



CHRIST

the King

SUNDAY

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church - Online Service
Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2020 - 11:00 AM

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

L: The Lord God is our shepherd.

**P: We are the people of God's pasture,
the sheep of God's hand.**

L: God will seek the lost, feed the hungry,
and strengthen the weak.

P: But the proud and power-hungry will be fed with justice.

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

God of majesty, you love us with an everlasting love
and show us the way to justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the whole world to you
and claimed us as your own,
that we may live as his body on earth and,
with all the saints, enter into your glory on the last day. Amen.

Hymn

“NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”

*Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who won-drous things hath done,
in whom this world re-joic-es;
who, from our moth-ers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with count-less gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.*

*O may this boun-teous God
through all our life be near us,
with ev-er joy-ful hearts
and bless-ed peace to cheer us;*

*and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when per-plexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God,
who reigns in high-est heav-en,
to Fa-ther and to Son
and Spir-it now be giv-en:
the one e-ter-nal God,
whom heaven and earth a-dore,
the God who was, and is,
and shall be ev-er-more.*

Call to Confession

With sincere and repentant hearts,
let us name our sins against Christ and one another.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Sovereign God,
we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm.**

**You guide us toward right paths,
but we refuse to follow where you lead.**

**You love and feed and care for us,
but we fail to love and serve others.**

**Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold
and rejoice in your presence;**

through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne.

Amen

Declaration of Forgiveness

However long we wander, however far we stray,
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Sisters and brothers, be assured: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray: Holy God, open your Word.

Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
that our eyes may be enlightened

and we may know the hope to which we
have been called; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Prophet Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *(God, the True Shepherd)*
Gospel Matthew 25:31-46 *(The Judgment of the Nations)*

Sermon “People of the Shepherd King”
 The Reverend Dr. Wendy Neff

Affirmation of Faith

*Taken from The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**Ignoring God’s commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

We deserve God’s condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Prayers of the People

*(With the words "Lord, in your mercy"
you are invited to respond: "hear our prayer.")*

Our Shepherd satisfies our needs; in faith, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the church. . . .
As you have made Christ the head of all,
help us to live faithfully as his body,
continuing his mission in the world.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the earth. . . .
Let all the earth make a joyful noise to you,
a song of praise to the rock of our salvation,
for you are coming to reveal a new creation.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for all nations. . . .
Drive out those wolves in sheep's clothing
who abuse the weak and scatter the flock.
Come and save us; bring justice and peace.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for this community. . . .
Help us to see Christ among our neighbors,
serving those who are hungry and thirsty,
naked and lonely, sick or in prison.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for loved ones. . . .
Remember the people of your pasture: rescue the lost,
bind up the broken, heal the sick, and feed those who hunger.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, lead and guide us –
in green pastures and by still waters,
in right paths and through dark valleys,
until we feast with you in glory and dwell in your house forever;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

Hymn **“YOU, LORD, ARE BOTH LAMB AND SHEPHERD”** PICARDY

*You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peace-mak-er and sword-bring-er
of the way you took and gave.
You, the ev-er-last-ing in-stant;
you, whom we both scorn and crave.*

*Clothed in light up-on the moun-tain,
stripped of might up-on the cross,
shin-ing in e-ter-nal glo-ry,
beg-gared by a sol-dier's toss,
you, the ev-er-last-ing in-stant;
you who are both gift and cost.*

*You, who walk each day be-side us,
sit in pow-er at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's nar-row,
have a love that reach-es wide.
You, the ev-er-last-ing in-stant;
you, who are our pil-grim guide.*

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, serving faithfully
until Christ comes to welcome his people home.
May the grace of Christ surround you,
the love of God astound you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you, this day and forevermore.

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer
Sound: Adam Badger
Video: Jake Horton

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Text: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636;

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.

Music: Johann Cruger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984

Music: French melody, 17th century

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