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| Sunday next before Advent  **CHRIST THE KING** 22 November 2020 |
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*Light a candle as a symbol of Christ’s presence with you, and to remind us that we are praying as a church family.*

**HYMN**

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy,**  
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,  
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,  
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,  
and hope is awakened instead of despair.  
  
The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,  
believe the good news, repent and rejoice.  
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,  
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.  
  
God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,  
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;  
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,  
and all things cry glory to God all in all.

**WELCOME**The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** - led by Jeannie Green  
Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love  
with all the saints in earth and heaven.  
Knowing our unworthiness and sin,  
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

**Most merciful God,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**in though, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy**

**forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly,**

**love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen**.

May the God of love and power

Forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**READING** – Luke 14.15-24 read by Liz Brown

**15**When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.’

**16**Jesus replied: ‘A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17**At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, “Come, for everything is now ready.”

**18**‘But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, “I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.”

**19**‘Another said, “I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.”

**20**‘Still another said, “I have just got married, so I can’t come.”

**21**‘The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.”

**22**‘“Sir,” the servant said, “what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.”

**23**‘Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. **24**I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.”’

**SERMON** – Lucinda Howard

**PRAYERS** – led by Jan Croft

*During the prayers, this response will be used*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**COLLECT**

God the Father,

help us to hear the call of Christ the King

and to follow in his service,

whose kingdom has no end;

for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, one glory.

**Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN**

**Rejoice, the Lord is King,**  
your Lord and King adore;  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore:  
 *Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*   
 *rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*   
  
Jesus the Saviour, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above:  
  
His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given:  
  
He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet:  
  
Rejoice in glorious hope;  
Jesus the judge shall come,  
and take his servants up   
to their eternal home.  
 *We soon shall hear the archangel's voice*   
 *the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!*

**CONCLUSION**

Christ our King make you faithful and strong   
 to do his will,

that you may reign with him in glory;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you  
and remain with you always.

**Amen.**