

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 2020**

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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Caledonia: Grace

Christ the King Sunday

Offertory Prayer

With gratitude for all the blessings you have poured into our lives, Lord Jesus, we come bringing these our gifts that they may be used in service to those in need. Bless these gifts and those who have given them, that they may truly be a blessing in your holy name. AMEN.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, let us celebrate the goodness of God.
P: God has blessed us with God's great love.
L: Let us come to this time, letting go of our worries.
P: Let us come to this time praising God.
L: Jesus calls us to open our hearts to all in need.
P: We come this day to hear his words of encouragement for us.
L: Look around you. Smile at each other, for we all have need of friendship and welcome.
P: With God's great love in our hearts, we find our welcome in this place of worship.

HYMN: #235 O Worship the King

- 1 O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.
- 2 O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and broad is God's path on the wings of the storm.
- 3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old;
has stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- 4 Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
- 5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

OPENING PRAYER

We come this day, rejoicing, in the presence of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. At his birth the angels proclaimed his name to be Emmanuel, God with us. Today in this place, in this time of worship, may we truly feel the power and presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. May our hearts and spirits be warmed and challenged to proclaim with our lives, "Christ is Lord!". AMEN.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN TIME

CHILDREN' S SONG: Earth to God by John Rich

LITANY FOR CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

P: I am an independent person. I need no one. I am my own person. No one owns me!

L: Come , bow down before your Lord, your King.

P: Excuse me! I have no king. I don't need a king.

L: The Lord Jesus Christ, he is the King of Kings.

P: Where is his kingdom?

L: In your heart and spirit.

P: You've got to be kidding!?

L: No, the Lord seeks to reign in your heart, to establish his kingdom in your life.

P: Nobody's setting up shop in my head!

L: It's difficult to understand. The Lord Jesus Christ is seeking you out, as friend, and witness.

P: Witness to what?

L: To God's absolute love for you and for all creation.

P: All I see is war and violence; viciousness and hatred.

L: Open your eyes. There is more to see than that. You yourself have been a blessing to someone recently.

P: Me? I don't think so. What do you mean?

L: You recently offered your help to a person in need, didn't you?

P: Well, yes. But.....

L: You supported people who were in ministries of caring and compassion.

P: Well, of course. That's what you should do.

L: Why?

P: Because they needed help and even though I couldn't provide it directly, I could help cover the expenses of those who could be right at hand.

L: Why did you do it?

P: Because it was needed. Someone has to help, right?

L: It's nice that you are part of that "someone". Christ's love is reigning in you.

P: I never thought of it that way.

L: Whenever you have reached out to others in love and compassion, you have reached out to Christ. You have become part of the Kingdom team.

P: But I don't feel controlled, ruled over.

L: You're not. Christ is working with you to bring about God's kingdom.

P: So, I'm actually doing what God wants? How about that!

L: Keep on working. There is much to be done, and God is with you through it all. AMEN.

VIDEO: Jesus Your Name – Matt Redman

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Revelation 1:4-8; John 18:33-37

John 18:33-37 ³³Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" ³⁴"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" ³⁵"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" ³⁶Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." ³⁷"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Revelation 1:4-8 ⁴John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. ⁷"Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the LORD God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

MESSAGE

Today is Christ the King Sunday... The end of the church year and next week is a new beginning as we start our Journey of Advent to Christmas.

But, we're not there yet ... we're here and as we look at the end of this Christian year... many of us just want to say let's close the book on this year, let's forget it, let's see what will happen next year. But in the midst of everything, in the midst of school closures, restaurant closures, little businesses struggling to make it, people working from home, home schooling, people feeling deep depression, loneliness and scared, there is more to look forward to. We need to look for the hope, the joy, the peace, the love, the light in the darkness. Christ came into a very troubled dark world and the light of a star shone brightly but only those who saw it followed it... and a lot of people ignored it, just keep doing what they had to do, what they were told to do, the census, to work, to follow the direction of King Herod.

Where has your light been in these last eight months? Where have you found goodness and joy, the light of Christ in the mist of everything that's been going on around you? You know, I challenge myself with these questions also because I always feel I'm a positive person but in all honesty the darkness has been there for me too. There's been many struggles and many questions and so many whys? But in the midst of it all of this the Church doors opened again, and I could see joy, I could see anticipation and I could see the light of Christ in each of you. Christ came into a world to bring hope to a world of darkness, of negativity and power struggles. Christ came not as the King they expected, but when the time came Jesus began to preach, to heal, do miracles and tell parables and people listened. In his resurrection he gave us the gifts of forgiveness and every lasting life. This King was different. No Royal Robes and Jewels only the heart of compassion and love as Jesus brought light into a world of uncertainty. Maybe that's where this world is now, maybe God's light has been choked out, people have forgotten what faith is, what believing is, what hoping is. No matter what this Advent and Christmas season brings... I look forward to searching for that light once again with all of you. We will share our faith, we will be beacons of light in the mist of darkness and bring praise to God, praise to the King, praise to Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. The word's from Revelations.... 8"I am the Alpha and the

Omega," says the LORD God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Amen

HYMN: #213 Rejoice, the Lord is King

- 1 Rejoice the Lord is King!
Your risen Lord adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
- 2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our sins,
he took his seat above. R
- 3 God's kingdom cannot fail;
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given. R
- 4 Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ, the judge, shall come
to glorify the saints
for their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

From the first day of Advent, so long ago, we have come full circle to the celebration of the Reign of Christ, also known as Christ the King Sunday. We have witnessed the wonderful birth, the great healing moments, the teachings that have sustained people throughout the centuries. We cried in sorrow at the Crucifixion and rejoiced with absolute joy on the sunrise of Easter when Jesus conquered our greatest fear, death. We celebrated the great good news of the disciples as they risked everything to finally proclaim the good news to all people. Now on this Sunday, we invite Jesus to enter our hearts.

Sovereign Lord Jesus, come into our hearts today and take your reign. Remind us that your kingdom is a kingdom of hope and light, in which there is no darkness, fear, or sadness. You have called us to be the Kingdom people, living our lives in the knowledge that peace, justice, and hope are not only possible, but can actually be the ruling factor of the world, for those who follow you. There are many who do not acknowledge your presence and your name, O Lord. But in your infinite love and mercy, you have acknowledged and claimed them. Help us to be the kind of disciples that welcome everyone with the words of kindness, that offer acts of mercy and peace to all in need, to proclaim Christ risen and glorified. As we have brought before you, O Lord, the names of people and situations needing your healing and comforting touch, may we also open our hearts for that same healing and comfort. Remind us that we are never out of your grace and mercy. We know that you will give us the strength and wisdom to be true disciples and we celebrate and honor you, now and forever. AMEN.

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #595 We are Pilgrims

SENDING FORTH

Go now in peace. Bring the good news of God's eternal love, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to all you meet. Go in peace. AMEN.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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