

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

All people: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

HYMN *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* **RED Hymnal #184**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us go from this place trusting that God is with us and for us in every place. May the grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you and abide with you this day and forevermore.

All people: Amen.

**CANDLE EXTINGUISHING
POSTLUDE**

**Acolyte
Mr. Kevin Crone**

November 24, 2024
Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

PREWORSHIP MUSIC **Mr. Kevin Crone**
GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING **Acolyte**

CENTERING WORDS

*All human leaders will one day disappoint and fail us. Divine kingship alone is faithful.
(Based on: Revelation 1, John 18)*

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: There is a place that calls us apart, summons us beyond, asks us for more.
Congregation: A place where God is sovereign.
Pastor: There is a place that fractures the norms, splits the standards, shatters the culture.
Congregation: A place where God rules.
Pastor: There is a place that fosters real questions, engenders honest conversation, summons our souls' connection.
Congregation: A place where God holds sway.
Pastor: This is that place.
A place that reminds us of heaven, when we let it.
Congregation: A place where we come together as one.
All people: Let us worship God

HYMN *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* **RED HYMNAL #7**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION and CONFESSION

Pastor: Loving God,
Long ago, out of the chaos of darkness
You created everything above our heads
and everything below our feet.
Congregation: And we thank you for it, Lord.
Pastor: In your great love and goodness,
You created humankind,
to be co-creators, co-sustainers of the world.
And when you gazed at your work, you called it all good.

Congregation: So, we come this morning to give you thanks, Creator God, for the wonderful diversity you have placed in humanity. We thank you for the skills and gifts entrusted to each of us – gifts of artistry and design, of construction and manufacture, gifts of compassion and understanding, and of insight and logic. And we thank you that in your wisdom you have given to each of us without prejudice or bias.

Pastor: Yet, we have not responded with the same kindness. We have been swift to judge which gifts should be given to some and not to others. We have been hasty to assess another's worthiness based on the world's standards and not on your wisdom. We have made snap judgements from ease, rather than doing the hard work of listening and then transforming our stance.

All people: *For the times when we've judged another's worthiness based on gender, or age, or race, we ask for your forgiveness. For the times when, in the muddle of our minds, we've instantly written another off based only on what we see from the outside, we ask for your forgiveness.*

Pastor: Gracious God, challenge us, bother us and inconvenience us, so we are no longer satisfied with a society that acts out of habit, especially when those past practices habitually disadvantage just one expression of your glorious creation.

All people: *So, gracious God, in these few moments of stillness we bring before you any times this week we've been swift to judge, hasty to assess another's worth, and neglected to heed your wisdom.*

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God is slow to anger and quick to forgive. In God's unlimited love, we are forgiven!

All people: *God dares us to be more like faithful every day. To live a life that echoes the equality revealed in God's glorious creation. Thanks be to God! Amen.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

RED Hymnal #493

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

RED Hymnal #176

HEBREW READING

2 Samuel 23:1-7

EPISTLE READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

GOSPEL READING

John 18:33-37

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: *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, forever. Amen.*

ANTHEM

Jesus, Name Above All Names (Hearn/Wilson)

CHANCEL CHOIR

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: The Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the one who was and is and is to come, invites us to share our blessings with others. Let us dedicate our gifts and offer them to God in gratitude and praise, followed by prayer.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God

RED Hymnal #551

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: *O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. Amen.*