

First United Methodist Church of Somerville, New Jersey
Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2020

Online: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71083844703?pwd=bWpqUnNyWHhIN3FDV21hMTNaTTd2QT09>

Password: 089893

Phone-in number: (646) 558-8656...Meeting ID: 710 8384 4703...Password: 089893

9:45 A.M. Gathering – Please join early to check settings, hear service notes & announcements, and greet one another. If you have a joy or concern to share, please type it in the chat column.

10:00 A.M. Worship

Prelude “*Berceuse*” by Georges Bizet

Call to Worship

Leader: We come into the presence of the Holy God,

People: Who may not be grasped,

Leader: But may be gazed upon;

People: Who is not easily understood,

Leader: But is full of understanding;

People: Who does not come at our beck and call,

Leader: But who is always near.

People: We gather as God's children in confident assurance that God is here.

Hymn #327 “*Crown Him with Many Crowns*”

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we come into your presence acknowledging you as King, and in so doing, acknowledge ourselves as your people. Through your ministry you showed yourself to be a Servant-King, a King for whom love and mercy, humility and grace, faith and faithfulness were a way of life, and you call us to the same. Our hope is in you, O Lord, in hearing the voice of our Good Shepherd and in following where you lead. Grant us the wisdom and the courage to listen and obey. **Amen.**

Confession

Call to Confession

Hearing and understanding Jesus' words of truth can be difficult, particularly in the midst of all of the voices in our lives. Recognizing his authority requires confessing these other voices. In prayer and penitence, let us confess together.

Prayer

Beckoning God, you invite us to walk the narrow path and to live lives worthy of the gospel. Yet so often we are preoccupied with our own hurts and absorbed in the little injustices done to us. We neglect our high calling to visit the sick, care for the poor, feed the hungry, confront the oppressors and work for the new reign of God.

Open our eyes and strengthen our wills to care for the ill, to shelter the homeless and provide security for the abused, to feed the hungry and to pressure those in control of systems and institutions to care for the well-being of all their citizens. Let our lives be worthy of Christ the King, the Prince of Peace, the Redeemer of all. Amen.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

Assurance of Pardon

Our Lord said to those who would listen, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."

Friends, receive the life-giving truth of God's forgiveness, and prepare yourselves for life according to God's kingdom.

Anthem "Celebration" by William Payn

Time for Young Disciples

Prayer for Illumination

Stir in us now, Holy Spirit, a willingness to hear, the desire to know the truth and the courage to follow in joyful obedience, that we may be formed by your word into women and men of faith. Amen.

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 100 *"Know that the Lord is God..."*

Matthew 25:31-46 *"Even as you did it to the least of these..."*

Hymn #398 "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"

As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

Sermon "Recognizing Jesus"

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, even in times of hardship we recognize that you have given us so much for which to be grateful. We return these tithes and offerings to you, knowing that all we have is ours through grace alone. Even when we have little

to give, we possess everything in You. Help us to find ways to be generous every day, following the lead of your open-handed love that has withheld nothing from us, not even your only Son. Amen.

Offertory gnjumc.org/onlinegiving, or if you use Zelle: givingtofumc@gmail.com

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Joys and Concerns (Please type them in the chat column.)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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. Amen.

Anthem "The Blessing" by Paul A. McKlveen

Hymn #159 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. [Refrain]

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. [Refrain]

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

Benediction

And now, friends, let us run with patience the race that is before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

May God give us his sustaining power and grant us the strengthening presence of his Spirit in whatever challenges await us.

Through Christ our Lord and King. **Amen.**

Postlude “*All Now Sing Forth in Praise*” by Edward Broughton

Fellowship Time After the service is over, the mute feature will be turned off so folks can greet one another. Please enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and some morning munchies. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! Thank you for worshiping with us today!