



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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November 26, 2023

*The Reign of Christ the King &
Reflections on Our Faith Journey*

() The congregation will please stand as able
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING

PRELUDE:

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

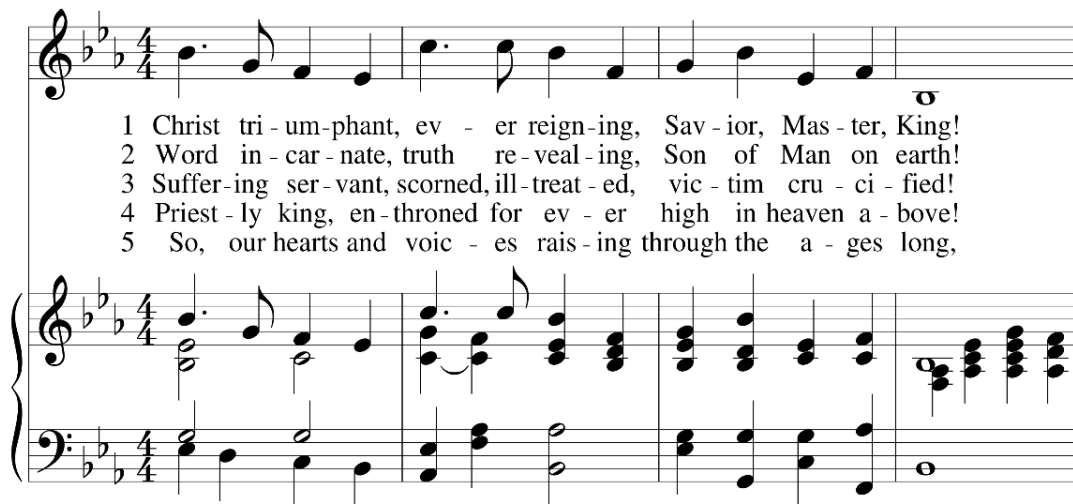
Around the world this day,
the universal church celebrates the “The Reign of Christ.”
Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful,
has been enthroned above all authority and power
in this world and in the world that is to come.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
serve the Lord with gladness
come into his presence with singing.**

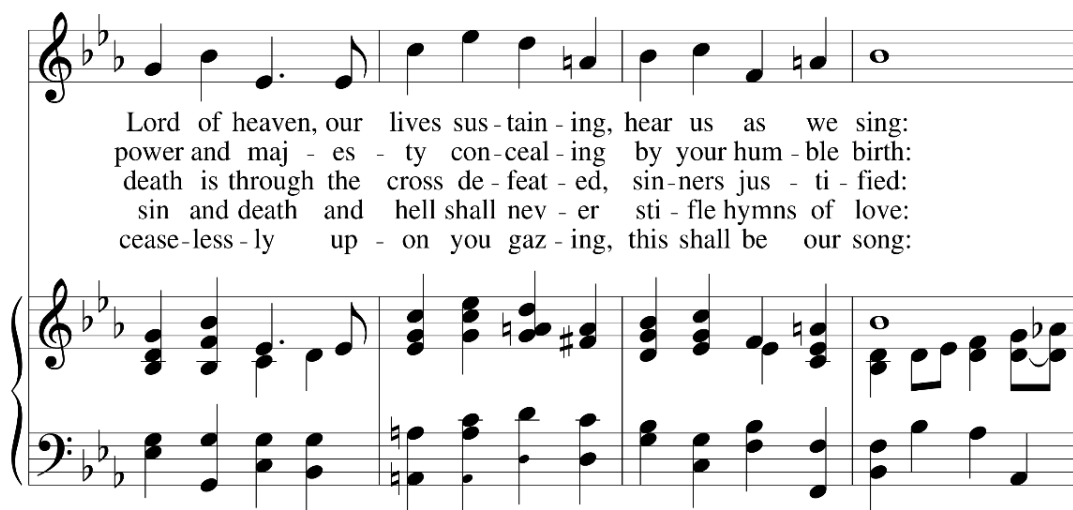
God has placed everything under Christ’s wounded feet,
appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns
as the supreme head of the church, his body.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
come into his courts with praise.**

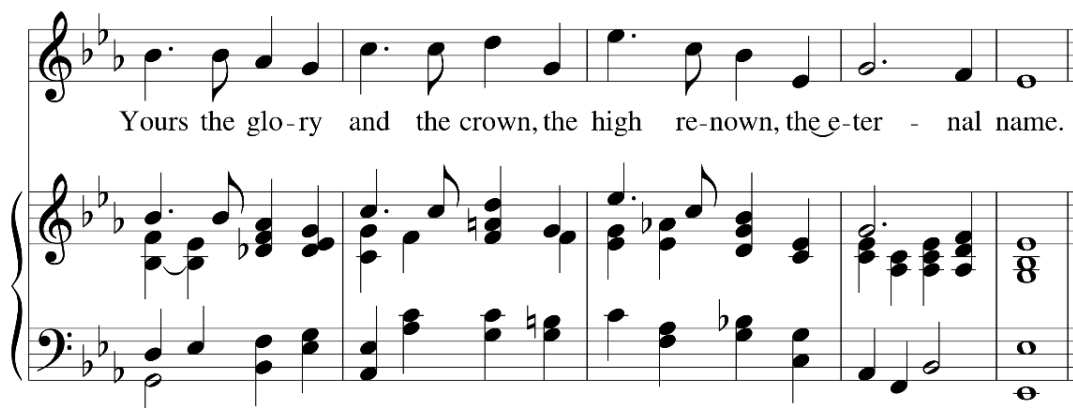
Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning 336



1 Christ tri - um - phant, ev - er reign - ing, Sav - ior, Mas - ter, King!
2 Word in - car - nate, truth re - veal - ing, Son of Man on earth!
3 Suffer - ing ser - vant, scorned, ill - treat - ed, vic - tim cru - ci - fied!
4 Priest - ly king, en - throned for ev - er high in heaven a - bove!
5 So, our hearts and voic - es rais - ing through the a - ges long,



Lord of heaven, our lives sus - tain - ing, hear us as we sing:
power and maj - es - ty con - ceal - ing by your hum - ble birth:
death is through the cross de - feat - ed, sin - ners jus - ti - fied:
sin and death and hell shall nev - er sti - fle hymns of love:
cease - less - ly up - on you gaz - ing, this shall be our song:



Yours the glo - ry and the crown, the high re - nown, the e - ter - nal name.

WORDS: Michael Seward (1932-)
MUSIC: John Barnard (1948-)

GUITING POWER
8.5.8.5.7.9.

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **

**We believe in God, Creator of all,
who is beyond all and in all,
whose love and power is unsearchable
and yet mysteriously present.**

**We place our trust in Jesus,
and not in any earthly authority;
for Jesus fully embodies the loving presence of God:
he taught and healed
and performed prophetic acts of mercy and justice.**

**In his life, death, and resurrection
he released God's infinite power for life and healing:
grace that is eternal,
free from all human authority, power, or expectation.**

**We live our lives by the grace of the Holy Spirit,
God's loving presence within and among us,
which makes us the church, the Body of Christ.**

**We live by the grace of forgiveness,
the mystery of resurrection,
and the gift of eternal life.**

**We rejoice that we are under no human authority,
but under the grace of God;
we are beholden to no earthly powers,
but to the power of love.**

**Therefore, we devote ourselves to lives of worship
through fearlessly giving the gifts God has given us,
and loving and serving others in the spirit of Christ,
for the sake of the blessing of the world,
to the glory of God. Amen.**

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

I Walk the King's Highway

E. Cummins & E. Butler

I know not where the road will lead

I follow day by day,

or where it ends: I only know

I walk the King's highway.

I know not if it's long and no one else can say;

but rough or smooth up hill or down

I walk the King's highway.

And some I love have reached the end,

but some with me may stay,

their faith and hope still guiding me

I walk the King's highway.

The way is truth the way is love, for light and strength I pray,

and through the years of life to God

I walk the King's highway.

The countless hosts lead on before,

I must not fear nor stray;

with them, the pilgrims of the faith,

I walk the King's highway.

Through light and dark

the road leads on till dawns the endless day,

when I shall know why in this life

I walk the King's Highway.

Words: Evelyn A Cummins (1891-1971) and Music © 1999 Eugene Butler

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SEASONS OF THE CHURCH

SEASON OF ADVENT -- MEDITATION

Hymn No. 211 Verses 1 & 2
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

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Prayer

O Living Christ, you were, you are, you come.

Clothe us with garments of celebration,

that we may be prepared for the feast of your reign.

Keep us wakeful,

that our lamps may ever burn in the vigil of your coming.

Give us sight,

that we may recognize the signs of your coming.

And give us the strength to stand in your presence.

So may all these things be, through your gracious Spirit.

Amen.

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS -- MEDITATION

HYMN NO. 240 (Verses 1 & 3) **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

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Prayer

**Living God, moved by the coming of Christ to our lives,
we seek to be your people.
Help us to live in faithful covenant with you
and with one another.**

**Let the peace of Christ guide us
and let Christ's message in all its richness
live in our hearts,
that we may praise you without ceasing. Amen.**

SEASON OF EPIPHANY -- MEDITATION

**HYMN NO 253 Verse 1
We Three Kings**

KINGS OF ORIENT

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

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Prayer

**God of grace and glory,
we thank you that you judge us not
by the perfection of our actions,
but by our readiness to live boldly by faith.
Help us, as individuals and as a congregation,
to trust you and follow where you lead,
that through us the light of Christ may continue
to shine on earth and all may glorify your name. Amen.**

SEASON OF LENT -- MEDITATION

HYMN NO 298 (*verses 1 & 3*)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

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Prayer

Ever Present God, we thank you

that you reveal yourself in the events of human history.

We thank you that you have shown yourself in Christ,

who shared our human life,

walking the path of obedience all the way to the cross.

Deliver us from complacency about our lives

and the world in which we live.

Drive out from us careless sin.

Make us sensitive to all that is sacred;

shock us with awareness

of any violation of human life in which we participate.

May we also die to ourselves and live to the world,

through the empowerment of your Spirit. Amen.

SEASON OF EASTER-- MEDITATION

HYMN NO. 310 (Verse 3)

He Lives

ACKLEY

3 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
lift up your voice and sing,
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him,
the help of all who find,
None other is so loving,
so good and kind. [Refrain]

Refrain

*He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

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Prayer

**O Risen Christ,
we are grateful that you walk among us on earth,
bringing life and hope.
Help us to recognize you;
help us to be aware of your presence
in our time of worship.
Enable us to stand alongside you
in your ministry of healing
on the crowded roads of our world,
through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SEASON OF PENTECOST -- MEDITATION

HYMN NO. 539 (Verse 1)

O Spirit of the Living God FOREST GREEN

1 O Spirit of the living God,
thou light and fire divine,
descend upon thy church once more,
and make it truly thine.

Fill it with love and joy and power,
with righteousness and peace;
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts,
and sin and sorrow cease.

Prayer

**O God, in mystery and silence
you are present in our lives,
bringing new life out of destruction,
hope out of despair,
and growth out of difficulty.**

**We thank you for not leaving us alone
but laboring to make us whole.**

**Help us to perceive your unseen hand
in the unfolding of our lives,
and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit,
that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.**

ORDINARY SEASON -- MEDITATION

HYMN NO 77 (verse 1 & 2)

How Great Thou Art

HOW GREAT THOU ART

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain

Prayer

**O Christ, Living Bread,
from the world with its abundance
which does not satisfy our hunger,
we turn to you.**

**O Christ, Living Water,
from the world with its floods
which do not satisfy our thirst,
we turn to you.**

**O Christ, the King,
we thank you for the vision
of peace and justice and freedom of your kingdom
that draws us into the future.**

**May we be your people in the world,
in word and in deed,
in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Nada Te Turbe / Nothing Can Trouble

Ostinato Refrain

1.
Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te. Quien a Dios tie - ne
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en. Those who seek God shall

2.
na - da le fal - ta. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
nev - er go want - ing. God a - lone fills us.

Text: St. Teresa of Jesus; Taizé Community, 1986, 1991
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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INVITATION TO PRAYER:

Leader: "The Lord be with you "

People: "And also with you..."

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

[The Lord's Prayer](#)

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (As above)

[Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Improvisation

Kevin G. Lindsay

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

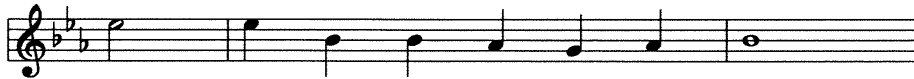


praise God, all crea - tures here be - low:

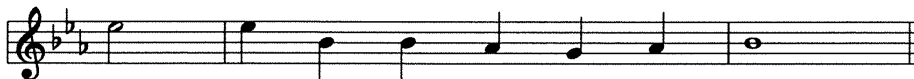
Harmony

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)

Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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LASST UNS ERFREUEN
88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

138 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1. The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3. Per - verse and fool - ish, oft I strayed, but yet in
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear
5. Thou spreadst a ta - ble in my sight; thy unc - tion
6. And so through all the length of days, thy good - ness

fail - eth nev - er. I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth; and where the ver - dant
love he sought me; and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my
grace be - stow - eth; and oh, what trans - port
fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I

I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.
of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
sing thy praise with - in thy house for - ev - er.

WORDS: Henry W. Baker, 1868 (Ps. 23)
MUSIC: Irish Melody; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ST. COLUMBA
87.87

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*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

Rondeau

from Suite De Symphonies

Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

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VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Liturgist:

Don Raab

Video and Sound Engineer:

Charlie Devito

Altar Flowers:

In celebration of our church family, given by Marcia Brown

Image on Cover: Coppo, di Marcovaldo, active 13th century. Christ in Judgment, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=47457> [retrieved November 21, 2023]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/36217981@N02/39857380592>.

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***Worship elements by Steve Garnass Holmes at unfoldinglight.com
Worship, Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp

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Looking Ahead

Readings for December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent, Year "B"

[Isaiah 64: 1-9 / Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:3-9 / Mark 13:24-37](#)

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