

**Christ the King**

*Thanksgiving Sunday*

The liturgical year, which begins with the season of Advent, ends with a celebration of “Christ the King.” The Gospel of Luke tells the story of the death of Jesus on the cross. A sign over the head of Jesus reads, “This is the King of the Jews,” and soldiers mock him, saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” What do these events mean for our lives today?

**November 24, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** 8:30 **Hymnal 694 Come, ye thankful people, come** *St. George’s Windsor*

10:45   Alleluia! Amen!   *arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter*

 Promise Bells

**Greeting**

 Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

**People: and let us exalt God’s name together!** *Psalm 34:3*

**Announcements**

\*10:45 **Introit** Christ is the King in all the earth. *Karle Erickson*

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Christ has come to be our king.

**People: We have come to be Christ’s people.**

Leader: Clothed in righteousness, Christ has come to save us.

**People: Let the faithful shout for joy.**

Leader: Like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, Christ disperses the darkness with justice and mercy.

**People: Worship the prince of peace.**

*The Abingdon Worship Annual*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 168 At the name of Jesus**  *King’s Weston*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**O God, with grace and peace, you clothe your people in the garments of salvation. Open our eyes, that we may behold your glory, and witness your Son coming with the clouds, to rule with justice and righteousness. Open our ears that we may hear his voice calling us to shine like dew on the grass. Open our hearts, that we may love as he loves, and live as he lives. Amen.**

**\*Silent Prayer**

**\*Worship & Song 3022 Peace of our praying** (stanza 1) *Pahoa*

**Peace of our praying, song of our singing, truth of our telling, love of all loves,**

 **health of our healing, gift of our giving, life of our living, light of all lights.**

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 **TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**Celebration of Appointment**

*Today we celebrate the appointment of Scott A.F. Miller by Bishop Cynthia Moore Koikoi to serve as our part-time associate pastor, effective December 1st. Rev. Strandburg greets the congregation and the new local pastor appointed to serve, then addresses the congregation, concluding with the following liturgy:*

 Pastor Miller: Today I reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation.

 Leader: Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church

 by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness,

 will you who celebrate this new beginning

 support and uphold this new pastor in his ministry?

 People: We reaffirm our commitment to support you
with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

 Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger

 People: who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

 Leader: Let us pray.

 People: Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together,

 with Scott Miller as our associate pastor.

 Give him and us patience, courage, and wisdom

 so as to care for one another and challenge one another

 that together we may follow Jesus Christ,

 living together in love,

 and offering our gifts and talents in your service;

 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*The Sign of Peace**

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song

 This, this is where children belong,

 welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

 Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

 This is where children belong. words and music: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Paulette Colonna

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the sanctuary near the end of the service.

8:30 **Hymnal 188 Christ is the world’s light**  *Christe sanctorum*

10:45 **Handbell Anthem**  Hymn of Promise *Natalie Sleeth, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson*

 Chapel Bells

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Scott Miller 10:45 Bob James

**A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures**

 Jeremiah 23:1-6 Promise of Restoration

**Response**

 Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

 **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Celtic Alleluia: Alleluia.** (sing 4 times) *James J. Chepponis*

**Scripture Reading**

**\*A Lesson from the Gospels**

 Luke 23:33-43 Jesus on the cross

**Response**

 Leader: The Word of the Lord.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory**

*In addition to your offering, you are invited to place any outstanding 2020 pledge cards in the offering plate.*

*Cards are available from the literature table in the Narthex. Pledges can also be made online at www.mlumc.org/pledge.*

8:30 **Offertory Solo** I feel the spirit movin’ *Spirituals, arranged by Mark Hayes*

10:45 **Offertory anthem**   *arranged by Jeremy Walton*

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;

he chastens and hastens his will to make known.

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.

 Sing praises to his name: he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,

 ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;

so from the beginning the fight we were winning:

 thou, Lord, be at our side, all glory be thine!

 We all do extol thee, our leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.

 Let thy congregation escape tribulation: thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

\***Hymnal** **94 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (standing) *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Lead on, O King Eternal” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**\*Hymnal 580 Lead on, O King eternal** (stanzas 1-2) *Lancashire*

\***Benediction**

**\*Hymnal 580 Lead on, O King eternal** (stanza 3) *Lancashir*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers at the columbarium** are given in loving memory of Joseph Utzig, Jr. by his family.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in loving memory of Mac McAninch by his family.

**Acolytes** Xavier Sanchez and Emily Shoff

**Greeters** 8:30 Joe Catalano 10:45 Bob and Chris James

**Special Music at 8:30** is provided by Robert Richards, a member of our Chancel Choir.

**Special Music at 10:45** is provided by the Promise Bells and the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; and the Chancel Choir, conducted by Julia Scott, a member of the choir and a professional harpist.

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Today’s Scripture**

**Jeremiah 23:1-6**

23Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. 2Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. 3Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. 5The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

**Luke 23:33-43**

33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” 39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

Woody Kimmel, Providence Point

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore,

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Ezra Gibson, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Steve Howard, Dave Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Bob Mallery, Jinny Sheppard,

Carol Van Sickle, Arlene Stewart,

Peyton Wisterman

**In the Military**

Matt Lewis, USMC,

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt Michael Zimmerman

**Hospitalized**

Rev. Paul Taylor

**Youth Group Events**

**Sun, Nov. 24 Youth Group from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.** Friendsgiving Dinner, Games/Activities, Middle School/High School Groups

**Sun, Dec. 1 No Youth Group**

**Sun, Dec. 8 Parents’ Afternoon Out, 12-4 pm** (details in announcements)

**Sun, Dec. 15 5-8 pm Church Wide Community Christmas Caroling** Welcome Center dinner

 at 5 pm, caroling at 6 pm, then cookies & cocoa 8 pm in the church. Register with Kim Rhoton, krhoton@mlumc.org

**Kerygma Adult Sunday School 9:30 - 10:30 am The Library**

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11/24 David Seitz, “Knowledge of the Holy”

12/1 Pastor Don Cook, “Unfinished Business” Part 1

12/8 Pastor Don Cook, “Unfinished Business” Part 2

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 THRU SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

**SUNDAY 11/24**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School Various

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:45 am Youth Choir Choir Room

 5 pm Youth Group Welcome Center

 7 pm Troop 23 Leadership Meeting Wesley

 7 pm Do No Harm Welcome Center

 **MONDAY 11/25**

5 pm American Guild of Organists/Pgh Sanctuary/Asbury

 7 pm Chapel Bells Bell Room

**TUESDAY 11/26 – NO Terrific Tuesday/Asbury Kitchen Cleaning All Day**

6:30 pm Scout Merit Badge Network

 7 pm Board of Reviews Network

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**WEDNESDAY 11/27 – Community Thanksgiving Prep/Asbury and Wesley Kitchens All Day**

 7 pm Bear, Tiger, & Wolf Den Meetings Various

**THURSDAY 11/28 – THANKSGIVING – OFFICE CLOSED – Thanksgiving prep and delivery**

**FRIDAY 11/29 – OFFICE CLOSED**