



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Reign of Christ

November 22, 2020

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin before God and one another...

Silence for reflection

Stirring Spirit, **we confess that we are not awake for you.** *Breathe*

Generous God, **we are not faithful in using your gifts.** *Breathe*

Compassionate Savior, **we forget the least of our siblings.** *Breathe*

Divine Creator, **we choose to ignore your beautiful image in one another.** *Breathe*

Holy One, **we fester in sin that divides your beloved community.** *Breathe*

Awaken us O God, **Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING | Ezekial 34:11-16,20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 25:31-46

God is with you! **And also with you!**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“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. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then 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; ³⁵for 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, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then 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? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And 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.’ ⁴¹Then 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; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I 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.’⁴⁴ 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?’⁴⁵ 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.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to you, to consider Jesus as “the king,” the “judge,” or “sovereign,” etc.? Is this language a problem for you?
- What are some other ways we might talk about “Christ’s reign” that could be more helpful to others?
- Are you a sheep or a goat?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Teach us to listen, appreciate, and believe the experiences of others that we may learn to respond faithfully and love more fully. Make those of us who are privileged ready to shed our ignorance and power to raise up the disenfranchised. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children’s ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Bless parents, teachers, and childcare providers burdened by the complexities of the coronavirus. Help them to foster resilience in the young people of our world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for our church family and pray for the needs of one another, especially for Bob and Jeanette, Rosella, Rob and Scott, the Waldon family, Eric, Jim, Ronnie, and for all whom we name now...

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. This weekend, we especially remember those of our transgender siblings murdered as a result of transphobia. We repent of our failing to include others out of fear and ignorance. Inspire us by the example of your saints, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW WORSHIP TIME, Sundays 10:00am!!!

Complete the Survey! You should have received a survey via email that will help to guide our ministry teams in the coming months. Please fill that out as soon as you can. If you have not received the survey, you contact Jonathan Tomick at Jonathan.tomick@gmail.com to have it sent to you. If you do not receive the church's e-newsletter, please sign up on the website. Click the link below.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuchampden.org>.

BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favor and give you peace,
in the name of the Father, **✠** Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!