

Called to Wonder

CREATED BY JENNIFER O'FARRELL



Reign of Christ

REIGN OF CHRIST will be celebrated by many churches on Sunday, November 22, 2009. Reign means the period of time when something or someone is strong and powerful and in control of things. A monarch (a king or queen) reigns over a country or kingdom.

KINGS AND QUEENS:

You probably already know many things about kings and queens.

For example, he or she likely lives in a castle. The castle might look like a fort because there was fighting to start the kingdom and the royal family needed protection. On the ruler's head you might see a crown. There would be a royal crest or shield, showing symbols of their important history. This ruler might also carry a scepter to indicate authority over everyone else.

Such kings held enormous earthly power, controlling all the people who lived in their kingdom. Revenge might be taken on those who do not obey the king, so the people may do so out of fear. In an older kingdom, they might obey out of obligation to the king or queen of a past generation—with obedience from tradition, not from thought or choice.

WHAT KIND OF KING IS JESUS? Jesus the King rules differently than most kings found in history or in fairy tales.

"Crown him with many crowns the Lamb upon the throne" is the first line of a well known hymn, found at #274 in the *Book of Praise** (paraphrase by Isaac Watts of Psalm 72). It describes King Jesus as a gentle lamb—not as a high and mighty king who looks down upon us. Jesus did not come to judge us but to love us and to forgive us and to give us the power to do better. "Oh worship the King, all glorious above; oh gratefully sing God's power and God's love..." (from Hymn #313*, paraphrase by Robert Grant of Psalm 104).

Jesus is the loving King who forgives us and gives us another chance. "My shepherd is the King of love whose goodness fails me never, for all things good from God above restore my soul forever" (from Hymn #691*, paraphrase by H. W. Baker of Psalm 23). We are given great power that can change us and help us to faithfully serve the King well.

WHAT DOES THE REIGN OF CHRIST LOOK LIKE? The Bible tells us Jesus is the ruler of all people everywhere who listen for the truth.

(Read John 18:36-37) The subjects of King Jesus are not forced into obedience. They listen to what Jesus says and willingly choose to enter God's kingdom and live in God's way. To be such a king is to forgive. To be the subject of such a king is to be forgiven. Best of all, Jesus the King will be with you forever.

Look at more hymns to find words and phrases you can use to describe the Reign of Christ.

* Hymn suggestions: 214, 341, 343, 356, 377, and 265 to 275.