

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 † 10:00 AM

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY/PLEDGE SUNDAY

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jennifer Ackerman

LITURGIST: Beth Busch

MUSICIANS: Siena Hertafeld, Sarah Lightfoot

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Yvonne Rees, Dan Rueff

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

♦ WORDS OF PRAISE (Psalm 93)

The Lord is King! He is robed in majesty and girded with strength.

Praise be to Christ our King.

He has established the world and reigns from everlasting to everlasting.

We bow down and worship Christ our King.

The floods lift up their roaring and the mighty waters thunder.

How majestic on high is Christ our King.

Your decrees are sure and your house is holy.

The Lord is King forevermore!

♦ OPENING HYMN No. 363 (Rejoice, the Lord Is King!)

Verse 1: ***Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

Verse 2: ***Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

Verse 3: ***His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

Verse 4: ***Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come and gather all the saints to their eternal home. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

OPENING PRAYER

We come this day, rejoicing, in the presence of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. At his birth the angels proclaimed his name to be Emmanuel, God with us. Today in this place, in this time of worship, may we truly feel the power and presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. May our hearts and spirits be warmed and challenged to proclaim with our lives, "Christ is Lord!" AMEN.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 466 (Come and Fill Our Hearts) (sung twice)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

◆ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Even though we have often failed to do as our Lord Jesus has asked, there is eternal forgiveness and a chance to again follow his ways. Be assured, dear friends, that the love of Christ our King will never leave you. Be his witnesses throughout the world. AMEN.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 746 (Send Me, Jesus)

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Lord. Lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Lord. Fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Lord.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM ("In Christ Alone" by Getty and Townend; Vocals by Siena Hertefeld)

SCRIPTURE (John 18:33-38)

MESSAGE ("WHAT IS TRUTH? It's Out of This World" by Rev. Jennifer Ackerman)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 227 (Jesus, Remember Me)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*) (Please sing the Hymn of Response, *Jesus, Remember Me*, after each spoken section)

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

Jesus, remember me...

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Jesus, remember me...

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Jesus, remember me...

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Jesus, remember me...

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

Jesus, remember me...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Jim Sandberg, Deacon)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS (Joash Box)

OFFERTORY ("Be Still, My Soul" arr. Vicki Hancock Wright) (Offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

◆ DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

◆ CLOSING HYMN No. 269 (Lead On, O King Eternal)

Verse 1: *Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home. Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong, and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.*

Verse 2: *Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace; for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums; with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.*

Verse 3: *Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears; your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light. The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (Ephesians 3:20-21)

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC