

NOV 22 WORSHIP
Reign of Christ

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by David Eck)

L: Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves."

C: We seek to follow his example, serving others as a visible sign of his reign on earth.

L: The mystery of the kingdom is that when we are weak, then we are strong.

C: When we humble ourselves, we become vessels who Christ can use to bring hope and healing to others.

L: Today, let us think of the many ways Christ reigns in our lives and in our world.

C: Empower us to love more deeply and serve more compassionately.

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord
She is his new creation by water and the word
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth
Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food
And to one hope she presses with every grade endued

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the mourn of song

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won
Oh, blessed heavenly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face
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PRAYER OF THE DAY (written by David Eck)

L: The Lord is with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray...Mighty Savior,

C: When we confess that Jesus is Lord we are saying that you are in charge and the rulers of this world are not. Give us the courage to be visible signs of your kingdom in a corrupted and troubled world. We ask this in your name. Amen.

FIRST LESSON—Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24

The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says. I will seek out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.

So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! I will appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be their shepherd. I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

[CEB]

PSALM 100

R: Make a joyful noise to God, everybody.

Worship the Creator, give thanks and sing! [2X]

L: Give a standing ovation to God, the Eternal One!

C: Serve God with great laughter; bring an offering of song.

L: Discover the Shepherd who is wondrously good;

C: Our Maker who created us and calls us family. R.

L: We are God's flock, well-fed and well-protected.

C: We are God's tribe with a place to call home. R.

L: Let us enter God's house with thanksgiving and praise.

C: We worship the Holy One whose character is beyond compare.

L: God blesses us with love and mercy overflowing.

C: The Eternal One is faithful to us, always and forever. R.

Psalm paraphrase from The Psalms: Remixed by David Eck, © 2013. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON—Ephesians 1:15-23

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way. *[CEB]*

GOSPEL—Matthew 25:31-40

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." *[NRSV]*

SERMON

EVERYWHERE WE GO IS HOLY GROUND

Chorus: Everywhere we go is holy ground. Everywhere we go is holy ground.
There isn't any place on earth where God cannot be found.
Everywhere we go is holy ground

On the streets of our city, and on scenic country roads,
Hiking up majestic mountains, strolling through flow'ry meadows
In the camps of our homeless, through the slums of our poor
At the bedside of the dying, all these places, and many more

(Repeat chorus)

On a beach near the ocean, in a forest dense with trees
In a pew singing God's praises, in a cafe sipping tea
Serving lunch to our hungry, standing in a protest line
Visiting all our imprisoned, may we all open our eyes

Bridge: The world's our sanctuary, each place, a sacred shrine,
Teach us to love all that you love, and in the end we'll find that...

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Assist: Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Compassionate Savior, may your love reign over us. Keep our hearts burning passionately so we may continue to care for the least of your children: the hungry, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

As we approach the celebration of Thanksgiving, there is so much we have to be thankful for even in the midst of a pandemic. We thank you for our homes, for food on the table, for family and friends. We thank you for this church which is such a blessing to all of us and a sign of hope and healing to the community at large. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God our church, some of whom are meeting in person today while others are worshipping online. Although we may be divided by distance in this time of pandemic, we are united in our hearts. Bless us and inspire us as we seek to find new ways to be the church. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God, those who suffer the ills of body, mind or spirit, especially Susan, Vicki, Toni as well as those who we name silently in our hearts. *(Pause)* God of mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray together

C: The Light of God surrounds us; the Love of God enfolds us; the Power of God protects us; the Presence of God watches over us; wherever we are, God is. All is well. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;
Wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
From the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
Giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, in thy presence to abide;
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.
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BENEDICTION (written by David Eck)

L: Each week we pray "Your kingdom come, your will be done." Let us put feet on our prayers so that the world around us might encounter God's transforming love this week.

C: We go to shine the light of Christ in the darkest corners of our community.

L: Go in peace. Serve in the name of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check out our **ANGEL TREE** to help local kids in need this Christmas. If you are watching online and would like to participate, please call or e-mail Pastor Dave and e can tell you what items are needed. Our church is going to sponsor 10-15 children who attend Oakley Elementary.

CHURCH CLEANERS and **WORSHIP ASSISTANT** sign up sheets are in the gathering space. Please consider volunteering your time. Thank you!

ADVENT ACTIVITY SHEETS are available to download from the church's web site. This year people are encouraged to make their own Advent wreath and follow the daily intentions on these activities pages. There is also an art project, **ADVENT STORY STONES**, to download.