



Order of Service for Sunday, November 21, 2021

Reign of Christ Sunday

***= stand if you wish, and are able.**

Thank you for joining us today.

For Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayer List, [visit this week's E-Pistle here](#), where you can also subscribe to receive it by email, if you like:

Prelude, *We Gather Together*, Peter Black

(Please use this time for quiet reflection and preparation for worship)

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of Altar Candles & Ringing in the Hour

Let us recognize the light of the world within us and ring in the hour of worship.

Introit, *Love and Justice*

*Love and Justice, Peace and Power, show us how to live each hour.
Raise us up, and set us free, show us how to live and be.
Tell your neighbors, tell your friends, here's a place hope never ends.
Love and Justice, Peace and Power, God is with us in this hour.
God is with us in this hour, God is with us in this hour,
God is with us in this hour.*

Call to Worship (Psalm 93)

One: God is our ruler. Our God is robed in majesty.

Many: Our Sovereign is robed and is girded with strength.

One: Our God has established the world; it shall never be moved.

Many: God's throne is established from of old. God's rule is everlasting.

One: God is more majestic than the thunders of mighty waters.

Many: More majestic than the waves of the sea is our God!

One: God's decrees are very sure; holiness reigns in God's house.

Many: God is our ruler. Our God is robed in majesty. Amen.

Opening Hymn, *Let All Things Now Living (Green Gather Hymnal No.567)

Unison Prayer

Loving God: Today we express our thanksgiving for the life and spirit of Jesus of Nazareth. Some view him as a great teacher and prophet. Others understand him as Way Shower or the Christ. Whether we celebrate him as Messiah, Savior, Way Shower or Teacher, may each of us more fully embrace and express his way of compassion, forgiveness, patience, and unconditional love in the world.

Regardless of the names and titles we use for him, may each of us see him more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly. Amen.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

***Passing the Peace** *Spirit, Fill Me*

*Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace,
fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me, show me how to care,
show me how to share your light.
Help me give my hand to those in need,
let my heart be open to receive.
When we share your love, we can work together
to heal this broken world.
Spirit come and fill us, fill us with your peace,
fill us with your joy and your love,
Spirit come and show us, show us how to care,
show us how to share your light.*

Words of Integration & Guidance by Rev. Greg Wooley, United Church of Canada

Today is the Feast of Christ the King. I've always rebelled against this title, because for me it suggested monarchs of old conquering lands and people. But when I learned about the origins of Christ the King Sunday, I discovered it only goes back to World War I. The Church instituted the feast of Christ the King to remind Christians that their allegiance was to their spiritual ruler as opposed to earthly rulers. On this feast day, we ask ourselves: *Will we, as individuals and as nations, seek the disintegrative forces of power and dominance, or will we seek the integration that comes with Christ's way of forgiveness and reconciliation and trust?* It's a question that needs answering over and over again, and perhaps that's why each year, just before Advent, we have a time to ask that question. One year ago, as I prepared to preach on Christ the King Sunday, I encountered the work of Richard Rohr, who has done some remarkable work explaining the notion of the "Cosmic Christ." In this notion, found in our reading from Colossians today, Christ is present at the time of creation. Christ is seen as an aspect of God's own eternal existence. Rohr says, "The Christ is born the moment that God decides to materialize. Modern science would call that the Big Bang. The Big Bang is the birth of the Christ, 14.5 billion years ago – and this material manifestation has been revealing the glory of God, the nature of God, since then. In a moment of time (2,000 years ago) this cosmic Christ was revealed for us in a human person, Jesus, so that we could see and touch and hear and listen and fall in love with God." Christ didn't come to earth in human form to save or fix something that was broken. Christ came to earth in human form to embody the process of love that moves all life forward. Today, we celebrate that love, and we let it – not earthly rulers – reign over our lives.

A Wise Reign

The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from 2 Samuel 23:1-7

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to John 18:33-37

Many: Glory to you, O Christ.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Many: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Christina Fleming

Offering & Offertory

*"Is He Worthy?" Written by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive
Performed by Jeff Spangler and Peter Black*

Verse 1 WE DO (4 times)

Verse 2 IT IS (4 Times)

Verse 3 HE DOES (4 Times)

Ending HE IS! (5 Times)

The Power of "Now"

Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

Many: Alleluia!

One: O God,

Many: Hear our prayer.

***Doxology** *Give Thanks to the Lord*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good
and God's mercy shall endure.
For God alone has done marv'lous things,
give thanks unto the Lord.
God made the earth and heaven
with a strong and mighty hand.
God has moved us to sing, proclaim this song!
Give thanks unto our God.*

***Celebration of Holy Communion**

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: It is good to give God thanks & praise

***Creation's Praise** *Sanctus (Patriquin)*

*Holy holy holy,
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full,
are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes,
who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the high – est!*

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Receive the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

Give Us This Day

***Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer**

Our Mother/Father, always and everywhere,
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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

***Hymn of Sending** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (Green Gather Hymnal No.485)

***Benediction**

Postlude *Rejoice, the Lord is King*, Peter Black

Have a great week! Keep up with the Douglas UCC community and the work of our service groups here:

www.douglasucc.org

<https://www.youtube.com/douglasucc>

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