

## Reign of Christ Nov 26, 2023

### WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of the Land

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Today we celebrate the Reign of Christ  
when all that has divided us will merge

**Compassion will be wedded to power**

Softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind

**Both men and women will be gentle**

Both women and men will be strong

**No person will be subject to another's will**

All will be rich and free and varied

**The greed of some will give way to the needs of many**

All will share equally in the Earth's abundance

**All will care for the sick and the weak and the old**

All will nourish the young

**All will cherish life's creatures**

All will live with respect in creation and in harmony with  
each other and the Earth

**Holy God, Wisdom flowing through Spirit in our midst**

**We cherish Your presence with us**

**We celebrate Your Reign through Christ**

Opening Hymn: People Look East VU#9

of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the rose is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the bird is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the star is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.

## WE LISTEN

**Scripture reading: Mark 13: 26-27 combined with Matthew 25:  
31-46**

## **Gradual Hymn: O Ancient Love VU#17**

**O ancient love, processing through the ages;  
O hidden love, revealed in human form;  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:**

**R. O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.**

**2 O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;  
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;  
O hungry love, that lay within a manger: R**

**3 O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;  
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;  
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow: R**

**4 O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;  
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;  
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness: R**

## **Sermon Malkutah Empowerment—**

In the calendar of the worldwide Christian church, today is traditionally called Christ the King Sunday or Reign of Christ Sunday. It is the culmination of the church year--a day when we celebrate and name the vision of who we are as the Christian church. As we launch into Advent and the beginning of yet another Christian year. we recommit ourselves to a vision of the Ancient living Love about which we just sang.

The kingdom that Jesus taught his disciples to pray for was a realm of empowerment for all. "Teytey malkutah" were the Aramaic words with which he taught his disciples to pray. Because of this he was perceived as a dangerous enemy of the state—both by the Romans and by their collaborators within the religious establishment.

"You will do even greater things" said the Jesus of John's gospel. What we celebrate on Reign of Christ Sunday and what we wait for in the season of Advent, is the emergence of true "malkutah empowerment" among us. ("Malkutah" is the Aramic Word for what we call "God's kingdom.") It is a realm where our prayers and deepest longings can emerge into a reality

through the way we live in community and the way we relate to our still beautiful but fragile planet earth.

Every year we pray that we might truly have another chance to live into and become who we are called to be—sons and daughters of God in whom we recognize the fullness of God which is revealed through Spirit-filled human lives. May we join the great pilgrimage to Bethlehem, witnessing the miracle that began as Wisdom, who took flesh in Jesus, and is even now seeking completion in and through you and me. May we be the tellers of stories and singers of songs that will teach our young ones about their capacity for Spirit and the fullness of God—what it means to be fully human!.  
Come Lord Jesus. Come. Tey Tey Malkutah!!

## **Call for Offering “Grant Us God the Grace of Giving” VU#540 Offertory/Prayer of Dedication**

### HOLY COMMUNION

#### **Eucharistic Prayer (See insert)**

Closing Hymn: **Though Ancient Walls VU#691**

- 1     Though ancient walls may still stand proud  
          and racial strife be fact,  
          though boundaries may be lines of hate,  
          proclaim God's saving act!  
  
          R. Walls that divide are broken down;  
              Christ is our unity!  
          Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
              Christ is our liberty!
- 2     When vested power stands firm entrenched  
          and breaks another's back,  
          when waste and want live side by side,  
          it's Gospel that we lack.   R
- 3     The truth we seek in varied scheme,  
          the life that we pursue,

unites us in a common quest  
for self and world made new. R

4 The church divided seeks that grace,  
that newness we proclaim;  
a unity of serving love  
that lives praise to God's name! R

5 This broken world seeks lasting health  
and vital unity.  
God's people by God's Word renewed,  
cast off all slavery! R

### **Benediction**

Go from this place with God's blessing  
May the Christ who walks on wounded feet  
Walk with you on the road  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands  
Stretch out your hands to serve  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart  
Open your hearts to love  
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet  
And may everyone you meet  
See the face of Christ in you. Amen