

Reign of Christ Sunday (Christ the King Sunday) November 21, 2021

United Church of Christ – visiting Pastor Patti Steevens

Prelude:

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Diane Bish/S. Karg Ehlert

Announcements:

*Greeting:

One: The love of our Lord Jesus Christ, the mercy of God, and the grace of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: ***And also with you.***

*Opening Hymn:

#1 *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

verses 1 & 4 St. Denio W. Smith

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
all praise we now render as your angels do;
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

*Call to Worship:

The Lord our God, is in this place, today and always.

**You hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken;
our petitions and our praises.**

It is right and good to give you O Lord, our praises.
You have provided this beautiful world just for us.

All things good and true, you have provided for us.

You came as one of us to show us your mercy and grace.

Let us come to you with all our faults, with all our concerns, with all our fears.

Help us have the courage to lay our fears & problems at your feet. And to trust that you will take care of them, as you take care of us.

You, O Lord are our hope & salvation, the truth of all goodness

You, O Lord, are more than the truth of all goodness, You are the true Truth. You are the truth, the way and the life.

Call to Reconciliation:

While there are many with power in the world—power to hurt us, power to hire or fire us, power to control us—only God has the power to forgive us and make us new people. Let us confess how we fear the power of the world, and welcome the power of God’s grace.

Prayer for Forgiveness:

The choices we make, Mighty God, reveal who we are. Choosing the lies of the world, your Word is not on our lips. Choosing independent and isolated lives, we do not reflect your spirit in our actions towards others. Choosing to exalt the powerful of our day, we are unable to follow the One who demonstrates true power in weakness. Forgive us Lord when we seek worldly power. Do not turn your face from us, but help us to face ourselves honestly. Free us from ourselves so that we not only proclaim Jesus is Lord, but that we live as though we believe it. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Shout for joy, children of God! God, who was and is and is to come, loves you, forgives you and renews you.

All: **God’s Spirit rests upon us; grace and peace are the gifts of our loving God. God’s mercy has forgiven us. Amen.**

Children's Moment:

Gospel Reading: John 18:33-38

³³ Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

³⁶ Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here." ³⁷ "So you are a king?" Pilate said.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice."

³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

One: This is the message for today.

All: It is a message for today and every day.

The Message for the Day:

Guest Pastor Patti Steevens

Prayers of People:

Loving God, it is such a blessing to be in Your presence, to listen to Your word so that we are enabled to know you are always with us.

For this: **We offer our worship and praise.**

Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of Your beloved Son, Jesus as well as the gift of life, of family & friends and the many ways we connect with one another,

For this: **We give You thanks.**

Almighty God, we thank You for the embrace of Your love, kindness and your unfailing faithfulness.

For the continuous assurance That You are in control.

For this: **We thank you, Oh Lord.**

Merciful God, You know our worries and fears; that sometimes apprehensions and doubts seem to overwhelm us. Even when our faith is weak, you call to us.

For this we plead: **Hear us now, O Lord.**

We pray for all who suffer, for the sick and for those who care for the sick. For the ones affected by the pandemic, especially those whose jobs are affected. We pray also for those who worry about the next meal or how to be safe, for those battling with loneliness and isolation.

For this we ask: **Lord, be our healer & Comforter.**

We pray for the farmers and hunters, that they may be safe and successful. Let us be mindful of our rights and responsibilities.

For this: **We ask to be better stewards of the land.**

We pray for those in authority that they use common sense to make wise decisions and to treat all people as God's beloved children.

For this: **we pray**

We pray for ourselves & for this church. Give us a heart that trusts you completely. Grant us grace to do what is right, to fight for justice, and to speak up for those who cannot do so for themselves.

For this: **is our prayer today and every day.**

Give us thankful hearts that would see You in everyone, and welcome all as we would welcome You Lord. Let our actions be as your actions of acceptance and inclusion.

For this: **We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen**

Our Savior'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 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.

Offering and dedicating of our Gifts:

Prayer of Dedication:

As we offer our gifts in this moment to you, Holy God, we pray that they might be used to bring hope, to bring healing, to bring new life to all your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Closing Hymn: #337

"Praise to the Lord the Almighty" L. Den Herren

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and
salvation!

Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously
reigning;
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently
sustaining!

Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work
and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend
you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriends you.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore
him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises
before him.

Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Benediction:

**We highly recommend everyone attending
services to wear a mask
and practice social distancing.**

Announcements

WELCOME -

We welcome you to our service of worship!

We are glad that you have joined us in-person,
through the internet or on the radio.

We pray that you will experience the love of Christ
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

RADIO BROADCAST

**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5FM
and 1370AM**

**This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by a faithful listener**

- **Today, November 21st - after worship
Meal Give Away**

- **AFTER
PACKER
GAME**



- **Monday, November 22nd**
 - 9:00 am - Card Making
- **Tuesday, November 23rd**
 - 1:00 pm – Bible Study
- **Wednesday, November 24th**
 - 6 – 7:30 pm Confirmation

