



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christ the King Sunday

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor
Jim Rumsey, liturgist
November 26, 2023

Prelude

Janet Hart, guest pianist

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please include your email address if you wish. We invite you to note the names of those sitting near you and greet them before leaving today.

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate.

Choral Introit

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Choral Ensemble
Janet Hart, piano

Call to Worship

One: From the depths of our being, a song of thanks arises, and we pour out our praise for all of God's gifts:

All: Bread to empower our bodies,

One: Beauty to quicken our pulse,

All: Hope to enlarge our vision,

One: Love to link our lives,

All: Laughter to soften our wounds,

One: Passion to shape our maybes,

All: Community to face our fears,

One: And for this awesome moment to become filled with joy and touched by grace.

* Hymn of Praise

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun (vs.1,2,5)
DUKE STREET

Glory to God #265

* Call To Confession

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident of God's love for us, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

Mighty and merciful God, in our minds, we believe we are attentive to those who are hungry or thirsty, welcoming to strangers we encounter, caregivers for those who are ill, and friend to those who are imprisoned. But in our hearts, we know that we more often avert our eyes, pretending not to see the homeless person, avoiding anyone who is different, and staying away from those who are suffering because we don't know what to say. Forgive us for when we did not recognize you in the face of a stranger and failed to care for those in need. Open our hearts so that we might see the stranger with your eyes and strive to be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: Know By the mercies of God, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are beloved, redeemed brothers and sisters of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Passing the Peace

Jim Rumsey, liturgist

One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

* Hymn *Glory Be to the Father* from The Presbyterian Hymnal
GLORIA PATRI
*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Children's Moment Paul Laird

Prayer of Illumination Jim Rumsey, liturgist
How easy it is to hear words we have heard before and drift away, thinking our own old thoughts over and over again. Wake us up, O God, as we listen to your word being read that we might hear what we haven't heard before, and take delight in being awake to life anew in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading Psalm 100 Jim Rumsey, liturgist

Special Music *Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated* Anna Marburger, soloist
MARK HAYES, arr. Janet Hart, piano

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon "Sheep and Goats" Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Hymn *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* (vs. 1,3,4) **Glory to God #757**
KINGSFOLD

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer (as translated by the Maori people)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Call To Offering

Offering Response Janet Hart, piano

* Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* **Glory to God #606**
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

* Prayer of Dedication

* **Affirmation of Faith**

We affirm and celebrate Christ the King and Christ's kingdom. Christ is a different kind of king and his is a different kind of kingdom. Christ the King shows power through suffering love rather than overwhelming might. Christ the King draws to his side the least, the lowly, the outcast, and the vulnerable rather than those who have wealth and status. Christ the King calls for peace in place of violence, generosity instead of "getting ahead," compassion rather than selfish ambition. In his topsy-turvy kingdom, the last are first, the least are greatest, and enemies are loved. One day every knee will bow before this king and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Let our knees be the first to bend and our voices first to proclaim that Christ the King is worthy to receive all glory and honor and praise, forevermore. Amen.

* **Closing Hymn**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound (vs. 1,3,4)
McKEE

Glory to God #766

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Janet Hart, piano

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Welcome!

Welcome to everyone, whether you are joining us virtually or in-person, as a long-time member or a first-time guest, we are happy to have you with us. **Please be sure to sign the Friendship Pad if you are worshipping with us in person.** If you join us on-line, live, or recorded - **please send us an email letting us know you joined us in worship.**

Please note: Sanctuary doors open at 10:15 am

The music and sound / video people are testing and rehearsing in the Sanctuary from about 9:45 am to 10:15 am. Please help us be ready for worship with you by planning to remain in the Narthex or Library until the doors are opened at 10:15 am. Thank you so much!

Planning a Service of Witness to the Resurrection Booklets are available in the Church Office. This is a tool to use by families facing the impending death of a loved one, or for your own planning. It includes suggestions for music, scripture, prayers, and an explanation about why and how we honor our loved ones and ourselves at the time of death.

Support Humanitarian Assistance in Israel/Palestine - Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of neighbors and strangers in their midst, no matter their religious beliefs, political views or nationality. We are called to care for all of God's children, especially those in war-torn communities, by responding to the urgent needs of those directly affected by the current conflict.

Gifts can be made online, by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAIP to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR000081-Israel/Palestine" on the memo line. Mail to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
P.O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Tonja and Adam Rounds** ask for our prayers as they navigate a return of brain cancer for Tonja.
- **Jeanine Tiemann** is home following hospitalization and a cancer diagnosis. Prayers and cards are welcome, please no calls or visits at this time.
- **David Fitzcharles** is home with hospice care. Prayers for him and his wife, Alice and their family
- **Loren Dolezal** is home exploring next steps following his hospitalization and diagnosis.
- **Frances Lintecum** is now at Presbyterian Manor
- **Many thanks** to Janet Hart for filling in as our guest pianist this morning. She blesses us with her gifts.
- **Remember our Friends joining us on-line** so that they feel included.
- **Shannon Ruiz**, great-niece of Eva Alley, is struggling with health issues that cost her both feet. Prayers for spiritual strength are most appreciated.

- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

Jan Roth says - *Thank you for all the prayers, blue cards, and help that you have given me during the time I'm recovering from wrist surgery and the healing of the two breaks in my right arm. Your support has been invaluable. My left hand can now do much more than my dominant, right hand can. However, I am making progress and can pick up a piece of paper with my injured hand. We are so grateful for the wonderful people at FPC.*

Care

Deacon Family Groups - 2023

A-Bra	Grace Nganga	Mc-Mz	Nancy Rumsey
Bro-C	Janet Adams	N-Q	Sandy Groene
D-E	Diana Schoneweis	R-Sc	Linda Longino
F-Go	Jeanine Tiemann	Se-So	Russ Heikes
Gr-Hi	Larry Schlosser	St-T	Allen MacFarlane
Ho-K	Charles Tuttle	U-Z	Peggy Southard
L-Ma	Linda Upstill		

Birthdays in the Congregation

November 28

Karl Schorno
Nancy Bell

November 29

Lori Shiflett
Kristi McAlister

November 30

Janet Thellman
Stephani Boyd

December 1

Mason Harding

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Larry and Vernis Flottman and Pat McAlister

Greeters: Sandy Groene and Linda Burton

Securing the Offering: Jeff Southard and Jim Rumsey

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Linda Longino

Calendar

November 26

9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm Youth shopping for Family Promise

November 27

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class
5:00 pm Eve Circle Tree Trimming and Soup
6:00 pm Pack 3059 Den Meeting – Schwaller
6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

7:00 pm	First 5 Years Board Meeting
November 28	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
4:00 pm	Welcome Committee Meeting
6:00 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
November 29	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
6:16 pm	Daisy Group Meeting
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
November 30	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
December 1	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
December 3	
9:00 am	Sunday Nursery Open
9:15 am	Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Family Ministry Celebration
2:00 pm	Girl Scout Cookie Workshop

