**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Reign of Christ**

**November 21, 2021**



*“Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’" (John 18:37)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L:    The Lord is King, robed in majesty

**P:    God established the world, it shall not be moved**

L:     From before time and space

**P:     The Ancient One sits on the throne**

L:     The way of Christ is the way of salvation

**P:     All the people of the earth will seek the Lord**

L:    Christ’s kingdom is everlasting and unshakable

**P:    Christ’s rule and authority shall not pass away**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “At the Name of Jesus” #277 (vv.1-4)

**At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow**

**Ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now**

**'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord**

**Who from the beginning was the mighty Word**

**Humbled for a season to receive a name**

**From the lips of sinners unto whom He came**

**Faithfully He bore it spotless to the last**

**Bro’t it back victorious when from death he passed**

**In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue**

**All that is not holy, all that is not true**

**Crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour**

**Let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r**

**Watch, for this Lord Jesus shall return again**

**With his Father’s glory o’er the earth to reign**

**Fro the day is coming when each knee shall bow**

**All our hearts confess Him King of Glory now**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, you remembered the oath you swore to David and so established a glorious realm of salvation through Jesus of Nazareth, his heir. Train our eyes to see your righteous rule, that, standing firmly in hope before the powers of this world, we may heed your voice and be constant in your truth. Grant that the prayers we make may reveal Christ's reign in our time, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** 2 Samuel 23:1-7

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: L: All mighty God, who strengthened the apostle’s faith through the resurrection and ascension of the Son, brings us all together in his glory. Live by grace, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P: Most High God, majestic and almighty, our beginning and our end: rule in our hearts and guide us to be faithful in our daily actions, worshiping the one who comes as Savior and Sovereign, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God. Restore all things by the salvific work of your well-beloved son, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Grant the people of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together by his most gracious rule; that we may all live and reign with You, Holy Trinity, evermore. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 132

**P: Rise up, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy. For your servant David's sake do not turn away the face of your anointed one. The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I shall teach them, their sons also, forevermore, shall sit on your throne.” For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his habitation: “This is my resting place forever; here I will reside, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless its provisions; I will satisfy its poor with bread. Its priests I will clothe with salvation, and its faithful will shout for joy.”**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “We Will Glorify” #156 (vv1-4)

**We will glorify the King of kings, We will glorify the lamb**

**We will glorify the Lord of lords, Who is the great I Am**

**Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty We will bow before His throne**

**We will worship Him in righteousness, we will worship Him alone**

**He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth, He is Lord of all who live**

**He is Lord above the universe, all praise to Him we give**

**Hallelujah to the King of kings, Hallelujah to the Lamb**

**Hallelujah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I Am**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

**Sermon:** “Human Dignity”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Blessed Assurance” #442 (vv.1-3)

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

**Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine**

**Heir of salvation, purchase of God**

**Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight**

**Visions of rapture now burst on my sight**

**Angels descending, bring from above**

**Echoes of mercy, whispers of love**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest**

**I in my Savior am happy and blest**

**Watching and waiting, looking above**

**Filled with His goodness, lost in His love**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Look on the world and seek Justice, love mercy, live humbly. Rejoice where the Kingdom has come. Give, to fulfill God’s mission of righteousness for all, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” #272 (vv.1-4)

**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**

**Crown Him the Lord of love Behold His hands and side**

**Rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified**

**No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight**

**But downward bends his wond’ring eyes at mysteries so bright**

**Crown him the Lord of life**

**Who triumphed o'er the grave**

**Who rose victorious to 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 Heaven**

**One with the Father known**

**One with the Spirit thro’ Him given**

**From yonder glorious throne**

**To Thee be endless praise**

**For thou for us hast died**

**Be Thou, O Lord, thro’ endless days**

**Adored and magnified**

**\*Benediction**

L: It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and King. Our mission in life is to make his kingdom a reality among us. The way to do this is to live as he lived: for others, in love and service. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.