



NOVEMBER 22, 2020
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

GATHERING PRAYER:

Be aware of what is moving through your mind. Ask God to prepare you to be open to new insights and inspirations.

Most High God, majestic and almighty, our beginning and our end; rule in our hearts and guide us to be faithful in our daily actions, worshiping the one who comes as Savior and Sovereign and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

One Solitary Life

- ❖ Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that

ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

- This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons" © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124, titled "Arise Sir Knight!").

- ❖ The most important lesson that I have learned is to trust God in every circumstance. Lots of times we go through different trials and following God's plan seems like it doesn't make any sense at all. God is always in control and he will never leave us. - *Allyson Felix*
- ❖ Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. - *Steve Jobs*

PRAISE SONG: O Christ What Can it Mean for Us, verses 1-3
(music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The kingdom of love is here because:

All: Somewhere someone is kind when others are unkind.

Leader: Somewhere someone shares with another in need.

All: Somewhere someone refuses to hate, while others hate.

Leader: Somewhere someone is patient - and waits in love.

All: Somewhere someone returns good for evil.

Leader: Somewhere someone serves another, in love.

All: Somewhere someone is calm in a storm.

Leader: Somewhere someone loves everyone.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

CHRIST THE KING CONFESSION LITANY:

Leader: Gracious God, as we are reminded that Jesus Christ is King, we confess that we hesitate to let him rule in our hearts as king. His reign turns our understanding of power and authority upside down. We are ashamed to admit that we like a bit of prestige and it even feels good on occasion to lord it over another person. We do it in meetings, at work, in our families and even here - in church.

All: Forgive us, O God, and help us to hear anew Jesus' words that whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

Leader: We confess our failure to grasp that your reign, O God, is found whenever domination is overcome, whenever justice is experienced, and whenever people are released from prejudice and exploitation.

All: Forgive us, O God, any involvement in the pursuit of power which exploits or demeans others.

Leader: We confess our lack of commitment in seeking to transform systems that leave people powerless. Too often we prefer to leave the difficult tasks to others so that we can get on with our own safe agendas.

All: Forgive us, O God, when we forget that doing your will is our greatest priority.

A time of silence to reflect on these words

Leader: Remind us, O God, that the power of the Holy Spirit enables us to witness to the values of your kingdom in and through all we do and say and that thankfully this power far exceeds any apathy or fear on our part.

All: Renew us with your Spirit, O God, so that our lives testify to the truth of your kingdom In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Leader: The good news is this: our sins are forgiven through "Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sinsto him be glory and dominion forever and ever." Rev 1:5,6

All: Hallelujah! Amen!

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Not By Might (music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-16; 20-24 (from The Message)

11-16 "GOD, the Master, says: From now on, I myself am the shepherd. I'm going looking for them. As shepherds go after their flocks when they get scattered, I'm going after my sheep. I'll rescue them from all the places they've been scattered to in the storms. I'll bring them back from foreign peoples, gather them from foreign countries, and bring them back to their home country. I'll feed them on the mountains of Israel, along the streams, among their own people. I'll lead them into lush pasture so they can roam the mountain pastures of Israel, graze at leisure, feed in the rich pastures on the mountains of Israel. And I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I myself will make sure they get plenty of rest. I'll go after the lost, I'll collect the strays, I'll doctor the injured, I'll build up the weak ones and oversee the strong ones so they're not exploited.

20-22 "Therefore, GOD, the Master, says: I myself am stepping in and making things right between the plump sheep and the skinny sheep. Because you forced your way with shoulder and rump and butted at all the weaker animals with your horns till you

scattered them all over the hills, I'll come in and save my dear flock, no longer let them be pushed around. I'll step in and set things right between one sheep and another.

23-24 "I'll appoint one shepherd over them all: my servant David. He'll feed them. He'll be their shepherd. And I, GOD, will be their God. My servant David will be their prince. I, GOD, have spoken.

THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 25:31-45

31-33 "When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.'

37-40 "Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

41-43 "Then he will turn to the 'goats,' the ones on his left, and say, 'Get out, worthless goats! You're good for nothing. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was homeless and you gave me no bed,
I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.'

44 "Then those 'goats' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn't help?'

45 "He will answer them, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.'

MESSAGE:



MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Your Kingdom Come (music at end of bulletin)*

PRAYERS TO OUR KING:

Leader: For your love for us,

People: We thank you, Father.

Leader: For giving us your Son,

People: We thank you, Father.

Leader: For healing our hurts,

People: For cleansing our hearts,

Leader: For redeeming and restoring our lives,

People: We thank you, Father.

Leader: For pouring out your blessings,

People: For life everlasting,

Leader: We thank you, Father.

People: For your family of faith,

Leader: For love that grows here,

People: We thank you, Father.

Leader: For your strength, healing and peace always. We remember before you this day our brothers and sisters who need these gifts the most. We remember those whose names we don't know struggling in conditions and situations that we cannot imagine. And we remember those whose names we do know and whose lives touch our own, especially.....Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our Prayer

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: We have been marked by the cross of Christ. We have heard the Word. We have been fed by God's meal of grace, and now we are being sent out.

Go into the world in God's peace.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast to that which is good.

Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted.

Support the weak.

Make common cause with the poor and the oppressed.

Help the afflicted,

Honor all people.

Love your life, and love the One who bestowed it upon you.

May God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer bless us now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *Mercy Reigns (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attender. Occasional attender. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

COME *as you are.*

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us

1 O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our
 2 You came, the im - age of our God, to heal and to for -
 3 Though some would make their great - ness felt and lord it o - ver -
 4 You chose a hum - ble hu - man form and shunned the world's re -

king? What roy - al face have you re - vealed whose
 give, to shed your blood for sin - ners' sake that
 all, you said the first must be the last and
 nown; you died for us up - on a cross with

praise the church would sing? As - pir - ing not to
 we might rise and live. To break the law of
 ser - vice be our call. O Christ, in work - place,
 thorns your on - ly crown. But still, be - yond the

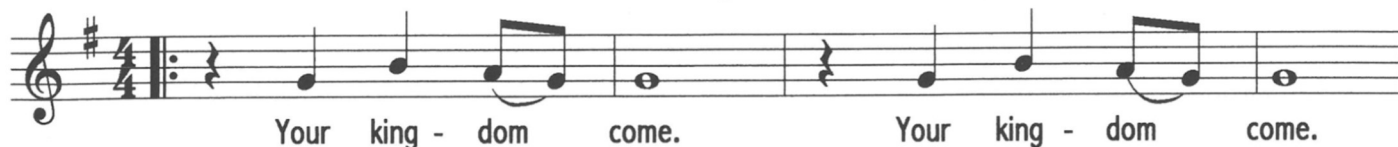
glo - ry's height, to pow - er, wealth, and fame, you
 death you came, the law of love to bring: a
 church, and home, let none to pow - er cling; for
 span of years, our glad ho - san - nas ring, for

walked a dif - f'rent, low - ly way, an - oth - er's will your aim.
 dif - f'rent rule of righ - teous - ness, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
 still, through us, you come to serve, a dif - f'rent kind of king.
 now at God's right hand you reign, a dif - f'rent kind of king!

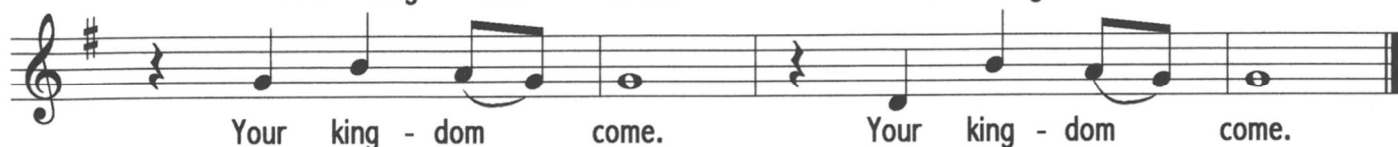
Not By Might

It's not by might, nor by pow'r_ but
by My Spir_ - it. It's not by might, nor by pow'r,
sa - ith the Lord. *Last time: end here*
1. We'd like to think that
2. We try and try in
we can han - dle to prob - lems on our own,
our own strength to make things come out right,
we buck - le down, ap - ply the steam, work our
we think and plan and or - gan - ize, - and
hands down to the bone. But when we've gone a - round in cir
try with all our might. But when we fi - n'ly reach the bot
- cles, and there's no end place left to turn, the
- tom, - the end of all our rope, the
Lord re - minds us qui - et - ly, "There's a
Lord re - minds us once a - gain, - "In
les - son to be learned."
Me you'll find your hope."

Your Kingdom Come



Your king - dom come. Your king - dom come.



Your king - dom come. Your king - dom come.



Do I real - ly want your king - dom come?
It is you see and I light in a trou - bled land.
I can see the light in a child's eyes.



When I see the light I turn and run
We can close our doors still or reach out our hands
It is shin - ing still in the old and wise.



from the truth, from the life, from the sac - ri - fice,
to the high, to the low to the in - be - tween;
It's the hope, it's the love, stir - ring deep with - in;



from the will that must be done.
feel the nail scars we don't see.
it's the love that con - quers sin.

Mercy Reigns

Mer - cy reigns, mer - cy reigns. It con - soles, it up - holds
 and sus - tains. When all seems lost, it still re - mains.
 Nev - er fails! Love pre - vails! Mer - cy reigns. *To verse 1*
2.,3. reigns. *2nd time to verse 2; 3rd time to bridge* *4.* reigns. We're called by *Fine*
 name to do the same! Mer - cy reigns.
 1. Blest be the mer - ci - ful for mer - cy shall be theirs.
 Blest be the poor and the meek. Blest be the
 sor - row - ing for com - fort shall be theirs. **D.S.**
 Blest be the mak - ers of peace. Mer - cy
 2. Christ came for sin - ners, not the right - eous and the proud.
 He came to light - en ev' - ry load. Show - ing com -
 pas - sion to the stran - ger and the weak. **D.S.**
 Ac - cept - ing all so we would know, Mer - cy
 Bridge:
 Now we must all do the same. Je - sus, he calls
 us by name. Our lives for - ev - er are changed! **D.S.**
 Let ev' - ry na - tion pro - claim! Mer - cy

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