

PrairieLand Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.

May we together experience the presence of God.

** - You are invited to stand at these times.... if you are able*

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude – Welcome - Announcements

Opening Meditation

Today we jump from Mark's 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 kingdom I'm proclaiming, the kingdom 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.

Call to Worship

Come to worship Jesus Christ, Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and is to come (Rev. 1:8).

We come to worship the one who rules justly (2 Samuel 23:34).

Come to worship Jesus Christ, the faithful witness. The firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth! (Rev. 1:5)

Bread of Heaven, God with us! (John 6:51, Mt. 1:23.)

Good Shepherd, True Vine! (John 10:11, John 15:1.)

Eternal Word, Great I AM (John 1, John 8:58).

Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace! (Isaiah 9:6.)

We come to worship Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords! (Rev. 19.16.)

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen. (Rev. 1:6.)

***Confession for Christ the King Sunday**

Lord, God, ruler of the stars of Heaven, Counter of the hairs on our head: We confess to you that we have failed to be your children. We have trusted in the things of this world far more than in you. We share love and family only when the calendar tells us we have to. Our values, work-ethic, and priorities show our sour fruits. We are broken. Forgive us we pray. Lord, empower us to follow you, our King, into Your Kingdom, so that we may profess that we are not of this world! Amen!

***Praise Hymn UMH #154 "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" (v:1,3,6)**

Author: Edward Perronet (1779)

Alterer: John Rippon (1787)

Composer: Oliver Holden (1792)

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!

**Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.**

3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget

**the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.**

6. O that with yonder sacred throng

**we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.**

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Lesson

John 18:33-37 (NRSV)

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters 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 does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to 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."

Word of God for the People of God! **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Moments

***Faith Hymn UMH #706**

“Soon and Very Soon”

Author: *Andraé Crouch (1978)*

Publication Date: 1989

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**1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!**

**2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!**

**3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!**

**4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.**

****Meditation****

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

O God we do rejoice that you are the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Thank you for offering us a glorious inheritance that includes your hope and your power made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Remind us on this Christ the King Sunday, that our true citizenship is in your glorious kingdom. We confess that we often focus more on our personal agendas rather than on you as our ultimate Lord and King.

As citizens of your kingdom, empower us to seek your justice and mercy in all that we do and say. May your kingdom here on earth be one where all people are welcomed, where all are treated with respect and dignity, where all have access to the basic necessities of life, and where those who have no voice are respected and valued. Our God and King, we

long for the world that you intended from the very beginning, a world that reflects your glorious kingdom in heaven.

Even as we pray for your kingdom to come as it is in heaven, we also pray for those who are in special need of you today. We lift up to you those who are ill and who are facing medical challenges.

We pray for those who are looking for work and who are struggling to get by each week. We pray for those who are experiencing physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual pain. Grant to these a renewed awareness of your resurrection hope and power. Remind them that they are citizens of your kingdom and recipients of your glorious inheritance.

In these beginning weeks of the holiday season when it can be so easy to get caught up in the busyness of this time of year and forget to take time for ourselves, remind us of the words of good news that Jesus the Savior reigns and It is in his name that we pray the prayer he taught his disciples and teaches us to say together, "Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

God of all our yesterdays, our todays, and our tomorrows: we bring our hearts this morning; we bring our gifts; we bring our desires to be a part of your love revolution in this world. We long to be your lights of hope in a world filled with despair, the trumpet of victory to your people, who too often feel outnumbered and overwhelmed, and the voice of confidence to those who have already conceded defeat. Dedicate our gifts; dedicate our hearts to shaping a world with love so that Christ won't feel a stranger on his return. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who gave in love all there was to give for us. Amen. (Revelation 1:4b-8)

We Go Forth To Serve God and Our Neighbors

Departing Hymn UMH #203.

Author: James Montgomery (1821)

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"Hailed to the Lord's Anointed"

**1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**2. He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,**

are precious in his sight.

**3. He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.**

**4. To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.**

***Sending Forth:**

Christ the fullness of God propel us. Christ the image of God dwell in us.

Christ in whom all things hold together make us signs and bearers of your community, In you, by you, through you, now and ever. Amen.

*** Postlude***