

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.

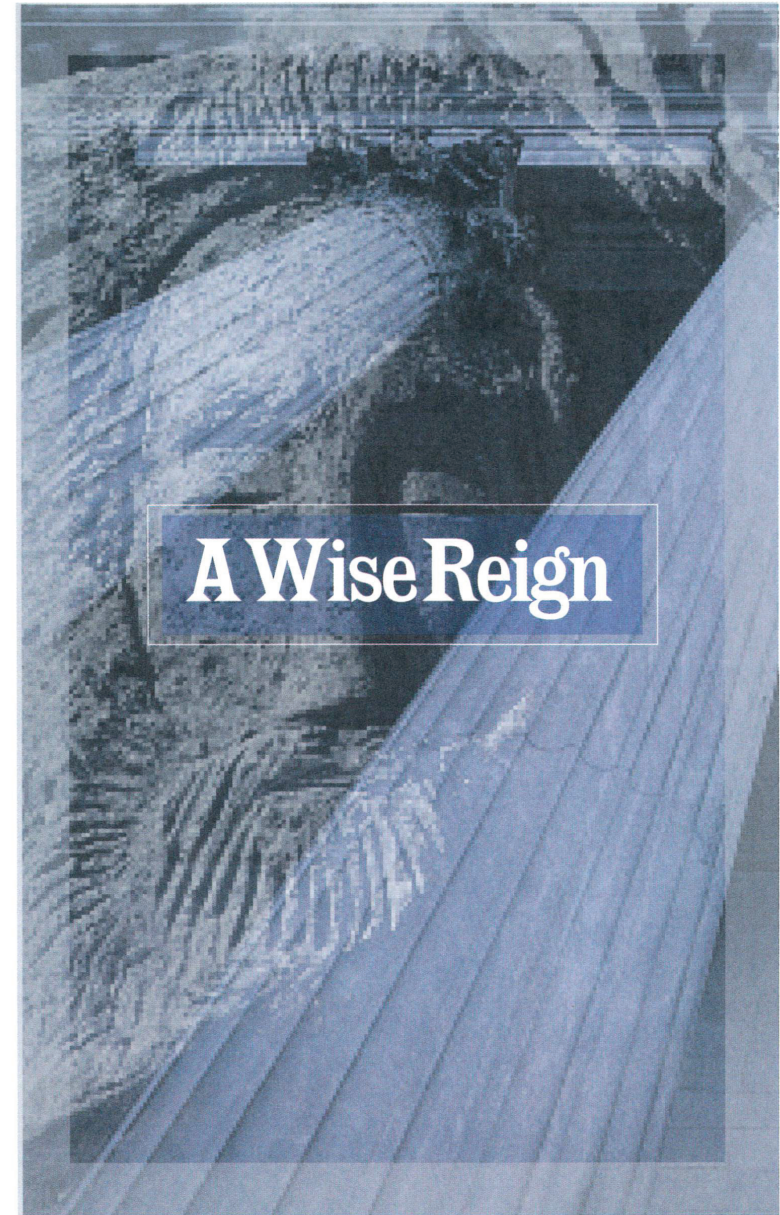
God, You so loved the world that You gave us Your Son who is our Lord, Savior, Redeemer and King. May today we catch the vision of Christ's reign here in our time, and may our words and deeds help to usher in thy kingdom. Amen.



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2024 United Church of Christ

BUL0113





St. John's United Church of Christ
 Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
 November 24, 2024
Thanksgiving Sunday



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold print** is everyone in unison

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

PRELUDE

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

We gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to our God!

Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness.

Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise.

You O God, are the Holy God always and forever!

You are the Eternal One from whom all things come.

Come, let us enter into this sacred space with thanks.

O God, we are your children, created by and with your love.

Come, let us enter into this sacred space with joy and delight.

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* #718

* **WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. To you, we offer our praise and prayer, our worship and thanksgiving, even our very lives. Make your ways known to us. Show us the path on which we should walk. Lead us in your truth and teach us. For you alone are the God who saves, the God in whom we trust; and the One on whom we wait. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *O For a World* (v.1) #683

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Jesus Loves Me*

OFFERING INVITATION**

Let us give back to God with gratitude for all blessings received.

***RESPONSE** *The Doxology* #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Gracious Spirit, you have showered us with your gifts, and we embrace you with thanksgiving. May our embrace be arms wide open, ready to share, to serve, and to love. Use our spiritual gifts that we may live the spiritual life, moving according to the Spirit's heated touch and bending in the direction of God's holy will. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Congregational Response *O For a World* (v.2) #683

ANTHEM *Thanks Be to God* Green/Pote

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 100

New Testament: Matthew 6:25-33

L: The Word of God for the People of God **P: Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *A Joyful Noise*

***CLOSING HYMN** *We Gather Together* #276

***BLESSING** (responsively)

Remember the Lord our God, who has given us many good gifts. Go now with the grace of God, to share God's many gifts with all the world. Take care to remember God has given us these gifts. Go now with thankful hearts.

We go forth in joyous thanksgiving, living the good news of Jesus Christ every day and everywhere. Amen.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace* #445

* **POSTLUDE**

**You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myucc.org and click on the *contribute* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	Janet Goodman
Head Usher	Hope Clausman
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Jana Vieck
Sound	Lonny Vieck
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Greeters	John & Ellen Riggs



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, myucc.org. Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

SUNDAY, November 24
 Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
 Worship 10:30 am
 Decorate Church After Worship
 Children's Church
MONDAY, November 25
 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm
WEDNESDAY, November 27
 Choir 7pm
 Laundry Love 6-8 pm
THURSDAY, November 28
Happy Thanksgiving!
 Office Closed
FRIDAY, November 29
 Office Closed



LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
 Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
 Worship 10:30 am
 Children's Church
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2
 BABE Store 12-5:30 pm
 Friends 5-6:15 pm Holiday Dinner First Baptist Church
TUESDAY December 3
 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm
WEDNESDAY, December 4
 Choir 7pm
 Messy Church 5:30-7 pm
THURSDAY, December 5
 Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm
FRIDAY, December 5
 Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6 pm


**ADVENT
 CELEBRATION!**
 Sunday, December 1, 2024
 St. John's United Church of Christ



11:30 – 12:00 Sandwich Luncheon

12:00 – 2:00 Crafts and More

Come, bring your family and friends, and join us for food, lots of crafts, bell ringing, Christmas card making, games, tree trimming, and great fellowship!



ATTENTION PLEASE!

The Nominating Committee will meet Monday, November 25, at 7:00 pm to prepare a slate of candidates for the 2025 incoming Board members.

HANGING OF THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: If you can, please stay after worship today and help us decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. Many hands make lighter work.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Carole Klein's family, Franklyn Schroeder's family, and Luis Prada (pastor Debbie's brother-in-law). Let's include everyone in our prayers for the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying.

- Terry Goodman did well with the EPS (electrophysiology study). No defibrillator was needed. Terry's heart did go into Afib (atrial fibrillation), but he was able to go home because that subsided. The doctor was able to insert a loop recorder to keep track of Terry's heartbeats. Terry and Janet are so grateful for everyone's prayers.
- Laura Sanders, wife of Eric Sanders and the sister-in-law and aunt to the family of Chris Sanders in our church, will have surgery on Nov. 26th. She has been approved for the trial with radiation tiles. Please keep Laura in your prayers for the surgery and the treatment plan to be successful. Her family would benefit from prayers of support, too.
- Donna Gerhardt sent the following message and asked that we keep all in our prayers. My brother and his family, including their daughter and grandson, live together in Belleville, IL. My brother, Mike Abel, is in the hospital. He has COVID-19 and mobility difficulties. Once he is cleared for release, he will go to a rehab facility. My sister-in-law Mary Ann and their grandson Micah both have Covid. I ask for prayers of blessing, healing, and comfort for my family. Thank you.

Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 142, 1622 Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Aperion Care, - (Willow Manor under new ownership) C Wing Room 3, Vincennes, IN 47591 (Please send all church correspondence to this address going forward).

Marge Beamon, The Villages at Oak Ridge, -1694 Troy Rd. Washington, IN 47501

Home

Bruce Deckard

Gary Meyer

Michael Lankford

Gayle Huffer

Ellen Riggs

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (co-chair of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it! St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard (co-chair), Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.

NEXT SUNDAY begins the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. Join us in worship during this joyous time of the year!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

A church that is alive needs the generous, sacrificial support of those who love it. Only a dead church demands no sacrifice.

Have you ever heard someone say, "My church is always asking for money. I wish I could belong to a church that never needed any money?"

Surely they don't mean that. Any church that is alive needs money. Only dead churches do not call on their members for support. If anyone should accuse your church of always needing and calling for money, regard it as a compliment.

Invite this person to rejoice with you that you both belong to something living and productive for Jesus Christ rather than a dead, stagnant organization from which the glory of Christ has departed.

MESSY CHURCH: Join us on Wednesday, December 4th, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for an *ADVENT-ure!* There will be Advent/Christmas activities, crafts, and games. Dinner will be chicken and noodles, green beans, and grapes. Interactive worship will include bells or boom whackers. Everyone is invited. An adult must accompany children.

Easy Thanksgiving Meal for Two

All items available at Dollar Tree for under \$8 total

Items Needed:

1 box Turkey Stuffing Mix

2 cans of turkey (packed in "tuna-type" cans)

1 packet of turkey gravy

1 packet of Idahoan Foods instant mashed potatoes

1 can of Glory Foods Market seasoned green beans

Place all items in a gallon zip lock bag with the Instructions.

Instructions:

To prepare, drain turkey broth and set aside. Mix turkey meat with the gravy packet and 2 cups of water in a pan and heat until warmed through and thickened. Prepare the stuffing according to package directions but replace the butter with the reserved turkey broth. Heat up your green beans and prepare mashed potatoes according to package instructions. As you can see this makes a great Thanksgiving meal for two.

