



**DOUGLAS UCC**  
A JUST WORLD FOR ALL

**Order of Service for Sunday, November 26, 2023**

## **Reign of Christ Sunday**

**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.

**\*- stand if you wish to, and are able.**

**Congregational Responses in Bold**

**Prelude**     *Now Thank We All Our God*

**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** (please stand)     *In This Place*

*In this place among these people,  
God is worshiped, God is praised.  
We have seen the signs and wonders,  
the lost are found here; the dead are raised.  
We are living the gospel story,  
lives are changed and mountains moved.  
Won't you come and work among us?  
You are welcome, you are loved.*

## **Call to Worship**

Psalm 93

Reader: Lynne Snyder

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**    *Come, O Thankful People Come*  
(Black New Century Hymnal No.422)

## **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 his way of life 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**        *Send Your Spirit*

***Send your Spirit to set us free.***

***Send your Spirit to set us free.***

***Fill our hearts and minds,***

***loose the chains that bind.***

***Send your Spirit to set us free.***

**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.

# Reigning Compassion

## The Words of Holy Scripture

One: A Reading of Scripture from Colossians 1:11-20

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

*Many: Thanks be to God.*

## The Gospel Lesson

One: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 22:33-43

*Many: Glory to you, O Christ.*

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

*Many: Praise to you, O Christ.*

## Homily

“A Different Kind of King”

Rev. Salvatore Sapienza

## Offering

### & Offertory Song

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Jeff Spangler and Peter Black

Composer: Graham Kendrick

## Joys & Concerns/Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God!

*Many: Alleluia!*

One: O God,

*Many: Hear our prayer.*

## \*Doxology

*Give Thanks*

*Give thanks, with a grateful heart,*

*give thanks to the Holy One.*

*Give thanks, because God's given*

*Jesus Christ, the son.*

*And now, let the weak say I am strong,*

*let the poor say I am rich*

*Because of what the Lord has done,*

*for us, give thanks.*

## **\*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** *You Are Holy*

*You are holy, you are whole.*

*You are always ever more  
than we ever understand.*

*You are always at hand.*

*Blessed are you coming near,*

*Blessed are you coming here  
to the church in wine and bread;  
raised from soil, raised from dead.*

*You are holy, You are wholeness,*

*You are present, let the cosmos praise you God!*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah our God.*

*(Please be seated)*

## **Breaking of the Bread** *We Share a Hunger*

*We share a hunger: a hunger for justice in our world,  
that all may find joy, all may find wholeness, all may find peace.*

*We share a hunger: a hunger to feel the light of Christ  
shining through us, shining on all, bringing God's reign.*

## **Sharing of the Bread & Cup**

*(grape juice only on both sides of the aisle)*

Receive the Bread of Life. *Amen.*

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

**\*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.*

**\*Hymn of Sending**

*Crown With Your Richest Crowns*  
(Black New Century Hymnal No.301)  
(Find Music at the end of this program)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Rejoice! The Lord is King!*  
**Peter Black**

Keep up with the Douglas UCC community  
and the work of our service groups here:

[www.douglasucc.org](http://www.douglasucc.org)

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

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

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

## Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.

St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

*Descant*

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;  
 2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,  
 3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.

THANKSGIVING

and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;  
 all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,  
 and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;  
 All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,  
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

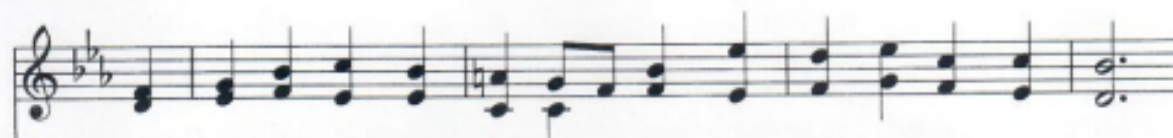
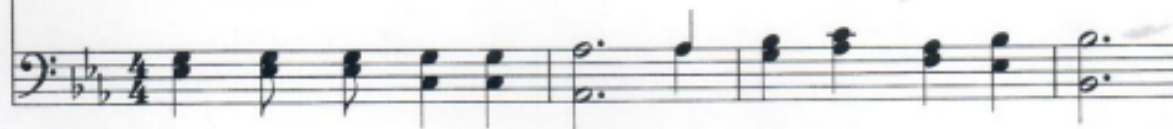
come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,  
 come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.



## Crown with Your Richest Crowns

*John 19:16-18, 31-34; Rev. 7:9-10**Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874  
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1993*

1 Crown with your rich - est crowns the Lamb up - on the throne;  
 2 Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.  
 3 Crown Christ the truth, the life who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 4 Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scep - tre sways  
 5 Crown Christ who holds the years, em - brac - ing space and time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 Look past the peak of Cal - vary's road to Christ the glo - ri - fied.  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife, this fal - len world to save.  
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:  
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, And  
 The sun that lights the sky is pale be - fore that sight. At  
 Christ's glo - ries now we sing, Christ's name we mag - ni - fy, Who  
 Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wound-ed feet a  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For you have died for me; Your



REIGN OF CHRIST

to your ris - en Sav - ior bring your thanks for life made new.  
prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mys - ter - ies so bright.  
died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
fra - grant gar - den shall ex - tend for - ev - er green and sweet.  
praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It contains a vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, providing a piano accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata on the final note of the vocal line.