



## Nelson United Church

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

### ***Reign of Christ Sunday: The end of the Church year.***

#### Gathering Music

##### Prelude VU 210 "Christus Paradox"

**You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd,  
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
You, peacemaker and sword bringer  
of the way you took and gave.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
you, whom we both scorn and crave.**

**Worthy is our earthly Jesus!  
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and vict'ry.  
Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
you, who are our death and life.**

#### Welcome and Announcements

*This is the last Sunday of the Church Year, a day when we think about who Jesus Christ is for us and for the world. It is called the Reign of Christ Sunday and the readings offer different images for Jesus: Shepherd, King David's heir, Cosmic Christ, Son of Humanity, Son of God, the Human One.*

*For communion, if you are able, have ready a piece of bread and something to symbolize "wine."*

*Please speak with us the text in **bold**.*

#### Call to Worship Dialogue

What are we celebrating today?

**We are celebrating the end of the Church Year.**

What else is special about this day?

**It is also called the Reign of Christ Sunday. We think about Jesus' earthly life and the cosmic meaning of Christ's presence.**

How should we celebrate today?

**We celebrate with humility knowing that the world is suffering with COVID-19, civil wars, persecution of oppressed peoples, and other health concerns.**

Jesus is the earthly one, who embodied peace, wholeness and healing. And Jesus is the cosmic Christ, the Word made flesh who lives among us embodying God's love.

**We gather to worship, to celebrate with humility the end of the Church Year, to remember Christ's reign and the Kin-Dom of God, which is built from the bottom up.**

*(Light Christ Candle)*

Hymn VU 820 "Make a Joyful Noise"

Refrain

***Make a joyful noise all the earth!  
Worship your God with gladness.  
Make a joyful noise all the earth.  
Come to this place with a song!***

**Know that your God has made you.  
Know it's to God we belong.  
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.  
Worship your God with a song! R**

**Enter these gates, thanksgiving.  
Enter these courts with praise.  
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.  
Worship your God with a song! R**

**Ages through endless ages,  
seasons of endless years,  
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.  
Worship your God with a song! R**

**Gathering Prayer of Approach**

**We know that you are the God who made heaven and earth in all its glory. We worship you with gladness and joy for we are your people and we belong to your Kin-Dom. We come into your presence this day with laughter for we know this is where we belong. And even in the midst of our joy and laughter, we are mindful of the suffering in our world. We celebrate the earthly ministry of Jesus, who brought peace and healing to the world, and we give thanks for the Cosmic Christ, whose presence leads us in ways that are just, peace-filled and hopeful. In the name of the earthly Jesus and the Cosmic Christ we pray. Amen.**

**A Word for All Ages**

**Echo Prayer**

**Hymn MV 142 "Oh, A Song Must Rise"**

Refrain

***Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God's praises and glory,  
the faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.***

**From the mountains to the valleys,  
from the desert to the sea, a song must rise once again.  
From the voices of our leaders, the voice of you and me,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R**

**From poverty and riches,  
from the voice of young and old, a song must rise once again.  
From the free and the imprisoned, the timid and the bold,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R**

From ev'ry house of worship,  
 in ev'ry faith and tongue, a song must rise once again.  
 From the villages and cities a new song must be sung,  
 a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R

Responsive Reading Psalm 100, VU page 824—Refrain 1  
 led by Honey Bellman

Refrain 1

J. Jefferson Cleveland

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Shout to God, all the earth:  
**worship with gladness and joy.**  
 Come before God with laughter,  
**our maker to whom we belong.**  
 To the Shepherd who tends us like sheep,  
**let us raise our voices in song. R**

Come to God's gates with thanks;  
**Come to God's courts with praise.**  
 Praise and bless God's name.  
**"Truly you are good:**  
 you are always gracious,  
**and faithful age after age." R**

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 25:31-46  
 The Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Response** MV 104 "Know That God Is Good"  
**Mungu ni mwema, mungu ni mwema,**  
**mungu ni mwema, ni mwema ni mwema.**  
**Know that God is good, know that God is good,**  
**know that God is good, God is good, God is good.**

**Sermon**

Hymn VU 215 "Hope of the World" (vs.1-3 & 5)

**Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;  
save us, your people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
still let your Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
showing to wandering souls the path of light;  
walk now beside us, lest the tempting byways  
lure us away from you to endless night.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,  
who by this sign did conquer grief and pain,  
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious.  
You are our Lord! You shall forever reign.**

**Prayers of the People** – led by Leah Gray

When you hear the words "*Remembering with gratitude, Jesus' Earthly Presence*" please respond with "**Hear our prayers**".

**The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**Communion Thanksgiving Prayer**

O People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God, knowing that God's image is in us all.**

Let us give thanks to the One who gives life.

**It is right to say thank you and to offer our praise.**

Ever-living God, we do give you thanks and praise for you are majestic in holiness, yet ever near, a worker of wonders, yet plain in your presence. In the beginning you created the universe. You made the sun and stars above our heads, and the earth beneath our feet. Your word brought forth the rocks and streams, the surging seas and the wild winds. You fashioned life in all its myriad forms, and shaped from clay the wonder of the human frame. You spoke your word to your people through prophets and priests, people of compassion and courage. You never forsake us, even though we turn away from you. You came in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to live and love this life in all its fullness and to open us all to the way of life and freedom.

In Jesus' earthly ministry, he faced persecution, was arrested and left to die on a Roman cross. And yet, you made the cross of death a tree of life, the empty grave a sign of glorious hope.

On the night of his arrest by the authorities, Jesus gathered with his community, took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to those with him, saying, "Eat this bread, all of you, and when you do so, remember me."

In the same way near the end of the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine and gave it to those with him, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God in my life. Take this and share it. And when you drink from the cup, remember me."

(Adapted from a communion prayer in *Celebrate God's Presence: A book of services for The United Church of Canada*. United Church Publishing House, page 281-282. Used with permission.)

Send your Spirit to rest upon us and upon this bread and fruit of the vine. May we experience in the Reign of Christ, your promised gift of grace and love, and may we be empowered to be a blessing in the world you have made. And so, remembering the gift of life we celebrate in this sacred meal and that has been celebrated down through the centuries, we say together...

**In sharing this sacred tradition, we are reminded that God's Kin-Dom of Love is with us.**

And so, as Jesus taught us, we are bold to say together...

#### **Jesus' Prayer:**

**Our Father-Mother God, who is in the heavens, may your name be made holy, may your dominion come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today the bread we need; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors; and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil.**

**For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

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#### **Sharing Communion**

*We will all eat a small piece of bread together, and then the cup of "wine"*

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**Dear God, we celebrate your Realm of Peace in the bread of heaven and the cup of blessing that we have shared. May these heavenly things bless our earthly lives with hope, love and courage. Thank you for this blessing for we pray and gather in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### **Hymn VU 211 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne:  
hark, how the heav'nly 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.**

**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.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways  
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.  
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet  
fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**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.**

#### **Commissioning and Benediction**

Our worship is over, may our service in the world begin anew.

**In living the Reign of Christ, we follow the Way of Jesus, embodying the Love of God**

Go, and may the Spirit of love go with you.

**And may we seek to live kindness, seek justice, and humbly walk with our God.**

May the grace of the living Christ live through you, the love of our Maker be with you, and the communion of the Holy Spirit enliven us all to live the Reign of Christ.

**Amen.**

**Choral Blessing MV 208 "Amen."**

**Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Postlude**



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