

Grace Presbyterian Church

20 November 2022

9:30 am

Christ the King

*Rooted in Christ, We Gather, Filled with the Spirit
We Worship God.
Welcome!*



Reign of Christ

**On this last Sunday of the Church Year,
we anticipate a renewed Creation, which God
envisioned in the One sent to transform and save**

Prayer Candles

Before worship, offer a prayer, and light a candle at the communion table.

We Gather

PRELUDE

Vince Di Mura, Music Director

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Worship

One: We begin in silence. (Observe a moment of silence.)

We listen not by focusing on one sound, on one creature, but on all creation and things loved by the Creator. Silence is not absence but presence.

All: May we be aware of your presence, O God.

One: All of creation, each species, are created for worship.

All: Let us listen for worship, whispered and shouted in the environment all around us.

One: The legs of the cricket rub together, and the wings of the hummingbird beat out praise.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy! Earth dances with your Wisdom creator God.

One: The pine needle rustles like the reeds of a clarinet, and the flowers bloom in exultation.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy! Earth revels in your glory.

One: The river roars with power, and the gazelle leaps in praise.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy! Creation amazes in your inspiration.

One: The whale intones ballads from the deep, and the lark lilts at dawn.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy! Creation sings by your redemption.

One: We fall back into silence and in awe.

In creation, we experience your abundant, eternal love.

All: In silence, we know your holy presence, O God.

(From resources for Adults for Fauna and Flora Sunday)

HYMN* God of the Sparrow

No. 22

Opening prayer

O God, we pray that reconciling love may be evident among us. May we play our part in restoring all creation to the fullness of balance and beauty as we live in the example of Jesus the Christ.

Prayer of confession

The Spirit of Christ dwells within creation and causes each element to shine forth with the beauty of God.

Yet, we confess that we do not always reflect the reconciling love of God.

Instead, we are often divided within ourselves, isolated from one another, and disconnected from the rest of nature, allowing the earth to be spoiled.

We bring to mind those areas of our lives in need of reconciliation. (silent prayer)

Words of Affirmation

God's promise to every generation is to know that God is there for us, and we shall never be put to shame.

Receive God's grace and offer it to one another.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Called to be one in Christ Jesus, we are made
to love one another in unity and grace.

Peace be with you!

And also with you.

(Raise your hand in a sign of peace and blessings)

We Reflect

A time for Children and the Young in heart

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION¹

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read,
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may receive with confidence and joy
what you say to us today. Amen.**

HYMN Now Thank We All Our God

No. 643

OT SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

NT SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:11-20

SERMON The Days are Coming Rev. Donald M. Pitches

We Respond

A Moment or Two for Stewardship

¹ Seasons of the Spirit, 2022

We Commit Ourselves and Our Resources

MISSION STATEMENT

To Know, Love and Serve God

VISION STATEMENT

As an open and affirming congregation, we genuinely welcome people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, beliefs, and those who are cognitively and/or physically challenged. Our vision is that each of us is a minister seeking to know Christ, grow in discipleship, and embody God's love for the world.

HYMN *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* No. 687

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Lord, In Your Mercy/Thanksgiving R+, **Hear Our Prayer**

Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, we give thanks for this church and for the community of people who live in faith with all their diverse talents. We give thanks for the calling of a new pastor. We acknowledge the dedicated work of the pastoral nominating committee.

We pray that our congregation and our faith will grow abundantly, and we will serve you, Lord.

We give thanks for that which challenges and increases our understanding and our faith.

We especially pray for those calling on their faith in times of trial, doubt, illness or grief.

We give thanks for the love that is ever-increasing between people in our midst.

We lift the celebrations of life and love in our community.

We give thanks for the acts of caring and peacemaking that are happening around us and in the world.

Help us fulfill the work of faith so that the good Creator, the loving Redeemer, and the sustaining Spirit are glorified.

Loving God, we, with all your daughters and sons, gather to worship and praise you this day.

We celebrate those who have served you and been an example for us in the past. We give you thanks for the joy of being a part of the community of those who have gone before us, those called to other communities, and those coming to join us.

Open us to your Spirit to continue being the men, women, and children you have called us to be.

In Christ's name, we pray;

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 of Praise Joyful, Joyful

No.611

OUR GIFTS OF SACRIFICE and THANKSGIVING

Invitation to the offering

The psalmist says, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" We come to God's house

to pray for peace, justice, and hope. And our offerings help us as a community of faith and support us as we work toward God's call. Let us worship God with God's gifts and our offerings.

Thank you to all those whose gifts and offerings support the church's ministry, mission, and outreach. You can also give online by visiting the church website or through your online banking.

Musical Meditation

Vince DiMura

*Doxology**

No. 711 v.1

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them for your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.**

*Prayer of Dedication*²*

Generous God, you are the Source of all that we are and all that we have.

We return to you a portion of the gifts you have given us.

**Bless this offering that it may further your purpose in the world,
gathering in the lost and lonely, tending to those in need, healing the ill, comforting the grieving, and sharing the good news of your love and compassion. Amen.**

We Are Sent

² Seasons of the Spirit-October 30, 2022

CLOSING HYMN* Glorious Things of Thee are Spoke No. 81

BENEDICTION*

Go out into the world in courage and peace,
holding lightly to the things of this world
and tightly to God's love.

POSTLUDE

****Indicates, please stand in body and/or in spirit.***

All songs not from Glory to God are used by permission of CCLI #1124594

Calender of Events and Days

Tonight November 20 @ 7 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Islamic Center Route 1 S.

Thanksgiving Day Thursday November 24

Advent Season - Sunday November 27 - Saturday December 24

November 30 – St. Andrew

Andrew, like his brother Simon Peter, was a Galilean fisherman. According to tradition, Andrew undertook several missionary journeys and was crucified on an X-shaped cross. He became the patron saint of Scotland because of a legend that his relics had been brought there in the eighth century.

December 1 – World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day began in 1988 to focus global attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. People around the world wear red ribbons on December 1 (and throughout the month) to remind others of the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in the world. Check with your denomination for resources to use on this day, as well as information about how your church can respond to HIV/AIDS in your community.