

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Twentieth-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ Sunday
November 26, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Come, let's gather to make a joyful noise, a noise of love and service.

Many: **We come to praise God with lives of compassion.**

One: Sing with acts of kindness.

Many: **We will glorify God with acts of mercy.**

One: Let's praise God with works of justice.

Many: **We will praise God with overflowing grace.**

*Opening Song:

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

#23

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of grace and glory, reveal yourself through our lives and love. Shine your wisdom and truth into our hearts this day. Help us to know the hope to which we are called, that we may be the servants you craft us to be. In your glory and grace, we pray.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Gathering God, this week, we threw an extra can of (on sale) veggies in our overflowing grocery carts; we donated that old coat we haven't worn in a couple of years to the thrift store; we re-gifted a bouquet to a neighbor in the hospital. Did you notice? Or were you too busy cleaning the guest room for the immigrant couple; buying hats and gloves for all the kids in the school near your home; sitting by the bed of a hospice patient after the family left for the night.

We spend so much time patting ourselves on the back, that we do not notice how you are constantly searching the ends of the earth for all your children, Merciful God, even going into the very grip of death to bring us all new life. Give us the faith to live as your people, and the wisdom to let go of all that you have poured into our lives, even as did Jesus, our Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God feeds the hungry and gives hope to the parched.

Many: **That's us.**

One: God brings healing to the sick and visits those imprisoned.

Many: **That's us.**

One: God wraps warmth around the shivering, and knits a sweater for the naked.

Many: **That's us.**

One: God loves every person, forgives every person, cares for every person.

Many: **That's us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, Creator of all things, heavenly father and mother, Soul of infinite love, wisdom, and power, ruler of all that is and all that is to come, who is mystery, yet revealed.

We follow Jesus, God's chosen one, who loved and served humbly, who healed the broken and included the outcast, who chose to suffer rather than harm for the sake of the healing of all creation, who gave his life for our redemption, and who was raised by God to new life. In his teaching, in his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. He calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace. We trust that he accompanies us and will help, guide, heal, and defend us through all difficulty and suffering.

We believe the Holy Spirit sustains us, and guides us and empowers us as servants of God's grace.

We live as the body of Christ, in the power of forgiveness and the reality of resurrection, and the light of eternal life.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-46

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“The Marks of Faithful and Effective Jesus Servants”

Pastor Chris

Prayers of The People/The Lord's Prayer (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

#34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts we have and the blessing of sharing. Use our gifts for your glory and to meet the needs and hopes of your kindom.

***Closing Song:** "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" #82

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Opening Prayer are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2023* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Offering Prayer of Dedication is by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnas-Holmes.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
November Radio Sponsor:	Connie Schwab

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Birthdays: November 30-Ann Stillman

Sunday, November 26: 10:00am- Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Tuesday, November 28: 9:30-11am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

Wednesday, November 29: 7pm. - Board Meeting
December/January Newsletter deadline

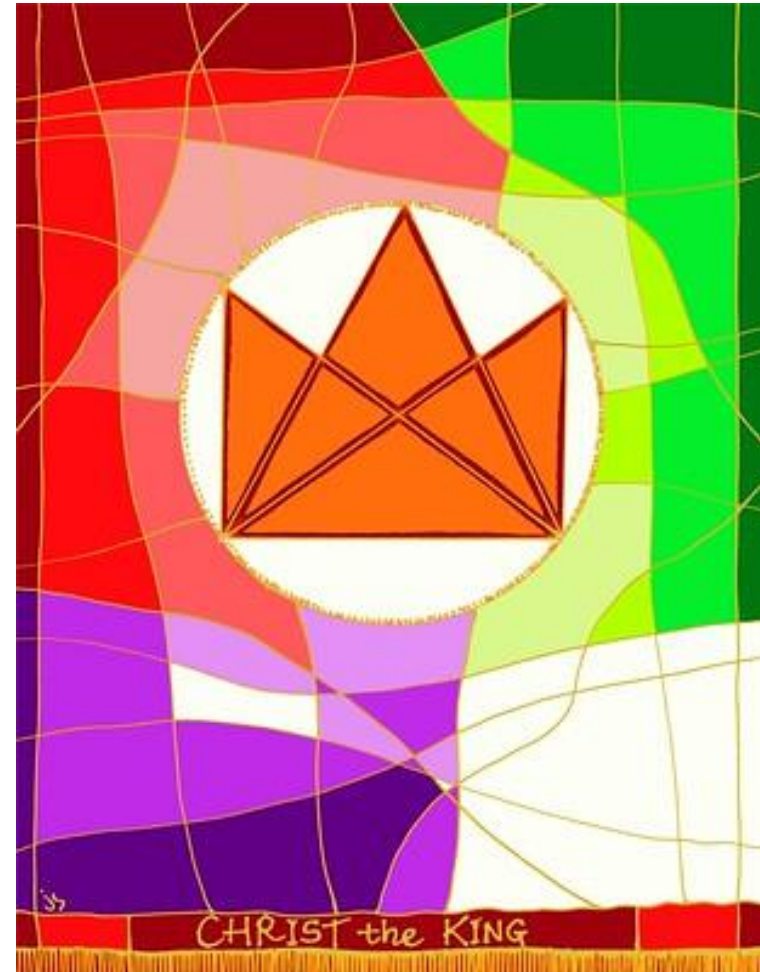
Thursday, November 30: 10am.- Clergy Cluster at Humboldt

Sunday, December 3: 10:00am- Worship with communion
Sunday School
Coffee
Food Pantry

Pledge Cards are available in the office and in the back of the sanctuary, please return them to the church office by December 3, attention Sandy Harmes-Buchanan.

November 27- Tacos for Tots at First United Methodist Church by the Kossuth County C.A.R.E Team and Loving Hands

The December, January, February issue of "Our Daily Bread" may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ*

165 Years

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