

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
November 22, 2020
The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Christ the King Sunday

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service will be posted on the church's Facebook page, [on YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, www.mpchurch.net. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elder of the Month: Susie Lewis, 379-6478
- Deacon of the Month: Sandra Bowen, 236-7158

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100:1-5

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.**

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

*Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains, he took his seat above;
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ the Judge shall come
and gather all the saints to their eternal home
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

CALL TO CONFESSION[†]

We know that we have not lived as God hopes.
But however fragmented we become,
God longs to hold us together in grace and peace.
Let us come with our prayers of confession and need
to the One who prepares the way for our words.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION[†]

**In these moments, Remembering God,
we bring to you all the ways we have not
lived as your people:
we stand by watching
while those in need struggle to survive;
we cast our lots with those
who worship power and success;
we offer insults rather than words of grace
to those who care for us;
we scoff at your words
which call us to a different lifestyle.**

**Forgive us, God of Mercy,
for not knowing what we do to you,
to others, to ourselves.
Speak to us through Jesus Christ,
our King and our Savior,
who bears words filled with your tender mercy
and gracious hope.**

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON†

This is the good news: God remembers!

Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion.

God remembers us—and redeems us!

God prepares the way for us:

the way to grace, to hope, to new life.

Joyfully, we offer our thanks to God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sovereign God,

Let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at least we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[e] toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you

hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Dual Citizenship

Ruling Elder Stephen Thiel

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Closing of the Belhar Confession

We believe

- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against in-justice and with the wronged;
- that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.

Jesus is Lord.

To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE[†]

Create a throne room for yourself here, O Christ,
but let it be the empty seat beside the anxious
the lonely chair next to the confused
the vacant pew next to the hungry
and reign, O Jesus,
as sovereign over the forgotten.

May your reign be a mockery to the world
but good news to those who seek out truth
and may we join them in the search
finding you walking the streets
or breaking bread
or sitting by bedsides.

May we find you in border areas
on the edge of things
crossing over with the foreigner.

May we find you among children
learning to finger paint
as teachers to those who long to enjoy life again.

May we find you with the worried
silenced with nothing to say
and space enough to keep it.

May we find you on the wrong side of the tracks
going where you should not
and finding a place to lay your head among the lost.

May we find you singing our songs
of justice and peace
and removing your crown to do so.

May we find you with a word that lives
in the hopes of the afraid
and a comforting peace for those who are broken.

May we find you laughing at the powerful
unnerving what folk think so secure
while welcoming those who have nothing into your throne room.

O Jesus, reigning in the world
with your upside down kingdom,
may we find the faith to stand with you,
sovereign of life
and servant of all.

And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go out into the world in peace. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

[†] *Today's Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Pardon were written by Thom Shuman.*

[‡] *Today's "Prayers of the People" were written by Roddy Hamilton.*