

Christ the King Sunday - November 21st, 2021

Meditation

The real king of the jungle is not the lion; the real king of the jungle is the jungle itself! Being a king is not just about having power! To be a true king means to offer equal beauty and opportunities to all, to protect the subjects with love, just like a forest..” –Mehmet Murat Ildan

Gathering in God’s Presence

(Please Stand as you are able.)

Prelude

Come, All You People

Joyful Noise: Gabriella and Giuliana Gagliano

Assisted by Percussion Group

Gondo (Zimbabwe)

*1. Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker, (repeat)
come now and worship the Lord.*

*2. Come, all you people, come and bless your Maker, (repeat)
come now and worship the Lord.*

*3. Come, all your people, come and thank your Maker, (repeat)
come now and worship the Lord.*

*4. Come, all you people, come and serve your Maker, (repeat)
come now and worship the Lord.*

*5. Come, all you people, come and love your Maker, (repeat)
come now and worship the Lord.*

Alexander Gondo, 1986 (based on Psalm 100)

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship:**

- Leader: “Are you a king?” Pilate asked Jesus. A king must have people who accept his rule.
- **People: We welcome your rule in our lives, O Jesus! “Thy kingdom come!” we pray.**
- Leader: “Are you a king?” Pilate asked again. A king must have people who bow before him.
- **People: We bow in worship and praise before you, O Christ our King! Let us worship God!**

Hymn of Praise

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

#301, v. 1-4

1. Crown with your richest crowns the Lamb upon the throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you,
And to your risen Savior bring your thanks for life made new.
2. Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
Look past the peak of Calvary's road to Christ the glorified.
The sun that lights the sky is pale before that sight.
At prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mysteries so bright.
3. Crown Christ the truth, the life who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife, this fallen world to save.
Christ's glories now we sing, Christ's name we magnify,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
4. Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wounded feet
a fragrant garden shall extend forever green and sweet.

(Music: George J. Elvey, 1868; text: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874; adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993)

*** Prayer of Approach and Confession: [Unison]**

It is hard for us O God, as people who love freedom, to acknowledge anyone above us, even you. It's hard for us to let you have a say in our lives, because we always want the final say. It's hard for us to take direction from your wisdom because we are, as the Scripture says, so often 'wise in our own eyes.' We want everything, and much of our culture says we can have it, we **should have it. Guide us by your Spirit, that we may walk in your way. Lead us by your example in Jesus to be faithful to you in all things. Direct our path and set us truly free, for obedience to you is perfect freedom. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen**

*** Words of Assurance:**

- **Leader:** The Apostle Paul wrote, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free...But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."
- **People:** Christ has set us free from slavery to sin, and free to live a life of love as his disciples. Our sins are forgiven, and we are free to live for God! Thanks be to God! Amen

Song of Praise:

*Glory, glory, glory –
Glory to God in the highest! (2X's)
And on earth be peace to all people,
For God loves us all! (2X's)*

Pablo Sosa, 1988

God Is Still Speaking

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading (Allan): John 18: 28-38a *“Are you a king?”*

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8 *King of kings*

Contemporary Reading: *“Reflected Light,”* by Israelmore Ayivor

Anthem

For All That Has Been, THANK YOU

Skirbunt

*For all that has been, THANK YOU. I look at the past and I see
How Memory's Moments have called me to BE.
For all Life has been to me, THANK YOU.
For anguish and loneliness, THANK YOU. For sorrow that fashioned my heart,
For days without light, for shadow and night ... that broadened my sight, THANK YOU.
For all who have talked to me, THANK YOU;
For all who walked with me through my fears.
For all who have shared, THANK YOU; For all who have cared through the years.
All Yesterday has shaped my Today: For all that has been, THANK YOU.
For all that is yet to be, WELCOME, To all that Tomorrow shall hold.
To roads yet untrod, to paths unknown I'll take to God: to all that shall be, WELCOME.
To all who will meet me, I LOVE YOU. To all I shall cherish, HELLO.
To all who will understand, to all who will take my hand: to all that shall be, WELCOME.
YES to the sunshine, YES to the rain, YES to the Laughter, YES to the pain.
YES to the Winter, YES to the Spring, and YES to the Joy that shall make my heart sing.
For all that has been, THANK YOU! YES to whatever shall be!
Let all of my days ... be strong songs of praise ... I sing to my Maker. AMEN.*
Mary Lou Skirbunt, 1970 (all capitalizations by composer)

Sermon

What is Truth?

Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection:

Jesus Shall Reign

#300, v. 1, 4 & 5

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|---|---|
| 1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more. | 4. Blessings abound where'er Christ reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blessed. |
|---|---|

5. Let every creature rise and bring / tributes of praise for all to sing;
Angels descend with songs again, / and earth repeat the loud amen.

(Music: Attrib. to John Hatton, c. 1793; text: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.)

The Church at Prayer

The Family and Friends of Max Roha, Suzanne Patrick, Fred Pesek, George Snider, David Pastor, Peg Duffy, Lenore Harris, Tina Ortiz, Phyllis Hassler, Sandra Lane, Joanne Cook, Terry Heiman, Joanne K., Bill Toneff, Dassie Matsuoka, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Jim C., Betty Kaul, Anna Mary Fisher, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Jon Thompson, Kathy Smith, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), “Edna House”, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord’s Prayer [the additional use of “Mother” is optional, according to one’s theological understanding]

...Our Father-Mother, 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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

***The Invitation:**

- Leader: Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” Generosity is the gift of God to the people of God to build the kingdom of God. Let us present our gifts and offerings to God.

Offertory Hymn:

We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication: [Unison]**

What do we have that is not from you, O God? Our time, our talent, our resources are all part of your creation, a gift from the great Giver. With gratitude for this life which you have given us, we present you the pledge of our faithful service this year, O God our Sovereign. Amen



Holy Communion

- † **The Invitation**
- † **Prayer of Consecration**
- † **Words of Institution**
- † **Receiving the Bread and Cup**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving: [Unison]**

The bread and the wine tell the story of the King who gave himself for his people. They are the supreme gift of the supreme ruler, whose love conquers all. For this we give you thanks, O God! Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

#303, v. 1-3

1. Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

2. Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

3. Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

† Benediction

Postlude

Christ Is the King and He Shall Reign

Lahee



**ANNOUNCEMENTS MUST BE SENT TO ANNE AT BUCCOFFICE23@GMAIL.COM.
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN MUST BE RECEIVED BY
WEDNESDAY AT NOON.**

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WE WELCOME** all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book before you go and thank you for coming!
- **FLOWERS** – Today's flowers are sponsored by Carol Miller and Pat Rehm. Pat and Carol included the following dedication: "May we all recognize and be generous with our time and talents."
- **DECORATING TODAY** – We're asking for volunteers who are willing to stay after the service to help put up Christmas decorations.
- **TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!** – By now, you're probably familiar with the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign, "Rooted in Love." For the past couple services, different members have shared their experiences and involvement with BUCC. You have received a letter from our Moderator, Heidi Spangler, and a pledge card in the mail. Today is the day to return your completed card - your pledge is essential for planning the budget for 2022.

After today's service, we are having a celebration to reconnect and come back together. We are calling it our "Rooted in Love Fest!" We invite you to come down to Pilgrim Hall to learn about our ministries, have food and beverages, participate in contests and win prizes. If you can't come in person, you can still participate via Facebook Live. Come be part of it all at BUCC!

- **MAX ROHA MEMORIAL EVENT** – Max's family is gathering on Zoom this afternoon at 4 pm Eastern, to celebrate his very long and unique life. If you are interested in joining them to honor Mac, please contact either his son at billroha@gmail.com or his daughter at cathyroha@gmail.com for the Zoom link. There might still be a few of his bowties left in the narthex, for any friends who'd like to have one. Max's daughter, Cathy, invited anyone participating in the Zoom gathering to feel free to don a tie and enjoy a large glass of a beverage of your choice, to toast our dear friend Max.

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 5th, immediately following the service. We will be reviewing the preliminary budget for 2022 and also approving some updates to our Constitution. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Thank you.
- **GET READY FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR!** – We will resume Fellowship Hour in all its glory starting On Sunday, December 5th, after the Congregational Meeting. In order for this to be successful, we need volunteers to help. The jobs will be posted in Breeze for signups, descriptions are below. Looking forward to social time after services!
 - **Setup / Serve:** Two to three people who arrive by 9:30 to set up for the Fellowship/Coffee hour and then serve as needed during the event. This includes setting up the coffee/tea cart and any other beverages, setting out the snacks, plates, etc, and generally making sure that Fellowship Hall is ready before the service starts. These folks then help out as needed with serving after the service for coffee hour. Detailed directions will be provided in the kitchen.
 - **Fellowship/Coffee Hour Snacks:** Two to three people who provide snacks for the Fellowship/Coffee Hour. Snacks can be anything – cookies, chips, pastry, fruit, etc. Generally enough for 50 people. You don't have to be at a service to provide the snacks, as they can be delivered during regular office hours the week before.
 - **Cleanup:** Two people who stay through the end of Fellowship/Coffee hour to clean up and store any leftovers, clean and put away the beverage service equipment, and ensure that Fellowship Hall is left ready for the next event.

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

- **SUMMER PEACE AND JUSTICE PILGRIMAGE** – Living Waters Association is offering an event entitled “In the Footsteps of the Civil Rights Movement: An Intergenerational Pilgrimage,” from June 14th through the 20th, 2022. Among the sites visited will be Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Southern Poverty Law Center, Rosa Parks Museum, National Voting Rights Museum, Edmund Pettus Bridge, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and 16th Street Baptist Church. Space is limited to 25 people, and a \$300 deposit is required by 1/1/2022 to hold your place. For more details, please see the flyer hanging on the bulletin board in the lobby.

- **PASTOR’S FUND** – The Pastor’s Fund is currently running low. Please consider making a small donation, by using a pew envelope and marking it “Pastor’s Fund” on the front. These can be left in any of the collection plates, found at each entrance. Thank you!

Readings

First Reading (read by Pastor Allan)

John 18: 28-38a *“Are you a king?”*

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

“What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.

Readings (continued)

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

King of kings

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from God who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before God's throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Parent—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

"Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Contemporary Reading

"Reflected Light," by Israelmore Ayivor

We are like the moon. The moon shines anyway, but it does not produce its own light. It reflects the light illuminated onto its surface by the Sun and is never proud to say "I am the source of light." God shines through us, hence God deserves the glory; not us.

Notes: _____
