

## 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 23, 2025

Colossians 1:11-20

### Together in Christ

Today is the Reign of Christ Sunday, also known as Christ the King Sunday. For the faithful, it is the Church's New Year's celebration as the liturgical calendar year comes to close. A new cycle of Scripture passages then begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

On this day, we remember how Jesus the Christ came as promised to usher in a kingdom of love and grace. And even though those with earthly power tried to silence him with death on the cross, Jesus triumphed.

As Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from his beloved "Messiah," in which he composed in 1741 proclaims, "And he shall reign forever and ever."

This is indeed a celebratory Sunday for Jesus Christ does reign forever and ever.

I have friend, though, who takes a different approach to this Sunday, preferring to delete "King" and use the word "kin" instead. When I asked why she changes it to "Christ the Kin Sunday" she replied that it better captures who Jesus is for us today.

A king, she explained, insists on his people to fall in line and follow royal edicts. "In a kingdom there really is no freedom for those who are not in the inner circle of privilege. There is always someone being crushed under the power," she said. "Is 'king' really the best way to describe our Lord?"

I never really thought of the baggage the word "king" might have, and perhaps Christ is not my king. Disclaimer: Jesus is indeed my Lord, and that is a profession of faith I will fall on my knees proclaiming every day that I have breath. But king?

Now "kin," which means members of a family, is a more thought — provoking description of Jesus. For aren't we all part of the family of Christ? Aren't we all siblings through his blood that was shed for us on the cross? And as our kin, Jesus doesn't issue royal edicts to further earthly powers, rather he issues Godly edicts to further humankind: Edicts to love one another as he has loved us.

As we sing of Christ's reign ruling forever and ever, let us also lift a note of praise for Christ Our Kin, our brother who reminds us that no matter what our ancestry searches discover, we all belong to the family of God.

*Dear God, as we celebrate the everlasting reign of Christ, may we remember how his power is not in ruling his children, but in loving them. May our power be found in love as well. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

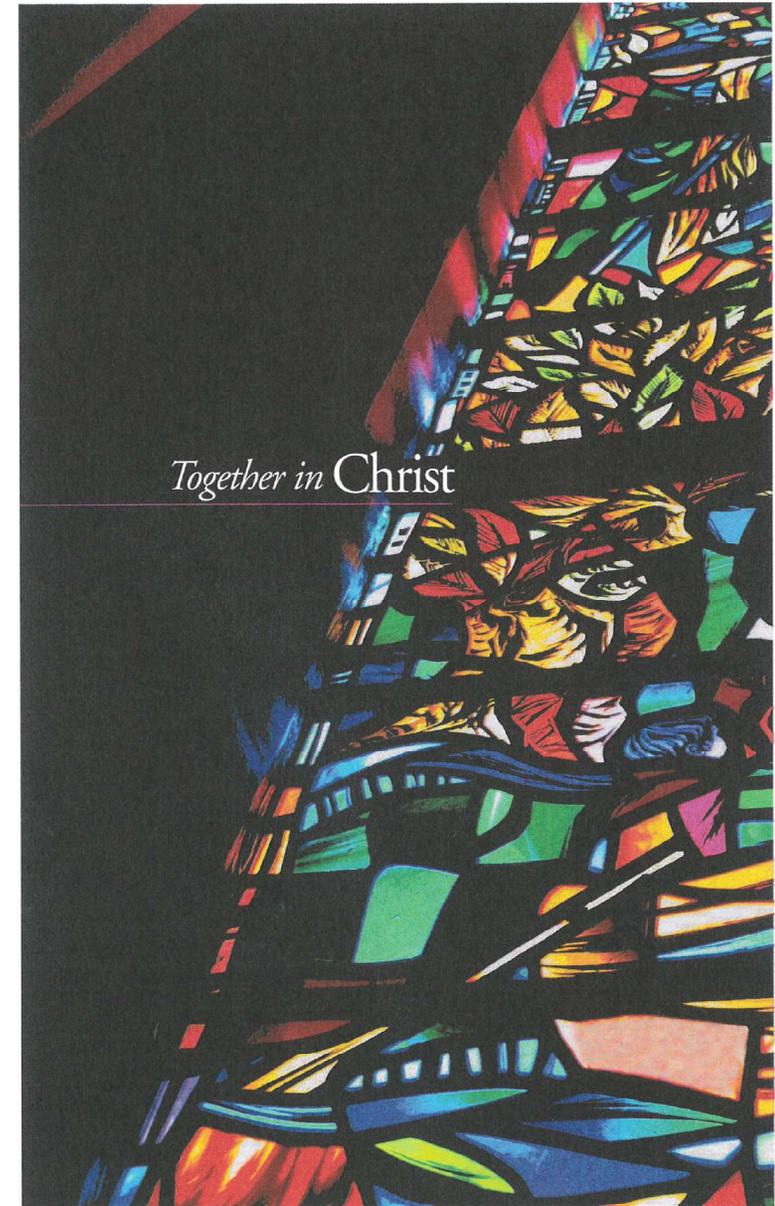
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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St. John's United Church of Christ  
 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
 November 23, 2025  
*Thanksgiving Sunday*



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

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER** (be seated)

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

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

ANTHEM *With Joyful Thanksgiving* Besig

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Jesus Loves Me*

MEMORIAL MOMENT Vernon E. Houchins

OFFERING INVITATION\*\*

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

\*RESPONSE *Now Thank We All Our God* (v.1) #715

\*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.**

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 100  
 New Testament: Matthew 6:25-33  
 The Word of God for the People of God **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *To Ask the Lord's Blessing*

\*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

## Announcements

\*\* You may place your offerings in the designated basket or online at myucc.org and click on the *contribution* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.

**SIGN THE LIST IN THE BACK OF SANCTUARY** to make reservations for Dinner & Conversation on Thursday at 6:00pm. *This Thursday, November 27th. we will not be meeting.*

### November Youth Dates

11/23 (Sunday) 5pm-7:30pm **CFM Holiday Fundraiser Prep**

11/30 (Sunday) 11:30am-1pm **Lunch Provided**

12/03 (Wednesday) 7pm-8pm **After Messy Church**

12/14 (Sunday) 4pm-5:30pm

**MESSY CHURCH/ADVENT EVENT** will take place on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-7:00 pm. This year the Messy Church Core Team, Christian Education Committee and the Membership & Evangelism Committee have united to combine these two events. Our theme is *Jump for Joy: It's Christmas!* We will have a bounce house in addition to our regular activities which include: Worship, Dinner (soup & sandwiches and a fruit plate), a mini-cake walk, tree decorating, a cookie bar & punch, foam Advent wreaths, Joy necklace, candy making with Elaine, melted crayon ornaments, painting and MORE! Advent coloring/activity books & crayons will be sent home with each child. Join us for an exciting evening of food, faith, fun and fellowship!

**The office will be closed** on Thursday, November 27th. and Friday, November 28th. for Thanksgiving.

Just a reminder that Pastor Debbie is off on Friday's.

**ADVENT BEGINS** on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Join us as we begin this holy season of preparation for the coming of Christ into the world.

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

**THANK YOU** to all who are staying after worship to help decorate the sanctuary, foyer, and hang wreaths! Check the items on the round table in Memorial Hall. Take whatever you can use!

**OLD CRAYONS WANTED** for a craft project for Messy Church. Please bring your old, broken crayons to the church prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks!

## Prayers and Posts

**WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** to the family of Vern Houchins who passed into eternal life on November 17th. Funeral services were conducted on November 21st in our sanctuary. Please hold his wife Marilyn and their family close in prayer.

**We ask for continuing prayer requests for:** Jessica Connor and family, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr. and Conway Wilson. The Family of Mark Schutter, Kelvin Strange, Jasmine Zeller, Cindy Utley, Marilyn Houchin, Jo Tarrh, sister of Jill Lopez and Jerri Johanningsmeier. Mollie Joice, cousin of Darcie Bahr and prayers for Bobby Bahr. A kidney donor has been found for Katrina Memering.

### Shut-in Addresses:

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

Leona Conway - Aperia Care, C Wing Room C-35, 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Marge Beamon - The Villages at Oak Ridge, Room 303, 1694 Troy Road, Washington, IN 47501

### At Home:

Gary Meyer

Mike Lankford

Marilyn Houchins

**Until further notice, all prayer requests or updates should be relayed to Janet Goodman instead of the church office. Email: [terrybaseball@gmail.com](mailto:terrybaseball@gmail.com) Text or phone call: 812-887-2797.**

## This Week in the Life of St. John's

### Sunday, November 23

Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am  
Fellowship Time @ 10am

### Tuesday, November 25

Cadette Girl Scouts 4:30-6pm

### Thursday, November 27

### Monday, November 24

BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5:30-6:15 pm

### Wednesday, November 26

Laundry Love 6-8pm  
Choir Practice 7pm

### Friday, November 28

## Looking Ahead In November

### Sunday, November 30

Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am  
First Sunday of Advent

### Tuesday, December 02

Girl Scout 4:30-6:30pm  
Preschool Meeting @ 6pm

### Thursday, December 04

Tech Meeting @ 10am  
Dinner & Conversation Luigi's @ 6pm

### Monday, December 01

BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5:30-6:15pm  
Finance Committee Mtg. @ noon  
Salvation Army Bell Ringing

### Wednesday, December 03

Messy Church Core Team Meeting  
@ 5:30pm  
Choir Practice @ 7pm

### Friday, December 05

Phoebe's Mission @ 4:30-6:00pm  
Pastor Debbie is Off



## Staff and Volunteers

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
<b>Secretary</b>	Kim Butler
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Isabella Lange
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Kim Godare
<b>Organist:</b>	DeEtta Welte
<b>Music Director, Pianist:</b>	Becky Brockman
<b>Children &amp; Family Ministry Coordinator:</b>	Will Meyer
<b>Nursery Attendant:</b>	Darcie Bahr
<b>Projection:</b>	Sandra Lange
<b>Sound:</b>	Jonathan Lange
<b>Church Board President:</b>	Ed Cummings

## Did You Know?

St. John's Sunday Morning Worship Services are streamed **LIVE** on our church's Facebook page, "**St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes.**"

**Or**, you can watch the Worship Service at your convenience by going on the church website, "**myucc.org**" and clicking on "Worship Service" for a particular date.

You can also download a copy of each monthly **church newsletter** from our church website to keep up with all the activities.