

## **Sunday Worship on November 23, 2025**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston)

### **We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song 631 Jesus' hands were kind hands
- Prayer for children

### **We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Luke 23:33-43
- Second reading: Psalm 46 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Colossians 1:11-20
- Sermon: **Behold the King: Creator, Redeemer, Reconciler**
- Praise song BOP 267 Rejoice, the Lord is King
- Prayer for the people

### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

### **We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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### **Responsive Call to Worship**

Say among the nations, the Lord reigns.

**Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!**

God comes to judge the earth.

**God will judge the world with righteousness and the people with truth.**

Come, let us worship God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God now and always.**

**Praise song – BOP 357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds**

### **Prayer of Adoration**

God of majesty and mercy, Three in One and One in Three, we give you thanks and praise for your commitment to your creation.

In Christ, you have turned the world upside down, revealing your strength through weakness, and your power through compassion.

In the cross of Christ, you taught us that no hopeless situation or frightening possibility is beyond your reach.

We praise you for your love at work around us and within us, always able to do more than we can ask or even imagine. Receive our love and our loyalty this day, our Sovereign and our Saviour.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**God of wisdom and warning, we confess that we often prefer our own plans to your purposes. We shrink from acts of service that seem too demanding. Forgive us when our commitment wavers and we think someone else will take up the challenges we face. Inspire us with the example of Jesus, and energize us with your Spirit to follow him as our Shepherd, wherever he leads. Amen.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Christ embodied God's love and mercy so powerfully that he offered forgiveness to his tormentors from the cross. In grace, he reaches out to us, too. Receive his forgiveness this day, and offer it to others for his sake.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

**Praise song BOP 631 Jesus' hands were kind hands**

**Prayer for the children**

**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Luke 23:33-43
- Second reading: Psalm 46 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Colossians 1:11-20

**"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

**Sermon: Behold the King: Creator, Redeemer, Reconciler**

Beloved people of God, grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our King.

Today, we stand at the doorway of a new church year. Christ the King Sunday is the final Sunday of the Christian calendar. This is a moment when the church pauses and lifts its eyes to the One who reigns over all.

Before we enter Advent and begin again, we look at Jesus. Not only as a teacher, a healer, or a friend, but as our KING.

But what kind of King is he?

The world offers many images of kingship. Power, wealth, dominance, and control.

However, our scriptures today give us a KING who reigns very differently. A KING whose crown is woven with thorns. A KING who creates, redeems, and reconciles – not by force, but by love.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus Christ our King together.

First, Jesus is the KING who creates. Christ is the source of all and centre of everything.

Paul declares in **Colossians 1:16-17**, **“in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”**

All things have been created through him and for him. And in him all things hold together.

Paul does not start at Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. He starts before creation. Before there was time, before there were galaxies, before there was life... Christ was there, and through him everything came to be.

This means that Christ is not simply part of the story of the world. He is the Author of the story. He is the meaning of the story.

When we feel that life is coming apart...

When we feel pulled in too many directions...

When our hearts are distracted or anxious...

Paul reminds us of a simple, life-giving truth.

**The ONE who made all things is the ONE who holds us together.**

And Jesus holds us not too tightly to crush us, but gently to sustain us.

Christ the KING begins not on a throne of gold but on the throne of creation itself.

Jesus Christ is the One **through whom** everything exists,

Jesus Christ is the One **for whom** everything exists,

Jesus Christ is the One **whom** everything finds its purpose.

If Jesus can hold the universe together, of course, he can hold each one of us, too. Jesus is the KING who created everything and sustains his creation.

Second, Jesus Christ is the King who redeems.

In **Luke 23:38, “There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”**

Jesus is the King who redeems, but we find him somewhere unexpected. He is on the cross. King Jesus? On the cross?

People mocked him. People did not understand what it meant.

But, God had a plan. Jesus knew what went on.

If someone asked the meaning of this.

Or if someone asked to describe the highlight of our faith,

This could be the scene we want to point out.

**The King on the cross.**

A man suffering, bleeding, forgiving his enemies, on the cross.

The soldiers mocked him, “If you are the King, save yourself!”

**However, that is the very thing he will not do.**

**Because he is a KING who has come not to save himself, but to save sinners.**

One criminal joined the crowd’s insults. But, the other looked at Jesus with desperate hope and said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

What was Jesus’ answer? **Luke 23:43, “Truly I tell you, today, you will be with me in Paradise.”**

No long process.

No tests to pass.

No perfect record required.

Just mercy. Instant mercy. Royal mercy.

This is our KING. A Redeemer whose power is shown not in dominance, but in self-giving compassion.

Jesus is waiting for you to pull you out from your darkness. Jesus redeemes. Rely on him.

Third, Jesus Christ is the KING who reconciles. Jesus is the Prince of peace.

**Colossians 1:20, “Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”**

The King who created and redeemed now reconciles.

Reconciliation is not simply forgiveness. It is the restoration of a broken relationship.

Christ brings us back to God. He mends the distance that sin created. He calls us sons and daughters again. And he also mends the fractures between us – our grudges, our divisions, and our wounds.

Where Christ reigns, walls fall down, peace rises. New beginnings become possible. We have new opportunities.

The world builds kingdoms through fear and force.  
Christ builds His kingdom through reconciliation.  
Through the patient, costly work of restoring what has been broken.

The church, the body of Christ, is called to join this royal work. We are called to work with our King.

We are to welcome the outsiders.  
We are to forgive the offender.  
We are to comfort the hurting.  
We are to heal what is divided.

Christ the King does not simply reconcile the universe. He reconciles his people. He reconciles us.

Let us fix our eyes on our KING Jesus and let us follow him.  
Jesus Christ is the Creator who holds all things together.  
Jesus Christ is the Redeemer who saves from the cross.  
Jesus Christ is the Reconciler who makes peace through his blood.

Jesus is not the King the world expects.  
BUT He is the KING our hearts long for.

Creator, Redeemer, and Reconciler, King Jesus Christ. His kingdom has no end. His mercy has no limit. His peace cannot be taken away. His love is stronger than death.

From next week, we are entering Advent. As we enter into a new church year, may our lives align again under our King's reign. May his peace guide us, may his mercy shape us, and may his love lead us.

Let us behold our King. Let us follow our King. And let us trust that he will hold us, redeem us, and reconcile us. This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Reconciler, we thank you for showing us what your KINGSHIP truly means.

You hold all things together, even when our lives feel fragile.

You save us with mercy that reaches down from the cross.

And you bring peace where once saw only division.

As we step into a new week, align our hearts with your kingdom. Shape our thoughts, our words, and our steps, so that we may follow you with trust and gratitude. Help us to live as people who belong to your gracious reign, people of compassion, people of peace, and people of hope.

Be the KING of our homes. Be the KING of our relationships. Be the KING of our decisions. Be the KING of this church.

We offer ourselves to you once more today, in the strong and beautiful name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

### **Praise song 267 Rejoice, the Lord is King**

#### **Prayer for the people:**

Almighty and gracious God, we come before you in gratitude on this Christ the King Sunday. You have sent your Son Jesus Christ to rule not with force, but with love; not with pride, but with humility; not from a palace, but from a cross. We thank you for a KING who knows our weakness, who carries our sorrows, and who welcomes us into his kingdom with mercy.

Lord, we pray for our world. Where nations are torn by conflict, bring your peace. Where people suffer under injustice, bring your justice. Where families are displaced or afraid, spread the shelter of your compassion. Let your reconciling work take root in places that feel hopeless or forgotten.

We pray for our community and for our church. Strengthen those who are weary. Comfort those who grieve. Heal those who are sick in body and mind. Guide those who

feel lost or burdened by decisions. Let your gentle reign bring renewal, courage, and rest.

We lift up those we love – our families, our friends, our neighbours – and ask that your blessing surround them. Give peace to the anxious, faith to the doubting, and hope to the discouraged.

And Lord, make us a people who reflect our King.

Make us a people who forgive, a people who welcome, a people who carry your light into dark places. Shape our life together so that others may see your mercy through us.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our King and our Saviour. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

On this Christ the King Sunday, we remember that everything we have comes from the One who created all things and holds all things together. In the great mercy of Jesus Christ, he gave himself fully for us, and through him, we have new life, peace, and hope.

In gratitude for his love, and in trust for his kingdom, let us now bring our offering to our King Jesus Christ.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify God.

*(BOP #321, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. Vs. 1)*

**Offering prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ, our gracious King, we place these gifts before you with thankful hearts. You have given us more than we could ever repay. Our life, forgiveness, and a place in your kingdom.

Use what we offer today to bless the weary, to strengthen your church, and to extend your healing and love into this community.

Shape us into generous people who reflect your generous heart. All that we have and all that we are belong to you. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves, to the glory of your reign. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

As we go from this place, let us carry with us the good news of our KING. He is the One who created us, redeemed us, and reconciled all things. Let his peace guide our decisions, let his mercy shape our relationships, and let his love steady our hearts.

May we step into the coming week with renewed trust, knowing that the KING who hung on the cross now reign in glory and walks with us in every moment.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.