

**BEACHBURG PASTORAL CHARGE**  
**United Church of Canada**  
**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**  
**Trinity ~ 9:30 am; St. Andrew's ~ 11:00 am**  
**Proper 29A – Reign of Christ Sunday**

Minister: Rev. Kevin Moratz

Ministers: The People of the Congregation

Organist: Heather Campbell

Pianists: Barry Stephen, Murray Gutz

**Our Shared Mission Statement**

The congregations of St. Andrew's & Trinity United Churches celebrate and share God's accepting love known to us through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit calls us to discern God's Word as we reach out with concern and compassion to others, seeking justice, healing and hope for the world.

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Jesus announced the coming of God's reign—

a commonwealth, not of domination, but of peace, justice, and reconciliation. We light this candle recognizing the reign of Christ's love in our lives and in this world.

**Introit – “What Does The Lord Require of You”**

**What does the Lord require of you?**

**What does the Lord require of you?**

**To seek justice, and love kindness,  
and walk humbly with your God.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Congrats to Eva Price, Cam and Russell Mackay on having their birthdays this week

## Call to Worship

Gather in to know the one who is both lamb  
and shepherd.

**Let us gather in to serve the one who preaches a way that's narrow and has a love that reaches wide.**

Gather in to open your heart to the earthly Jesus and the cosmic Christ.

## Gathering Prayer (A Prayer for the Reign of Christ V.U. #241)

**Mighty and tender God, voice of the voiceless, power of the powerless:  
we praise you for your vision of a community of wholeness,  
a realm of peace, in which all who hunger and thirst are nourished,  
in which the stranger is welcomed,  
the hurting are healed, and the captive set free.**

**Guide us by your truth and love, until we and all your people  
make manifest your reign of justice and compassion.**

**We pray in the name of your anointed one, our servant-king,  
to whom with you and the Spirit, one Holy God, be honour, glory and blessing this day and forever. Amen.**

## Hymn:

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne:  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.  
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

## Minute For Mission

### Ministry of Music – The Lighthouse – St Andrew’s

#### Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Sovereign God,

we confess we have given idols power over us,  
the idols of power and wealth, fame and security.

We confess we have fallen into the ways of this world  
and have forgotten our kindred in Christ.

We have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth,  
and instead have allowed the idols of the world to rule over us.

Forgive us.

Call us into Your reign,  
to declare You the One who has power over us  
because Your power is love.

Call us to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another  
in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Ephesians 1:15–23

#### **Thanksgiving and Prayer**

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>18</sup> of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us

who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Matthew 25:31-46

### **The Sheep and the Goats**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

<sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

<sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

<sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

### Meditation – Love Reigns On Me

The days continue to get shorter, the nights are getting colder, they are calling for 10-15cm of snow tonight, and the church season known as Ordinary time in our liturgical calendar comes to a close today. It is the longest season of the church year beginning way back on June 7<sup>th</sup> the Sunday after Pentecost. Since then we have marked this trying time by reminding ourselves what it means to live as a disciple, how to be good stewards of what we have been given, and how to grow in relationship with God.

For those who may be listening online or perhaps as a refresher for some of us here, Our church year isn't a normal, linear calendar. Instead, it is circular, beginning with Advent (which starts next week with our Hanging of the Greens service) and ending today, the last Sunday of Ordinary Time with what we call the Reign of Christ or in some denominations, Christ the King Sunday. As the saying goes "Always, we begin again,".

Now many of the church's yearly celebrations have gone on for centuries, with over a millennium of tradition and history enriching them. They mark the events of Jesus' life: his birth, his ministry,

his journey to the cross, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, and his sending of the Holy Spirit to remain with us. We tell these stories in our church calendar, year after year. They shape us in a multitude of ways as we become part of the stories—and they become part of us.

Now, here we are, at the Reign of Christ Sunday, the day that dates back all the way back to...well ...1925. Yes! This tradition is not even 100 years old, yet it came at a time in the world where God seemed to be losing ground. As explained on [churchyear.net](http://churchyear.net), the devastating First World War had been fought, and the powers of nationalism and secularism were rising. Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King to lend courage to Christians whose faith might be flagging, to remind nations that the Church has a right to freedom and immunity from the state, and in the hope that leaders and nations would be bound to give respect to Christ and to reemphasize Christ's Lordship over all things in a time when dictatorships were on the rise in Europe.

Initially, the feast of Christ the King was celebrated on the last Sunday of October but was then moved in 1969 to its current place in the liturgical calendar and this day continues to provide us a vision of Christ, to which the rest of the year points.

And what a vision it is!

Now not everyone's vision of what the Messiah is to be is the same.

There's a large mural on the side of a building in downtown Spokane, Washington, that is a copy of artist Pat Marvenko Smith's painting of the book of Revelation's vision of the King of Glory. Jesus is depicted crowned with many crowns, with fire in his eyes and a light streaming from his mouth as he rides a white stallion, cavalry following behind him through a cloud. (As you can see) It is quite terrifying and at the same time completely expected of a Messiah who is coming to judge the quick and the dead.

Yet today's scripture readings give us a vision that helps us understand the shape of what the Messiah is

Our scriptures today speak of God as shepherd and Jesus as a just and merciful king, not a militant figure who looks like a ring-wraith or the Dark Rider from J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* series. Instead, the focus of today's scriptures is not on what Jesus as the great judge looks like, but on how we, as followers of Jesus, have responded to God's call in our lives. On this the last Sunday of our church year — the end of the intentional time in our lectionary, explores what it means to be a disciple. This is about discipleship and so it is about us.

I would like you for a moment to think about the churches in our area or any area for that matter. What do you hear about them? What are they known for? I think that Most churches I know have some measure of the Christian virtues that we all value: faith, love, and hope. They always have since churches began, but some have a reputation and others don't. Of course, all the communities are supposed to be living out their faith, bringing about God's kingdom here on earth.

But the community in Ephesus in our reading this morning has especially been noticed because of their reputation. The author of the Ephesians epistle which we attribute to Paul has been impressed by the word-of-mouth reputation that the community has for having faith in the Lord Jesus and demonstrating that faith in love.

They don't just get together to do nice things for other people and talk about Jesus on occasion. Instead, they believe that Jesus is risen and sits at the right hand of God and they have experienced God's power in their lives. They have been changed. They have been transformed. This transformation informs every single thing they do, individually and as a community.

This section of Ephesians is called a thanksgiving prayer, and it tells us something else about what God values in a community: people knowing their destination. They have a goal and because they know what direction they're going, they have become people of hope.

In our modern times, we sometimes get the meanings of 'faith' and 'hope' confused, but not the Ephesians. They know that faith means you entrust your life to Jesus today, in the present tense; and hope is about the future, about where our present trust in Jesus eventually leads.

This understanding about the Christian life reflects on how when we remain grounded and centered in our faith in Jesus, we will know where God is calling us to action in the world around us. If we are as they say "all talk and no action" and don't do anything with the experience of

God's power that we have, then what's the point? But we must also remember that as we reach out to others, we must continue to go back to the wellspring of God's living water and drink deeply, or else we can become empty shells. We must engage in both action and introspection.

Our Gospel of Matthew story of the sheep and the goats asks us a searching question that can be difficult to bear: are we admirers of Jesus or are we followers? The Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard describes the difference like this: "The admirer never makes any true sacrifices. He always plays it safe. Though in words, phrases, songs, he is inexhaustible about how highly he prizes Christ, he renounces nothing, gives up nothing, will not reconstruct his life, will not be what he admires, and will not let his life express what it is he supposedly admires."

Becoming a disciple of Jesus is no easy task. Many throughout the ages have admired Jesus, but far fewer have chosen the sacrifice of following.

There is a sign in a church that has gone around on Facebook for the past few years and it says, "Sometimes I want to ask God why [God] allows poverty, famine, and injustice in the world when [God] could do something about it, but I'm afraid [God] might just ask me the same question."

As Christians, we believe that God has full claim on our lives. We are coming into the season of Advent next week and are reminded that God loved us so much that God would become human—become one of us—so that we would fully understand what that claim was and how deep the love

goes. How do we translate this love to others? Jesus tells us in our Gospel today that when we feed or welcome or give clothing or visit the sick or those in prison that we are, in turn, feeding, welcoming, clothing, and visiting him. When people respond to human need—or fail to respond—they are responding or failing to respond to Jesus himself.

Through our belief in Jesus, we have the power to heal other people's lives, just by our presence in theirs. We are called to be healers. We receive our strength, not from ourselves, but from God. On this Reign of Christ Sunday, our scriptures are clear about the “immeasurable greatness of [God's] power for us who believe.”

The Son of Man, as Jesus referred to himself, proved through his own death that he is beside us in the struggle, sharing our suffering and our miseries. At a time of a rampant virus, in a climate of fear and even hatred, this realization gives us comfort and hope, for Jesus, who rules with love, is the king of kings.

As we complete another turning of the wheel of liturgical time, may we renew our commitment to be grounded in God's power to seek Christ in all persons and love our neighbor as ourselves, to let Christ's love reign on all that we meet even though we may look foolish to the world for loving so lavishly, and we may fail. But with God's help, we can also, thankfully, begin again. Thanks be to God. AMEN.

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**Song – King of Kings – Hillsong Worship**

### **Dedication of Offering**

Generosity is cultivated by the practice of regular giving. We give in gratitude for God's gifts to us, and because we need to live beyond ourselves; making a difference in the world. Let us pray:

**Gather the gifts of our hands and hearts, living Spirit.**

**Use these gifts to build not monuments to your distant glory,  
but testaments to your intimate love. Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

#### **Hymn: “Jesus Shall Reign”**

- 1    Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
      does its successive journeys run;  
      his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
      till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2    People and realms of every tongue  
      dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
      and infant voices shall proclaim  
      their early blessings on his name.
- 3    Let every creature rise and bring  
      peculiar honours to our King,  
      angels descend with songs again,  
      and earth repeat the loud Amen!

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

As we prepare to leave this time of worship, we offer up to God our hopes and our dreams for a better world.

We lift up to God ourselves, each of us part of God's holy dream.

May God bless us and our dreams, that we may make a difference this week, bringing God's reign on earth as in heaven.  
Amen.

Postlude

November bulletins are sponsored by: **Audrey Gutz & family** in loving memory of **Ritchie Gutz**. And by: **Eleanor McLaughlin** in loving memory of **Marvin McLaughlin and Harold & Marjorie Dougherty**.

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**CD of Sunday's Service available—contact Jean at 613-582-3597.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gifts with **Vision** catalogues are in. There is one at the back of each church and you can order online! **gifts with vision.ca**

**Please don't forget your food donation for next week's "Hanging of the Green/White gift Sunday Service".**

### **Service Times**

**Oct thru December** Trinity ~ @ 9:30 a.m., St. Andrew's @ 11 pm.

**Prayer List:** Let us keep the following people in our prayers for healing at this time.

**Paige Atherton, Ezma Weedmark, Rob Marson, Murray Anderson, Bernie Lemke, Leanne Caniff, Audrey Gutz, Lorna Stevenson, Ruby Bell, Freda Kinnear, Mervin Kinnear, Elaine Moore, Lola Byce, Bill Douma, Keith Johnson, Nora Bennett,**

**Please contact me if there is someone that you would like to add to our list for special prayers or you feel is in need of a pastoral care visit. I would request that you please ask the person's permission before submitting their name to be put in the bulletin. *Rev. Kevin***

**Nov 24<sup>th</sup>** There will be a meeting of the Reopening Committee this Tuesday at 7:00 p.m at St. Andrews in Beachburg.

Lighting of the "Lights of Hope" next Sunday Nov 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Beachburg Lions Hall. To donate in memory of a loved one (\$5 – single, \$10 – 3 bulbs, \$25 – 10 bulbs) please contact Audrey Cormack at 613-585-3498 (cell) or 613-582-3446 (home) or purchase at Beachburg Pharmacy, Post Office or Freshmart.

### **Trinity**

**Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ ‘Hanging of the Greens’ and ‘White Gift’ Sunday. Please note that the Cobden Food Bank is accepting groceries or monetary donations.

Anyone wishing to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one for the ‘Hanging of the Greens’ service please let Betty know. 613-646-2120

**St. Andrew's**

The Christmas season is upon us! On Sunday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> we will be having our “Hanging of the Greens” service and part of that will be placing of the poinsettia. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please contact Marilyn Labow @ 613-582-3969 or Audrey Cormack @ 613-582-3446. Please leave a message. All names of loved ones will be printed in the bulletin.