



Online Worship
November 24, 2020 at 10 am
Reign of Christ / Christ the King

Christ Lutheran Church . Woodcliff Lake, NJ
www.clc4u.com

All text in *italics* is spoken by the leader.
Text in **bold** is your invitation to join in. Please speak those words as you
are able.

OPENING & WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[based on work posted by Seasons Online.]

*In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
we come to be your people, O God.*

*Strong in faith and eager with questions,
speaking our praise and whispering our prayers,
we come to be your people, O God.*

*Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
we come to be your people, O God.*

*Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and
we come to be your people, O God.*

*May we truly become your people today.
Amen.*

*Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us be honest in our
confession.*

We confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.

**Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

*Beloved, we are God's children,
and through † Jesus, you are forgiven.
You are defined not by sin, but by the love Jesus has for you.
Let us rejoice and live in the promises prepared since the
foundation of the world.
Amen.*



SONG - The Church's One Foundation

[played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How
long?"
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the
way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.
Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to
serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.*

Amen.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

[By Pastor Marc]

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit

the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

A HOMILY [By Pastor Marc]

SONG - You Are My All in All

[played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*You are my strength
when I am weak.
You are the treasure
that I seek.
You are my all in all.*

*Taking my sin,
my cross, my shame,
Rising again
I bless Your name;
You are my all in all.*

*Seeking You as
a precious jew'l,
Lord, to give up
I'd be a fool.
You are my all in all.*

*When I fall down,
You pick me up;
When I am dry,
You fill my cup;
You are my all in all.*

*Jesus, Lamb of God,
worthy is Your name...
Jesus, Lamb of God,
worthy is Your name!*

*Jesus, Lamb of God,
worthy is Your name...
Jesus, Lamb of God,
worthy is Your name.
Worthy is your name.*

STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING

Gratitude is one of the powerful images scripture uses to show us what a full and abundant life looks like. And in the words of Rev. Nadia Bolz-Webber, gratitude might also be "God's own anti-depressants." A few months ago, she posted an exercise on her blog about gratitude. She wrote, "In this time of loss and suffering and turmoil, when not one of us is spared of sorrow,

this morning I made myself list some things I am genuinely grateful for right now, today, in this very moment." She called it "Give Us This Day Our Daily Gratitude." Her list included: "For the sun rising once again in the East, I give thanks. For cell phone reception, and I-guess-its-better-than-nothing ZOOM calls and reliable internet service, I give thanks. That you, O God are known by many names, I give thanks. That you, O God are present when I feel only your absence I give thanks." I invite you, this week, to commit yourself to the practice of gratitude. When it feels like too much - stop; say a prayer; and if you can, make your own list. Write on a piece of paper or type in your phone the things you are grateful for in that moment. Let gratitude help you see God at work in the world and in your life.

CLC is grateful for your generosity so that we can be generous to others with our ministry. If you would like to support this ministry you can do so on our website or by writing a check and dropping it in the mail to us, and we will use it to generously offer the word of God to all people and serve our neighbors in need.

*As a sign of our generosity, we will join with the wider church to recite prayers prepared each week by our denomination's worship team. When you hear the words, "You are the great and holy God:", " please respond with **"In mercy, receive our prayers."***

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE DAY[UPDATE]

[modified from work published by the ELCA Worship blog]

Great God, we praise you for sustaining the church through another year of grace. Continue to shepherd your people with your tender care. Grant an extra measure of the Spirit to our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, and all churchwide, synod, and church council leaders. Sustain the social ministries of the body of Christ, and increase ecumenical sharing of opportunities for ministry.

You are the great and holy God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

Sustain the world that you have made, the heights of the hills, the seas and the dry land. Guard the animals during the winter months, and direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all. Be a source of strength and refuge for all weathering severe storms.

You are the great and holy God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages, that your reign may be honored throughout the world. Be with the people of Armenia, Ethiopia, and Hong Kong. Bless the work of the United Nations and of agencies that promote the wellbeing of all peoples.

You are the great and holy God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

Bring a peaceful conclusion to the American national elections. Bless all the newly elected officials with a love of concord and a desire for justice. Guide all leaders, including Donald the President; President-elect Joseph; Philip, New Jersey's Governor; and the mayors and council persons of the towns we call home. Turn us away from historic prejudices, and show us your image in each of our neighbors.

You are the great and holy God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

Visit American homes on Thanksgiving Day. When we are separated from loved ones, embrace us with your care. Keep gatherings safe. Even in our reduced celebrations, give us voices to offer thanks to you for your perpetual blessings.

You are the great and holy God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We beg you to end the earth's pandemic. Bring healing to the millions who are suffering from the coronavirus – any who are sick, dying, despairing, isolated, unemployed, and all exhausted medical workers. Guide researchers in developing a vaccine and grant wisdom to those who will distribute it.

You are the great and holy God:
In mercy, receive our prayers.

Show your loving power to all who are in need.

*Equip us to feed the hungry,
to provide clean water for the thirsty,
to welcome the stranger,
to clothe the naked,
to care for the sick,
to visit the prisoners.*

We pray especially for those we name in this moment of silence.

[a moment of silence]

You are the great and holy God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We appeal to you, Sovereign God, we who are like both the sheep and the goats, and we ask that in compassion you will hear the prayers of our own hearts. I invite you, in this moment of silence, to share your prayer with those next to you or post it to the comments of this worship service.

[a moment of silence]

You are the great and holy God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

We praise you for all the saints who have died in the faith. At the end of all things, bring us together with all the saints into your kingdom of joy.

You are the great and holy God:

In mercy, receive our prayers.

Receive our prayers, O triune God: Father of glory, Lord Jesus Christ, and Spirit of wisdom, now and forever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

I invite you to take a look at everyone who surrounds you in your sacred space. If you are currently by yourself, know that the entire church is, through Jesus, always with you. Send a blessing to those physically closest to you or send a text/type out a DM/or make a plan to call someone you care about - and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

Let us now think about those who are participating in our in-person worship and all our friends who are worshipping with us online or via conference call. In our hearts, let's send to your entire faith community a blessing and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

Finally, let the blessing we offer each other go out to our families, friends, neighbors, and to the entire world. With God's help, our hearts are big enough to extend peace that far. Let us embody the peace of Christ after we leave this place today.

HOLY COMMUNION

[We invited you to gather a bit of bread (or similar item), drink (wine or grape juice). The elements used during communion remind us of a substantial meal we would eat during a celebration.]

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood

of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit across phone lines, social media, and the internet - let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever.

Amen.

You are here, not because you are perfect, but because, through Christ Jesus, you are welcomed and loved.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

[After consuming the elements.]

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

BLESSING OF RETAIL WORKERS

Paul writes: Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. [Colossians 3:23-24]

We are pleased, dear God, to honor all who work in retail. They are known by many names including cashiers, stock clerks,

customer service managers, sales associates, bridal consultants, delivery drivers, warehouse workers, buyers, and more. Since the start of this pandemic, we've rediscovered how they do more than give us goods in exchange for money. They help us gather together the essential items we need to live and thrive. Workers in retail connect us to the material items that help us live out our call to love God and serve one another.

God, you have blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, the mother of our Lord; Peter, James, Mary Magdalena, Phoebe, and all the disciples; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

We give you thanks, O God, for those who labor in retail. We ask you to bless the fruits of their work. In times of challenge, bring them wisdom. In times of stress, give them patience. In times of busyness, grant them peace. In times of a pandemic, protect them and keep them safe. Give to each worker a measure of grace so that they can be just, true, generous, and courteous in all their dealings. May you, O loving God, help them serve all people in humbleness and love.

May our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you, bless you, and may God's face always shine upon you.

Amen.

And may the rest of us, in our encounters with those who work in retail, see the face of Jesus. Grant us grace, generosity, and patience during this stressful and dangerous time. Reminds us that every person is made in the image of the Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SONG - This is Amazing Grace

[played and sung by Argine Safari and David Scance.]

*Who breaks the power of sin
and darkness?*

*Whose love is mighty and so
much stronger*

*The king of glory, the king
above all kings.*

*Who brings our chaos back
into order,*

*Who makes the orphan a son
and daughter?*

*The king of glory, the king of
glory.*

*Who shakes the whole earth
with holy thunder*

*And leaves us breathless in
awe and wonder?*

*The king of glory, the king
above all kings.*

*Who rules the nations with
truth and justice?*

*Shines like the sun in all of its
brilliance?*

*The king of glory, the king
above all kings.*

*This is amazing grace, this is
unfailing love.*

*That You would take my place,
That You would bear my cross.*

*This is amazing grace, this is
unfailing love,*

*That You would take my place,
That You would bear my cross.*

*You laid down Your life that I
would be set free.*

*Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that
You've done for me.*

*You laid down Your life that I
would be set free.*

*Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that
You've done for me.*

*Jesus, I sing for all that You've
done for me.*

BLESSING

And now - know this:

*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the
comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.*

Amen

DISMISSAL

*And now, go in peace and press forward in the heavenly call of
God because Christ has made you his own.*

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) If you need help, please don't hesitate to reach out at
pastormarc@clc4u.com

- 2) Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Details: The 52nd annual interfaith thanksgiving service will take place next Sunday, November 22nd at 7 pm. It will be an online-only event shared on the interfaith group's facebook page and CLC's facebook page as well. There will also be an interfaith conversation about thanksgiving following the service around 8 pm online as well.
- 3) The Triboro Food Pantry will also be hosting their annual Thanksgiving meal distribution on Sunday afternoon (November 22) so if you're looking for the fixings needed for a family feast, make a plan to be there as well between 1 and 3 pm.
- 4) Worship next Sunday, November 29, will take place online and via conference call at 10 am. We'll be starting a new church year with Advent and Christmas. In our weekly e-letter and in the Messenger that just went out, there are ways you can help make virtual worship happen. Please contact me if you're willing to participate.