

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 26, 2017

Reign of Christ

8:15a 10:30a

Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!

denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in **bold print*

We look forward to that day when Jesus will return to reign over us, when the One who died and was raised to eternal life, shall come and be the Ruler of the Universe. We anticipate that day by the way we live each day now; we live by faith, aware that God's love is model and guide for our way of relating to others, both those near to us and strangers we meet along the way. We trust that God will extend the same quality of grace to us that we extend to other people. Because we have experienced Jesus as our Merciful Savior, we look for Him to be a Merciful and Wise Ruler as well. It is with great hope that we live for that day when, for eternity, we will know the peace and the harmony God intends for all of creation.

PRELUDE – “Jesus Shall Reign” – *M. Burkhardt*

TIME OF SHARING

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him,
then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Come, Holy One, come.

Let Your full glory be seen in this world.

All the nations will be gathered before Him,
and He will separate people from one another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Come, Savior of the world, come.

May we be found to be acceptable in your eyes.

*** PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Waken us from our sleep to sense your nearness, O God.

**Save your flock from enemies within and without,
from temptation and division,
from self-concern and lack of compassion.**

We gather to remember all you have done for us and to make our response.

We come to find rest amid our weariness and grief.

We come to be fed, for we hunger after the bread of life only you can provide.

Meet us here to make us whole.

***GATHERING HYMN # 300 – “Jesus Shall Reign”**

TIME OF CONFESSION

Are you among the lost or strayed whom God seeks?

Most of us do not see ourselves that way most of the time.

Yet our priorities are confused as we live without a clear sense of direction.

The world's values prey on us.

Self-interest limits our vision and outreach.

Prayers of confession offer positive avenues of growth.

We confess, O God that we have failed to see Jesus in the strangers around us.

We have been doubtful that prisoners are worthy of our help.

We blame the sick and hungry and homeless for their condition.

Yet we too have been needy and weak and afraid.

We walk through the same valley of the shadow of death.

O God, forgive our self-concern that shuts out others and cuts us off from you.

For we ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Now let us silently reflect on the personal struggles and fears that keep us from being fully free.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

As we focus only on our own interests, our lives are diminished.

But when the Spirit of Christ reigns in us, life becomes fulfilling and purposeful.

We are God's flock.

We have known God's care.

Our cups overflow.

Thanks be to God for this magnificent gift of love.

*** RESPONSE # 551 - "Pass Me Not, Gentle Savior"**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

And now, experiencing once again the forgiving power of our loving God,
let us say what we believe, using the New Creed.

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 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.

(United Church of Canada)

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

"Beautiful Savior"

Arr. Anna Laura Page

Senior Choir

Georgia Hollabaugh, Flute

THE WORD OF GOD

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

HYMN # 507 - "Jesus, The Very Thought to Me"

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

*** THE PRAYER FOR THE MORNING AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

For we ask it in the name of Jesus, 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 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. Amen**

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Jesus, Remember Me" (repeat one time)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

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THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

The opportunities of the kingdom of our Lord are great,
and we have an opportunity to participate in that great endeavor.

Let us be generous as our tithes and offerings are received.

To our visitors - - the finances of the church are the responsibility of our church members.

As our guests, we ask visitors to simply pass the offering plate to the person sitting next to you in the pew.

Please sign the Registration Booklet at the end of each pew, then pass it to the next person. Thank you!

OFFERTORY – "Jesus, The Very Thought to Me" – E. L. Diemer

*** OFFERTORY RESPONSE #785 - "We Give You"**

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;

All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We thank you for this opportunity to share in the
support of the benevolent reign of Christ,
and we pray that what we give today will strengthen that universal effort.**

***CLOSING HYMN # 304 – “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

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

* POSTLUDE – “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” – *D. Cherwien*