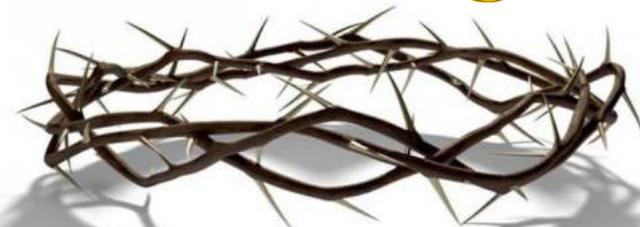


Announcements and Prayer Requests

- + **November WestFed Food Pantry needs:** Spaghetti/pasta, and pasta sauce.
- + **Butter Drive Update:** We've collected a total of \$1,077, and are now at 54% of our goal of \$2,000.
- + **The Stewardship Pigs** are here and set up in the narthex, hungry for your contributions to the church ministry/ministries of your choosing: Mission, Building and Operations, Worship, and Per Capita.
- + **It's time to order Christmas poinsettias** to decorate the sanctuary for the Dec. 18, 24, 25 services. Orders must be received by Dec. 11, along with payment. Order forms are in your bulletin and are available in the narthex.
- + **Flowers are given:**
 - ♥ In honor of Anna Hedrick by her grandchildren & great grandchildren.
 - ♥ In memory of loved ones by Phyllis Jefferies.
- + **Prayers are requested for:**
 - ♥ Mary Baverman (Marc's mom) who recently suffered a stroke.
 - ♥ Craig Kallendorf, Camille Rechel's brother, who is in hospice.
 - ♥ Pierce Teeppen, son of Alyssa and Tyler, friends of Rhonda Boddy, recovering from brain surgery.
 - ♥ Diane Ringshauser, who is undergoing chemotherapy.
 - ♥ Diana Jackson, Rhonda's sister-in-law, undergoing chemotherapy.
 - ♥ Jacqueline Holton, at Christ Hospital recovering from heart surgery.
 - ♥ Jan Rice and Kristine Von Holle, friends of Sandy Morris
 - ♥ Elizabeth Durrell recovering from a broken hip.
 - ♥ DJ Hines, Sandy Morris' brother-in-law.
 - ♥ Bonnie Shuman, Heather's sister, recovering from recent health issues.
 - ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
 - ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
 - ♥ Our Scouting units, their families and leaders.
 - ♥ Our Session, our committees, and the discernment team.
 - ♥ Our partnership with City Gosel Mission's Princesses Ballet.

Our Service of Worship, November 20, 2022 **Christ the King Sunday**



Westwood First Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH **Gathering Around God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

[Please take a moment to silence all mobile devices and prepare for worship.]

Prelude: "Canticle of Praise"— Kevin McChesney
Chancel Bells

[Where indicated (*), those who are able are invited to stand.]*

Ringling of the Tower Bell

Choral Introit: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

*** Call to Worship** (*From Psalm 95—Responsive*)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today we would listen to his voice!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn No. 559: “We Gather Together”

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine:
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation:
Your name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!



Invitation to Confession/Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Lord Jesus, you are the King of Glory, Lord of all Creation. We pray that your Kingdom will reign forever in our hearts and in this world—and that it come now, bringing a kingdom of justice, righteousness, hope, love, peace, and grace for all. We ask that you rule in our hearts, lead in this world and govern over your kingdom. But we often have our own plans and agendas and we want to be rulers of our world. Forgive us. Help us to know how to live as your people, and to spread the good news. Thank you for your goodness and kindness in our lives. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for loving us.

Assurance of Forgiveness (*based on 1 Peter 2:24—Responsive*)

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. For we were going astray like sheep, but now have been returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are sought, we are found, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

May the peace of Jesus Christ, our Lord and King, be with you, now and forevermore.

And also with you.

* **Response: Gloria Patri** (*Unison*)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end, amen, amen.**

Moment for Meditation: Christ the King

On the feast of Christ the King, we are called to acknowledge that Jesus is, in fact our King. It is one thing to say that he is our King because the song in Church we sang said that, or the preacher said that, or the Bible says that. Yes, faith does come by hearing. But there also comes a moment when WE must say that Jesus is our King. When we must personally affirm what the Church has always announced: “Jesus is Lord, and he is King, he is my king. He has authority in my life.” And this must become more than lip service. It must become a daily, increasing reality in our life.

Kings take care of us, but they also have the authority to command us. Can Christ command you or me? Or are we more typical of the modern person who doesn’t like to be told what to do? And so, again the question for us: Is Jesus Christ your King?

~ Msgr. Charles Pope, <http://blog.adw.org/>

Professor Karoline Lewis writes, “When we say Christ is king, we say Caesar is not, [meaning] all of the Caesars that vie for our attention and our worship. [This is] a day to affirm the reign of Christ, and God’s Kingdom, over the reign of those kingdoms that do not hunger and thirst for righteousness.” I might put it this way: This is a day to remind us that, although as human beings we will always have a choice about how to live our lives and where to place our loyalty, nevertheless as Christians there is really only one choice, one path, and that is to follow and obey Christ Jesus as Lord.

Christ is the king we are called to follow and obey. A king who is not interested in power but in weakness, who lives and works among his people, enduring every pain and hardship they endure, a king who treats his subjects with the tender compassion of a shepherd caring for a lost and injured lamb. A king who healed body and soul, attending always to both spiritual and physical needs, while courageously calling out the structures of power that made injustice, poverty, and oppression look like just the way the world was supposed to be. This king is still calling us into a better way, into greener pastures, into the place of salvation and healing, into becoming “Beloved Community.”

Are we able to hear that call? Are we able to set aside our pride and our achievements and kneel at his feet? It isn’t easy. But the paradox of our faith is that the more we bind ourselves to obedience to God, the more we will experience true freedom, including freedom from all the powers and principalities of the world that are always working so hard to bind us to them instead of to Jesus.

~ <https://churchofstmartin.org>

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: *Colossians 1:11-20*

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

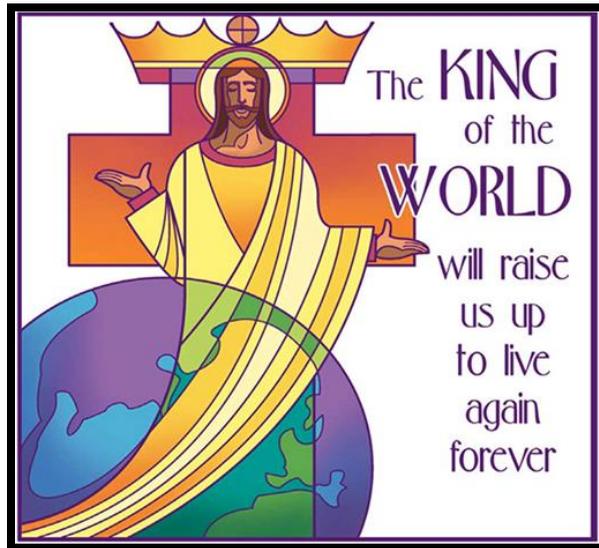
Gospel Reading: *Luke 23:33-43*

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Sermon: “*The Cross of Christ Our King*”



Responding to God's Word

Special Music: “*When We Are Living*”—arr. Kevin McChesney
Chancel Bells

* **Affirmation of Faith: The Christian Reformed Church in North America** (*Unison*)

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until his kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever. Our world belongs to him! God is King! Let the earth be glad! Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears. Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you!

Invitation to Stewardship/Offertory Prayer (*Unison*)

Most Gracious and Giving God, Maker and Redeemer, Lord of Life and of Death, your generous goodness comes to us new each day. We thank you. By the work of your Holy Spirit help us to always acknowledge your goodness, to give thanks for your benefits, and to give of our time, talents and treasure with joy and thanksgiving. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and King, who reigns now and forevermore. Amen.

Offertory Anthem: “*Hymn of Thanksgiving*”—arr. Anna Laura Page
Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

[During the prayer, everyone will have an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us—not into temptation—but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Bearing God's Word Into the World

* **Hymn No. 554:** “*Let All Things Now Living*”

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration, a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!”

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response: “*Go Forth With Thanksgiving*”—Whitworth

Postlude: “*Now Thank We All Our God*”—arr. Michael Burkhardt



Leading Worship This Morning

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*

Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*

Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*

Mary Ellen Betz, *Lay Worship Leader*