

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: King of kings, who leads and guides us through all the trials and tribulations of our lives, we bring these gifts to celebrate the ministries of justice and hope for which our church is involved. Be with us and cause us to grow in our faith and our service. Amen.

HYMN *Lead on, O King Eternal* **Red Hymnal, #299**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: For today's benediction and blessing, hear these words from *Teresa of Avila*. "Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people."

All people: May we go forth this day with eyes open to seeing Christ in our world, and may we know God's love by loving one another. May we love, not just in word and speech, but in truth and action.

Pastor: AMEN!

All people: AMEN!

POSTLUDE

References

- Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A-733911.
- The Call to Worship was written by Bruce Prewer and was posted on [re:Worship](https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/call-to-worship-christ-king.html) and accessed on November 9, 2023. <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/call-to-worship-christ-king.html>
- The Prayer of Confession was written by Nancy Townley for Ministry Matters, and was accessed on November 9, 2023, at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/there-is-now/reign-of-christ-thanksgiving-sunday-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/reign-of-christ-thanksgiving-sunday-year-a-liturgical-resources>.
- The Offering Invitation and Prayer of Dedication were written by Nancy Townley for Ministry Matters and accessed on November 9, 2023 at: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8524/worship-connection-november-22-2020>.

November 26, 2023
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS JOYS AND CONCERNS

BE STILL & KNOW GOD IS GOD

Where in the past week did I encounter God in my life?

Where in the past week did I inhibit or hinder God in my life?

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 100)

Pastor: 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.

**Congregation: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come into his presence with singing.**

Pastor: 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.

**Congregation: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
come into his courts with praise.
Give thanks and praise his loving name!**

HYMN *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* **Chalice Hymnal, #91**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Come, people of God, let us confess how we have fallen short
of God's plans for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Merciful God, we get so caught up in our own lives and needs that we fail to see others for whom we might provide some help and relief. You challenge us to feed those who are hungry and to quench the thirst of those who are parched. You ask us to bring clothing to those who have none or for whom the clothing is inadequate for the weather; to visit people who are sick, alone, alienated, who are imprisoned either in cells with bars or in conditions of hopelessness and poverty that they see no way out; to welcome the stranger and reach out to those who are marginalized; to always bring your words of healing and redeeming love. We have failed in these tasks – we ignore the opportunities and claim that we are too busy to help, too busy to care. How this attitude must sadden you, O Lord. You lavish your gifts upon us that we might use them for the betterment of your realm, and we treat them as inconveniences. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us and heal our wounds of greed and selfishness. Let us greet this day when the hope of the Reign of Christ can be made manifest, and we can be part of this glorious kingdom of peace and compassion. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope to us, we are forgiven, healed and enabled to be part of the ministries of compassion in God's world. Rejoice! You are chosen and loved!

All people: AMEN!

GLORIA PATRI

Red Hymnal, #493

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

The Voice of God is Calling

Chalice Hymnal #666

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

EPISTLE READING – Ephesians 1:15–23

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:31–46

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura Baker

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

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

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: As we have entered this church with thanksgiving in our hearts, let us remember that we have the opportunity to joyfully share from the bounty which God has provided. In the love and name of Christ, let us dedicate our offering sacrifices with a song and prayer.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY (Based on Psalm 100) *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise*

We bring the sac - ri - fice of praise ____ in - to the house of the Lord; ____

We bring the sac - ri - fice of praise ____ in - to the house of the Lord. And we

of - fer up to You ____ the sac - ri - fic - es of thanks - giv - ing, and we

of - fer up to You ____ the sac - ri - fic - es of joy.