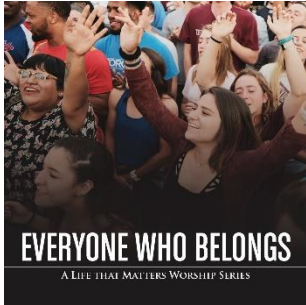


*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

+++++

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

**Prelude
Welcome**



“A Life that Matters”

Worship Series

Week 3

Today we gather in honor of Reign of Christ Sunday or also called Christ the King Sunday which is a marker for the end of the Christian year. It is a way of saying we wrap up a year’s worth of worship by claiming again whose we are. We reiterate our mission – to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The emphasis this week is in the middle – “of Jesus Christ.” That is the kind of disciple that we are. We aren’t disciples of our own wisdom; we aren’t disciples following the winds of this world. We are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Today we jump from Marks Gospel over to the Gospel of John. Today we listen to a brief yet surprisingly profound conversation between a prisoner in chains and his jailer holding all the keys, and you can’t help but wonder where the power resides.

Pilate asks Jesus a very provocative question and Jesus response is - “My kingdom is not of this world.” What did he mean by that? Is our faith, in the end, about getting out of the world as unscathed as we possibly can? Is it about some spiritual reality that has nothing to do with the flesh and blood and bone of the existence that defines us now? Are we simply passing through, waiting for something somewhere else? Because by Jesus response it kind of sounds that way.

But what if he wasn’t trying to spiritualize faith in that moment? What if, instead, he was trying to describe a new way of living in this world? What if he was setting aside centuries of power politics wielded at the end of a sharp stick? “If my kingdom were of this world,” he goes on to describe, “you’d have a war on your hands, an insurrection designed to get what we think we deserve. But that’s not how we make our way in the world. The revolution I’m leading is like nothing you have ever seen; the kin-dom I’m proclaiming, the kin-dom I’m leading reworks human relationship at its most fundamental level. It’s a whole new world.” Where do we go from here? We follow Jesus.

A Call to Worship

B. David Hostetter, Prayers for the Seasons of God's People: Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary Year B, (Abingdon, 1999), 216.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Holiness is the beauty of God's temple while time shall last.

People: We worship God in the sanctity and freedom from our sins, which Christ gives us through his life's blood.

Opening Prayer: GOD OF RESISTANCE

A collect inspired by John 18:33-37

God of grace, love, power, and resistance: You delivered your Son into this world to testify to the truth. Mobilize us. Give us the nerve to continuously take up the project of liberation like Christ the King. Give us the courage to eagerly respond to your call to advocate for justice and peace in our communities, so that the oppressed will be set free. It is because of the Spirit that gives each one the sustenance needed to do this hard work, we pray. Amen.

Praise Hymn UMH #369 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
[Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
[Refrain]

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... John 18:33-37 (NRSV)

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters[a] again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" 35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn UMH 176 "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" (sing twice)

Majesty, Worship His Majesty Words and Music Jack Hayford 1981 arr. By Eugene Thomas, 1981 © 1981 Rocksmith Music c/o Trust Music Management © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved

Majesty, worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise,
Majesty, kingdom authority
Flow from His throne, unto His own
His Anthem raise

So exalt, lift up on high, the name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King

Majesty, worship His majesty
Jesus who died, now glorified
King of all kings

Meditation

Almighty, Eternal and Holy God, who is, who was, and who is to come, worthy are you to receive our praise and thanksgiving. Here in this holy place where you have promised to dwell among us, we gather to offer our praise to your holy Name. To you be glory and dominion forever.

Your revelation in Jesus Christ gives life to our bodies and souls. He has shown us the way to everlasting life and has promised to make us priests and a royal nation, but not in a place that we can see in the here-and-now. Still, we try to fit your ways into our expectations and then we grumble when you do not conform. Where we have doubted your wisdom and your truth, forgive us, good Lord.

Jesus was born to come into the world and bear witness to the truth. He has said that whoever is of the truth hears his voice. By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit equip us to bear witness to that same truth and so help others in hearing your voice.

On this day we await your coming in power and might to reclaim your Church and establish the reign of righteousness. In that same power we ask you to take into your care those whom we have named this day; relieve their suffering, end their captivity and restore their brokenness.

O God, our Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, hear our prayers we ask Jesus' name who taught us to pray: Our Father....

Departing Hymn # 2184 Sent Out in Jesus' Name

Sent Out in Jesus' Name/Words Anon. Translated by Jorge Maldonado Music Trad. Cuban; Arr. By Carmen Peria Trans. © 1988, arr. © 1996 Abingdon Press Used from The Faith We Sing © 2003 Abingdon Press, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O help us to obey
and carry out your will.

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O help us to obey
and carry out your will.

SENDING FORTH: BE THAT **A closing based on 2 Samuel 23:1-7**

Be that savory aroma that lets all know that they belong.
Be that soulful song that fills the room with vibrations that console and inspire.
Be that cool and calming breeze that reminds others to live in peace.
Be that firm ground that gives our children something solid to stand on, so that they can see farther.
And offer always to one another the delicious kind of words that add beauty and flavor to our world.