

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 24, 2024

John 18:33-37

A Wise Reign

Today is Christ the King Sunday, a festival on church calendars that brings our attention once again to the why God sent his Son to us — to reign with righteousness, justice, peace and love.

It's a day we hear Jesus in John's Gospel telling Pilate, an earthly ruler, that the kingdom that Jesus has come to establish is not from here. It is beyond policies, agendas and elections. Perhaps that is why the use of the word "kin-dom" rather than "kingdom" is better suited for our time, as it emphasizes a reign where we are indeed kin, a family called to care for one another.

The celebration of Christ the King Sunday, though, is not an ancient church festival like Epiphany or Pentecost.

Christ the King Sunday was created by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to address the rise of communism and fascism that was taking place in Europe. He had envisioned his papacy to be "the reestablishment of the Kingdom of Christ by the peace of Christ," and sought ways to lead people back to loving God first in a world that was being divided by politics.

Almost a century later, it is not hard to imagine the fears felt in the uncertain and volatile world of 1925. In many ways, they are the same. What will tomorrow bring for my family? Will my children be safe? When will the fighting end? Will there be jobs? Food? Housing?

Our world is still filled with power grabs and political loyalties that pit families, friends and congregations against one another. The Reign of Christ seems so distant. The reign of love so elusive. The reign of peace so impossible.

Yet here we are. Christ the King Sunday 2024. Where have we placed our trust for a hopeful tomorrow? If that trust is in the hands of mere mortals, we are in trouble. But if that trust is in God who reigns now and forever, then we just might have a chance in seeing peace in our lifetime.

In The Lord's Prayer there's a line recited that says, "thy kingdom come." What if today we stop right there and ask ourselves what is this kingdom we are praying for? Have we given it any thought to what it really looks like? How is this kingdom asking us to change how we live — how we use your resources to help others?

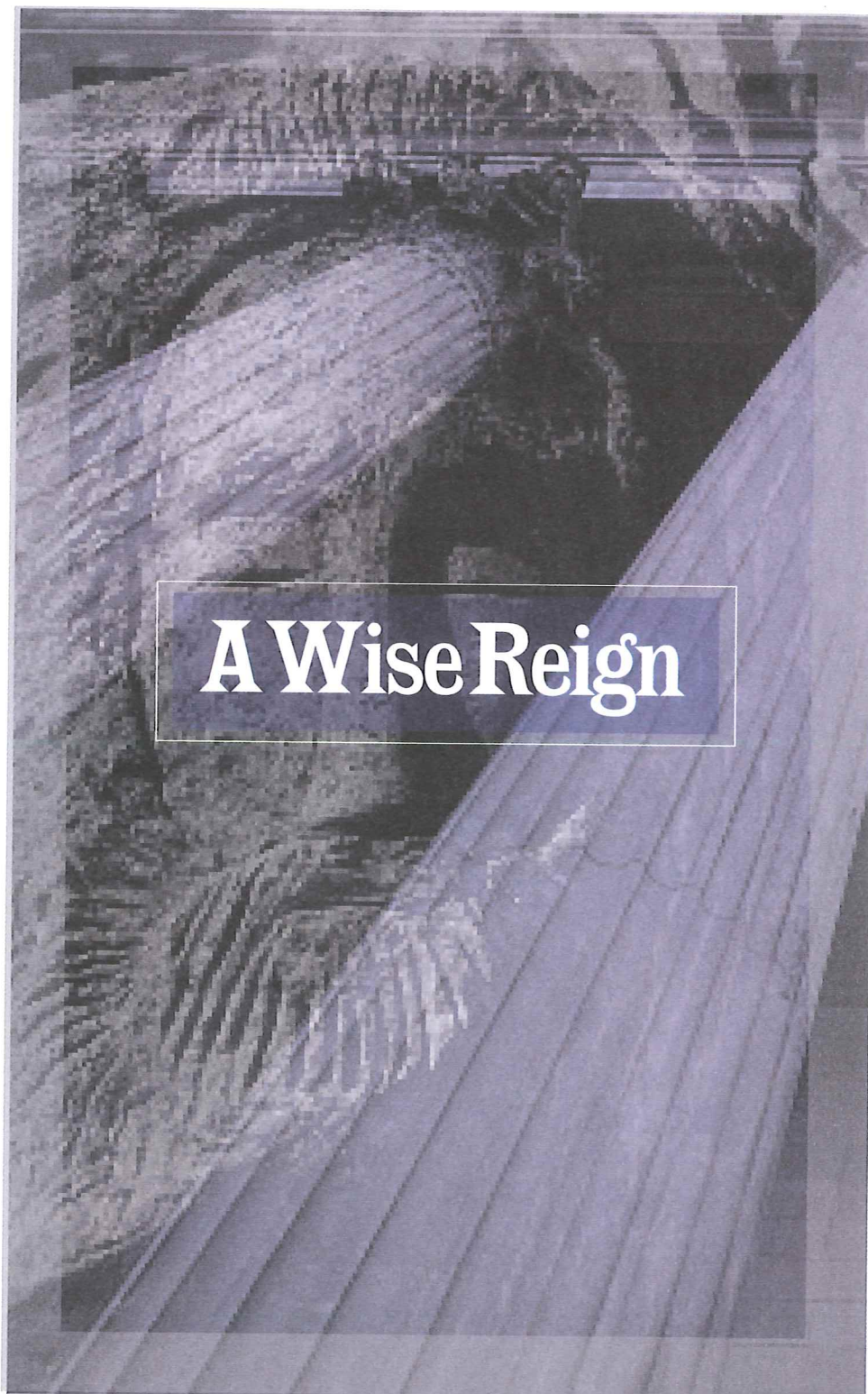
Jesus' kingdom is not from here. It is a kingdom foretold by the prophet Isaiah as one where the poor hear good news, the brokenhearted are comforted and prisoners are set free. It is a kingdom where all are welcome, and no one is without.

God, You so loved the world that You gave us Your Son who is our Lord, Savior, Redeemer and King. May today we catch the vision of Christ's reign here in our time, and may our words and deeds help to usher in thy kingdom. Amen.

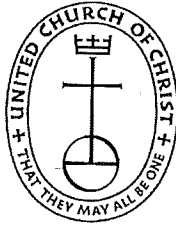


8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

November 24, 2024 at 10 AM Worship

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Tamara Waters-Wheeler

Music: Boram Chern | Video: Dana Schaar Jahner

*Rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*NO MATTER

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

All: In reverent awe, we praise our God

*HYMN Now Bless the God of Israel

NCH 110

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 93

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship or attend Sunday School in the church basement after the Offering.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess we have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth, and instead have allowed the idols of the world to rule over us. Forgive us. Call us into your kingdom, to declare You the One who has power of us, because Your power is love. Call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

CHOIR ANTHEM

King of Glory

SCRIPTURE

John 18:33-37

SERMON

HYMN

All of My Life

Sing! 140

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BENEDICTION

*HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness

NCH 423

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE, License #732302-A](https://www.onelicense.com/licenses/732302-A).



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

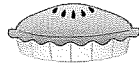
THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: Nov 24-Dec 1

- Sunday:** 10 AM Worship (in-person & on-line)
11 AM Fellowship & Noon Online Fellowship
- Tuesday:** 1:00 PM Quilting/Knitting
7:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
(St. George's Episcopal Church, 601 N. 4th St)
- Wednesday:** 7 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday:** **HAPPY THANKSGIVING** (Church office closed)
- Friday:** Church office is closed
8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & online)
- Saturday:** 11:30 AM High Tea at Garrison UCC
- Sunday:** 10 AM Worship (in-person & online)
11 AM Advent Party & Gift Fair
Noon Online Fellowship

Sundays Dec. 1, 8, 22, & 29 are still available for sponsorship in 2024! If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Community Thanksgiving Worship & Pie Social November 26 at 7pm

Join our annual community Thanksgiving worship at St. George's Episcopal Church, 601 N 4th St. Speaker is Darla Schafer the UCC Disaster Response Coordinator for ND.



High Tea - Nov. 30 at 11:30 AM

Sign up by the bulletin board for a trip to the Dickens Festival for High Tea at Garrison UCC. The carpool leaves from Bismack UCC at 11:30 AM.



Advent A'fair - Dec. 1 at 11 AM

You're invited to the Advent Party and Gift Fair! We'll have crafts, games, a free-will lunch, cookie decorating and a homemade gift sale.



"Take-A-Break" Kid's Camp - Dec. 7

Take a break and let us care for the kids from 9am - 2pm. For ages 6 months to 10 years. Free-will donation (suggested min donation of \$10/child). If you are interested in assisting with activities and child, care please contact the church office ASAP.

Women's Christmas Luncheon - Dec. 12

You're invited to lunch at Ruby Tuesday at 12:30 PM for our Women's Christmas Luncheon. Please RSVP to the church office or Dawn Archer if you plan to attend.

Church Christmas Program - Dec. 15

This year's Christmas Program led by our Sunday School children and friends is during worship on December 15. Handmade Christmas ornaments will be given out after worship.



Christmas Eve Worship - Dec. 24 at 5:30 PM



Invite your family and friends to worship with you at Bismarck UCC on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5:30pm. Our service will include lessons, carols, and candlelight.

Special Offering: Christmas Fund - Dec. 22

For over one hundred years, **The Christmas Fund** has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. This is one of our five special offerings collected in UCC churches all around the United States. Historically, this fund has assisted many clergy who served rural ND churches.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Family of Diane Kolberg, Family of Vern Frederick, Family of Irene Perman, Robin Kress (Mike & Kathy Rudolph's daughter), Family of Lee Jacobson (Pat Grossman's brother), Lewis Schema (Kerri Kraft's father), Vern & Bonnie Frederick, Gene Weekes, Macyeo Franks (Jane Thomson's grandson), Judi Allen, Jasten Bearstail (Cheryl Dank's family friend), Preston Danks (Cheryl Danks' nephew), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Amy Thomson (Jane Thomson's daughter-in-law), Beryl Dinkins (Kyle Eisenbraun's grandma), Maggie Demaree, Doretta Reule, Bella & Kayla Bruning, Michael Bruning, Perry Weekes, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

No Matter

♩=120

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm G⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷

jour-ney of life; you're wel- come, wel- come in this. place. No mat-ter

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm Gm⁷ C⁷ C F F

To verses Last time, Fine

jour-ney of life: ac- cept- ed, wel- comed by God's grace. grace.

Verses

F B^badd⁹ B^bm^{add}⁹

1. For we are fam - i - ly, meant to be
 2. And in di - ver - si - ty, u - ni - ty,
 3. To - geth - er we will sing, wor - ship bring,
 4. The God who spoke through Christ, speaks to us;

F F⁹ F⁷ B^badd⁹

pur - posed for e - ter - ni - ty. Born in love,
 har - mo - ny for all to see: Just - ice and
 hands and hearts out - stretched to all. Je - sus praise,
 lis - ten to our Sav - ior's call. Wel - come home,

B^bm^{add}⁹ G⁹ G⁷ Gm⁷/C C⁷ D.C.

from a - bove, God's com - mu - ni - ty.
 e - qui - ty, God's com - mu - ni - ty.
 hearts a - blaze, lis - ten to God's call.
 wel - come in, wel - come one and all...

*Luke 1:68-79; Ps. 18:1-3; Isa. 9:2-7**Ruth Duck, 1985*

1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
3 In ten - der mer - cy, God will send the day - spring from on high,

who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

Through ho - ly proph - ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy,
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

to save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
Sing prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.
Traditional English melody
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

All of My Life

♩=144

1. All of my_ life' one thing I long_ for;—
 2. In ev - 'ry_ breath, in ev - 'ry shad - ow,—
 3. Teach me Your way, O God our Sav - ior.—

all of my_ life, one thing I live_ for: to see your
 for my own eyes, one thing I pray_ for: to see your
 I give my_ heart, I give my eyes, Lord, to see your

ho - li-ness in all_ of my life,— to see your ho - li-ness in all
 ho - li-ness in all_ of my life,— to see your ho - li-ness in all
 ho - li-ness in all_ of my life,— to see your ho - li-ness in all

— of my life,— to see your ho - li-ness in all of my life,
 — of my life,— to see your ho - li-ness in all of my life,
 — of my life,— to see your ho - li-ness in all of my life,

— all of my life.—
 — all of my life.—
 — all of my life.—

THANKSGIVING

423

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings, all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*originally "my Father"

THANKSGIVING

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your

hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!