

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
November 26, 2023
Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Reign of Christ Sunday



Preparation: “This is the final bit, thinning away to nothing. This is the end, according to Aristotle, what we have all been waiting for, what everything comes down to, the destination we cannot help imagining, a streak of light in the sky, a hat on a peg, and outside the cabin, falling leaves.” Poet Billy Collins, from his poem *Aristotle*.

Prelude Healey Willan
Prelude on “*Old Hundredth*”
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Choral Introit PCO Chancel Choir
Praise Ye, the Lord, the Almighty

Invitation to our Shared Ministry Rebecca Mattern

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 100) Sarah Mayhew, Liturgist

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness.

All: Come into God’s presence with singing.

One: Know that the Most High is God. It is God who made us and to God we belong.

All: We are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.

One: Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and God’s courts with praise.

All: Give thanks to God; bless God’s name.

One: For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever

All: and God’s faithfulness to all generations.

* **Hymn #268** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, vs. 1-4
[Diademata]

Prayer of Confession Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Christ rules over us all, seated at the right hand of God. This is the same Christ who came to be with us, to laugh with us, cry with us, break bread with us, and be one of us. Therefore, we approach the throne with boldness, knowing that Christ will hear our confession.

All: If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have done something different. If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have given you food. If we had known it was you, Lord, we would have taken you in. If we had known it was you, Lord, we would not have passed you by. But we did. Too often we make excuses for not taking care of each other. We have ignored your commandments to love and care. We do not deserve forgiveness, but we ask for it anyway, and ask you to help us change our ways.
(Moment of silence for personal confession) **Amen.**

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God seeks the lost, brings back those who have strayed, binds up the injured, and strengthens the weak. We are forgiven and restored.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

* Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Anthem

Alleluia! Sing To Jesus!
PCO Chancel Choir

Benjamin Harrison

Prayer of Illumination

Sarah Mayhew, Liturgist

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture

John 1:1-5

Sarah Mayhew, Liturgist

Second Scripture

Colossians 1:11-20

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

All Ready and Not Yet
Pastor Lisa Schrott

Affirmation of Faith (*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.54–55*)

in unison

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Offering

Invitation

Rebecca Mattern

Offertory

Jesus Shall Reign

David Cherwien

based on Duke Street

*Doxology #606

*Prayer of Dedication

Rebecca Mattern

Prayers of the People

Rebecca Mattern

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

in unison

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.

* Hymn #363

Rejoice, the Lord is King!, vs. 1-4
[Darwall's 148th]

* **Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Postlude on *Darwall's 148th*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles Callahan

* *Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Hour: There is no Sunday School today. Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Kathy Richardson & Nancy Kanistanaux for bringing our snacks and to Edward Ennen, Dorinda & Gary VanKempen and David Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

Ushers: Brett & Lynn Cone, Joel & Deb Major

Next Week December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent.

Scripture: Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Luke 1: 5-23

Education Hour: Intergenerational Advent Workshop following worship. We will be creating a new banner for our Sanctuary to celebrate the season. God's children of all ages are welcome!

Our Prayer of Confession, Promise of the Gospel and Prayer of Illumination are adapted from *Call to Worship*. November 26, 2023. Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday. Published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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