

November 26, 2023 ~ Christ the King Sunday

Gathering Music ~ Mark Handford

Welcome and Announcements ~ Pattie Benoit, liturgist

Prelude ~ *"We Gather Together"* (arr. F.L. Callahan) ~ Celebration Ringers

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: We worship and praise Jesus, who is the King of Kings.

People: **Our Savior is the Lord of Lords and the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: So we enter the presence of the Lord with thanksgiving.

People: **Alleluia! Praise God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

**Hymn ~ "The Heart of Worship" (M. Redman)*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

God, you are the Creator of all that is, was and is to come. Yet you chose to love us and care for the lowly. For the times, Lord, when we have chosen status over service, forgive us. In your mercy, remind us that whenever we encounter someone in need, we encounter you. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #649 ~ *"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"* (v.1)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus #611 ~ *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* (v.1)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Offering Prayer

**Offertory #647 ~ "Give Thanks"*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;

give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";

*let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.*

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Psalm 95:1-7

Special Music ~ *"With a Heart of Thanks"* (V.C. Johnson) ~ Celebration Choir

Christian Scripture ~ Matthew 25:31-46

Message ~ "The King in Unexpected Places"

*Hymn #286 ~ *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"*

A time for sharing the joys and concerns of our community.

Congregational Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer ~ *in unison*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
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 #268 ~ *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"* (v.1,2,4)

*Benediction

*Choral Response #542 ~ *"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"* (v.1)
*God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#505418919

The flowers are presented today by Judy McGregor in honor of
her friends, Ray and Donna Short's 50th anniversary
and by Wanda Seymour in loving memory of Bob.

The trustees and any volunteers who would like to assist will decorate the sanctuary and
lobby for the Advent season, beginning at 9:00AM on Monday, November 27.

The Redford Civic Symphony will present their *Winter Fest* concert at St. Paul's on
Sunday, December 3 at 3:00PM. Their annual Bake Sale will follow.

From Kathy Potter... ROMANS 12:4 - Cookies for Crossroads Farm December 3rd, following worship. We will gather for a meal, Christmas carols & packaging **125 Christmas cookie decorating kits** for the rural youth served by Crossroads Farms in western Michigan! Lunch will be provided by the VanEcks! Everyone is invited! **We are in need of Christmas Sprinkles for our Cookie decorating kits!!!** Included in the kits are two small bags of "Christmas" sprinkles (red, white, green mixes or red or green sugar, etc). If you are able to donate containers of sprinkles, please purchase & bring to my office by November 26th! We like to include a variety, so no particular type is requested other than they be "Christmassy"! We are requesting assistance from anyone who would be willing to bake **LARGE, PLAIN, SUGAR COOKIES TO BE BAGGED BY THE DOZEN IN GALLON ZIPLOC BAGS.** They can be Christmas shaped or round, but **NOT DECORATED**, as we are making cookie-decorating kits for the youth to decorate themselves! **We need 125 dozen! Cookies can be brought in Sunday, December 3rd, already bagged & ready to be included in the kit. Please sign up by Tuesday, November 28th in the church lobby for the number of cookies you will be bringing & for attendance so we can plan for the meal! Please sign up as early as you can to help the Faith Formation Committee to plan accurately!** We will also need large boxes to transport the kits to the delivery point. These can be brought in on the 3rd also. If baking isn't your thing, Gordon Food Service has Christmas shaped sugar cookies ready to bake in boxes of 6 dozen!!! No mixing! Just bake, cool & bag! **On Sunday the 3rd, we will be boxing cookies, bagging sprinkles, and assembling the decorating kits for gifting!**

Crossroads Farm is a Christian ministry to at-risk rural youth in Western Michigan. These cookie decorating kits are added to other gifts donated by a variety of groups and individuals to form a Christmas package given to each of the youth served by this ministry at their annual Christmas party. We always have a wonderful time of fellowship & service as we prepare to bless and encourage these youth. I hope you will plan to join us in this endeavor!!

St. Paul's Giving Tree 2023 will be supporting the **Oakland County Foster Closet** that supports foster children and needy families in Oakland & Wayne County. Collections will begin **Sunday, December 3rd & run through Sunday, January 7th.**

From Cheryl Dove...The Mission Team has planned a ½ day volunteer opportunity at Forgotten Harvest on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 9:00AM-Noon. The task will be sorting food supplies for the Detroit area. The team would love to have you volunteer for this event. **We will meet at St. Paul's at 8:30AM and carpool.** The center is located at the 8 Mile Warehouse. **Please sign up in the lobby.**

The Session has set the Annual Meeting of the Congregation date as February 11, 2024.

Please hold those listed in prayer... and REVIEW and REPORT updates, PLEASE!

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Bill Garvey, Mike Graham, Janet Frank, Grace Erwin
August and Faith Kornowicz, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Steve Boyak, Pam Phillips
Suzanne Tabaka, Jim Roye, Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell
Susan Grant, Bruce Phillips, Anna Richardson, Nate Statly (MSU shooting victim) ~ friend of Joey Nicholas

Kris Purdy ~ niece of Grace Erwin; Julie Newell ~ cousin of Pam Phillips
Elizabeth ~ sister-in law of Pat Garvey and Andy ~ nephew of Pat Garvey
Linda Thompson and her sister, Shirley Kircoff
Joan Velis and family; John Branch ~ father of Christie Piastowski
Dave Schulz ~ nephew of Carol and Mike Graham
Cousins of Terry Earnley and Jennifer Speiles ~ friend of Terry Earnley
Lois Wludyka and John Candiloro ~ friends of August Kornowicz
Ray and Mary Clark ~ neighbors of Don and Meta Tulley
Richard Rosenberg and Mike Hyatt ~ friends of Judy McGregor
Sarah and Mason Young ~ family of Judy McGregor
Ben Abela ~ son-in-law of August and Faith Kornowicz
Macaylah Whitlock ~ daughter of the Rev. Kellie and Marc Whitlock
Pamela Serene ~ daughter of the late Marilyn Allen, Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck
Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean
Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt
Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike and Carol Graham
Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of the late Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Ben; Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook
Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips; Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling and Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron and Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon and Marion Davis