISSION

God Speaks to Us through the Word

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Butterfly Song

Howard

Children's Choir

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

A King who serves!

Prayer

(Children in Preschool through 5th Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)

PRAYER OF BROKENNESS / CONFESSION (in unison)

God of Eternity, we confess that we have lived in one part of time and not another. We have lived in the now, or we have lived in the past, or we have lived in the future. We have lived to have pleasure and satisfaction now. We have longed for the “good old days” of the past. We have saved away everything for a future that we do not yet hold. Forgive us for only living in the present in thankfulness for the past or in gladness that the past is gone. Forgive us for simply going through the motions of living without mindfulness of our neighbors' needs or the ramification of our actions for the future. Forgive us for putting all our hope in what comes next instead of seeing the beauty of what's around us now.

Help us to live as “eternal” people, your children, who belong to heaven and earth, past, future and present. In the name of Jesus, who was and who is and who is to come, Almighty, Redeemer, and Sovereign of all, we pray. Amen.

BLESSING / ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus will not forget you. Jesus has loved you from before you were, and loves us long after we have walked the earth. God is the God of Abraham and Sarah, Rebekah and Isaac, of Jacob and Rachel and Leah. God is the God of the Living, the one who spoke to Moses through the burning bush and danced with Miriam after the people crossed the Red Sea. God is the God who speaks hope through the prophets and love through the person of Jesus. You are loved; you are forgiven; and you are part of the reign of God, now and throughout eternity. Amen.

Alleluia and Amen!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Jeremiah 23:1-6* p. 633

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Colossians 1:11-20* p. 956

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 23:33-42* p. 859

SERMON

Their God is My God!

Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst

We Respond as God's People

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

We affirm and celebrate Christ the King and Christ's Kingdom. Christ is a different kind of king, and his is a different kind of kingdom. Christ the King shows power through suffering love rather than overwhelming might. Christ the King draws to his side the least, the lowly, the outcast, and the vulnerable rather than those who have wealth and status. Christ the King calls for peace in place of violence, generosity instead of "getting ahead," compassion rather than selfish ambition. In his topsy-turvy kingdom, the last are first, the least are greatest, and enemies are loved. One day, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Let our knees be the first to bend and our voices first to proclaim that Christ the King is worthy to receive all glory and honor and praise, now and forevermore. Amen.

* HYMN *Lead On, O King Eternal* # 447

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Everybody Need a King Jesus!* Parker/Sorenson
Chancel Choir

SUNG RESPONSE *We Give Thee but Thine Own* # 428, v. 1

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

God Sends Us Out to Serve

* HYMN *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* # 142

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE *Finale in F* Widor