

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?"

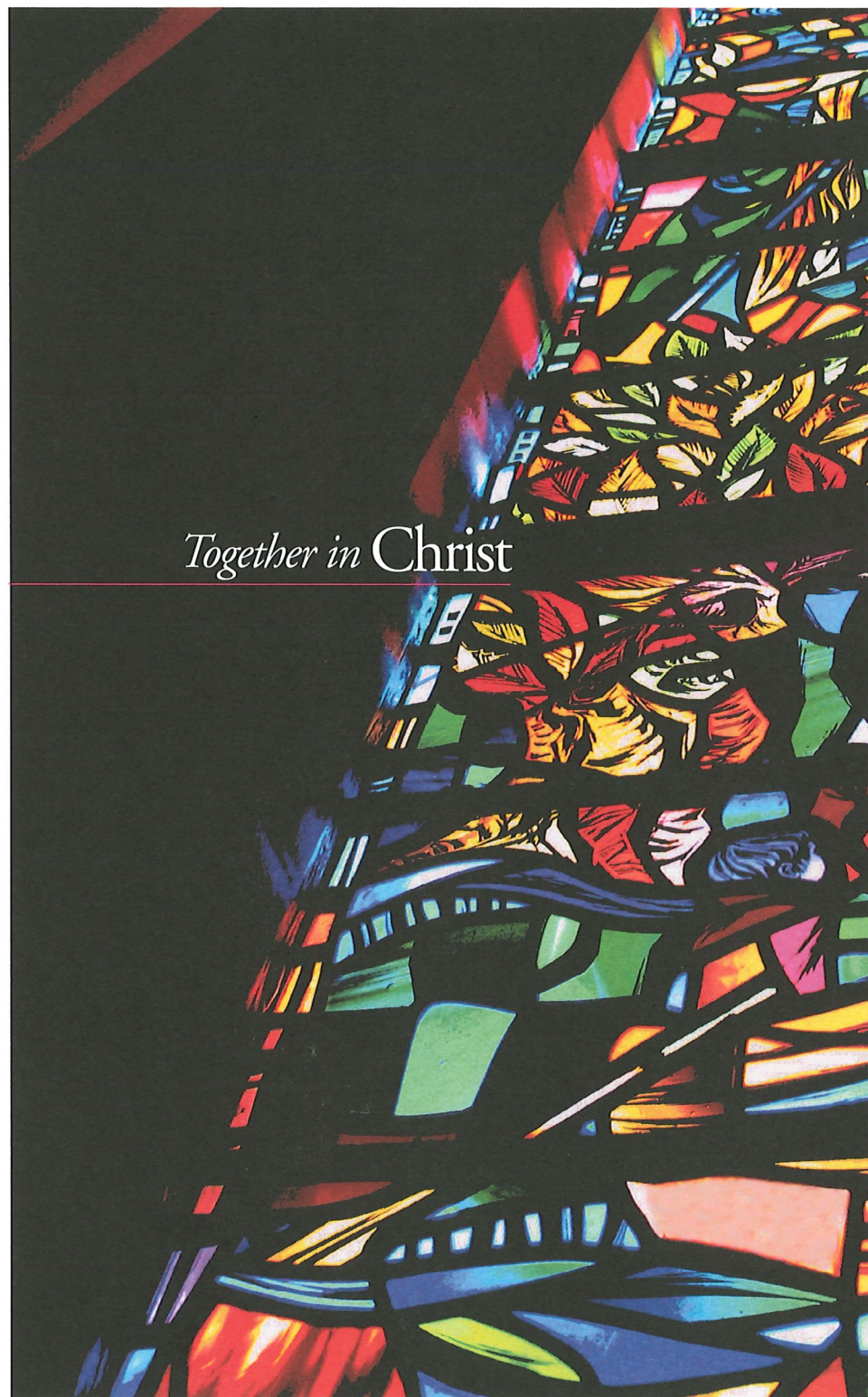
I never really thought of the baggage the word "king" might have, and perhaps Christ is not my king. Disclaimer: Jesus is indeed my Lord, and that is a profession of faith I will fall on my knees proclaiming every day that I have breath. But king?

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.)





1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

November 23, 2025 at 10 AM Worship

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Tamara Waters-Wheeler

Music: Al Kary | Video: Kirby Kruger

*Rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*NO MATTER

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹ & OPENING PRAYER

All: Come and give thanks!

*HYMN Come, O Thankful People, Come

NCH 422

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 16:9-12

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship or attend Sunday School in the basement after the Offering.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we thank you for this beautiful world—for the changing seasons, for the cycles of decay and rebirth. Forgive us when we forget to be grateful. Forgive us when we take without giving, or receive without sharing. Open our eyes to wonder. Open our lips to praise. Open our hands to serve. May we walk gently on this earth. May our steps lead others toward love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen

SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-5, 12-14 & Luke 23:33-43

SERMON

Rev. Gretchen Deeg

HYMN

O Great Spirit

Sing! 91

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

NCH 425

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE](https://www.onelicense.com/), License #732302-A.

¹ Adapted. Mennonite Church Canada



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsor a Sunday

All of December is available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Hanging of the Greens: Today



Today after worship, all ages are invited to help prepare the church for the Christmas season. Join the fun in the sanctuary today!

Dine 'n De-stress: Nov. 24 at 5:15pm

Stressed out about our divisive political climate and unsure of how to respond? Join for conversations and support as we build connections and community. Held at Lucky's 13 (915 S 3rd St, Bis.)

Community Thanksgiving Worship: Nov. 25 at 7pm

Invite family and neighbors to join our annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. This year's service is being held at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Bismarck, featuring Sister Idelle Badt of Stepping Stone Ministries; offerings will support their healing mission, and a pie social will follow—everyone is welcome!



Welcoming New Members - Dec. 7

Have you felt a sense of belonging here? We'd be honored to welcome you into membership at Bismarck UCC. If you're ready to take that step, reach out to Pastor Gretchen.



Share the Warmth this Winter

We're collecting winter coats, hats, and gloves to bring comfort to individuals served by the Youth and Women's Correctional Facility and Ministry on the Margins. Please place items in the marked bin in the welcome area—every gift makes a difference.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: November 23 - 30

Sunday:	11 AM Fellowship 11:30 AM Hanging of the Greens 12 Noon Online Fellowship
Monday:	5:15 PM Dine 'n De-stress (Lucky's 13)
Tuesday:	1 PM Quilting/Knitting 6 PM Girl Scout Meeting 7 PM Community Thanksgiving Worship (Church of the Cross, 1004 E Highland Acres Rd)
Thursday:	Happy Thanksgiving - Church Office Closed
Friday:	Church Office Closed
Sunday:	10 AM Worship 11 AM Fellowship 12 Noon Online Fellowship

Joyful December

- **Game Night: Dec. 4 at 7pm** – all ages are welcome
- **Advent A'Fair: Dec. 7 at 11am** - free-will donation luncheon, gift fair, cookie decorating, singing, and more!
- **Christmas Sing-a-long: Dec. 9 at 6pm** - meet at Haycreek Lodge (1144 College Dr, Bis), second floor.
- **Pageant & Ugly Sweaters: Dec. 14** – put on your ugliest sweaters and get ready for an interactive Christmas pageant in worship!
- **Women's Christmas Luncheon: Dec. 16 at 12pm** – enjoy a provided lunch at Bismarck UCC.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Linda (Marciana's great-aunt), Gayle Klopp, Family of Jennifer Held, Diana, Amanda Wilson, Laverne Schulz, Gail (Helen Lindgren's daughter), James Fatimi & Family, Mike Rudolph, Dave Baber, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Pam Crawford, Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Leona Staiger (Helen Lindgren's sister), Matthew Nitschke, Ashley Seykora (Betty Picard's daughter), Laurie Schreiner, Colby (Janice & Gary Sather's son), Wade Rosene (Joyce Rosene's son), Chad Gent (Joyce Rosene's nephew), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

Come, O Thankful People, Come

*Exod. 23:16**St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.**St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.**St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.*

Descant

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
 3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.

*George J. Elvey, 1858**Descant: H. A. Chambers, 1931*

O Great Spirit

$\text{♩} = 44$

Em Am⁷ Em B⁷/F[♯] Em D⁶ C Am⁷ Bsus B

1. O Great Spir - it, earth, sun, sky and sea,
 2. O Great Spir - it, dawn be - fore the day,

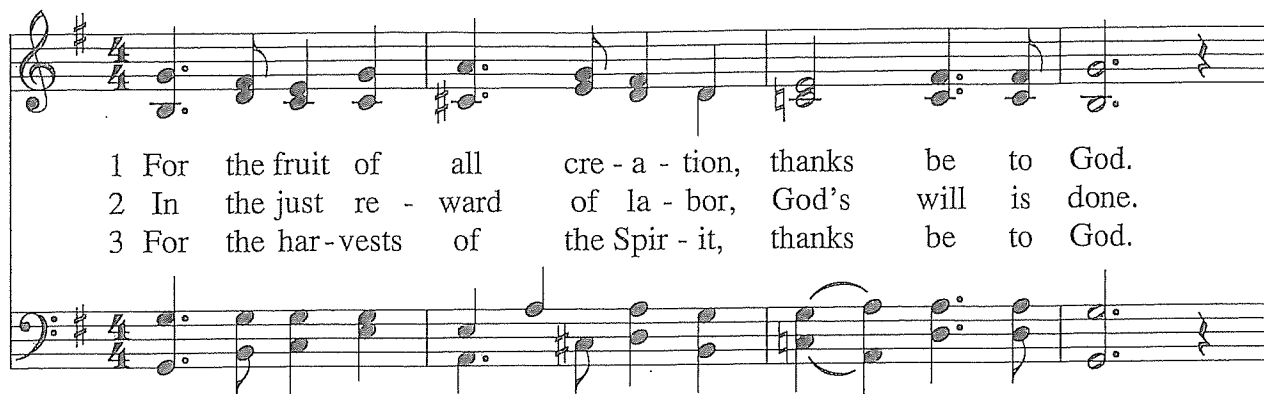
$\text{♩} = 44$

5 Em/G B⁷/F[♯] Em/G C/E Bmsus/D Am⁷ Bm Em

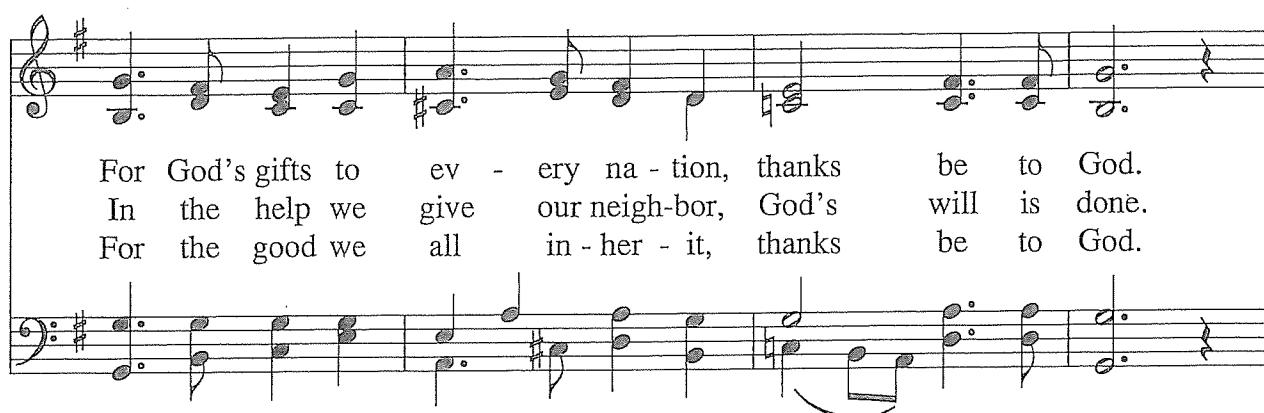
you are — with - in — and all a - round me.
 stir us — with - in — to hear you as we pray.

For the Fruit of All Creation

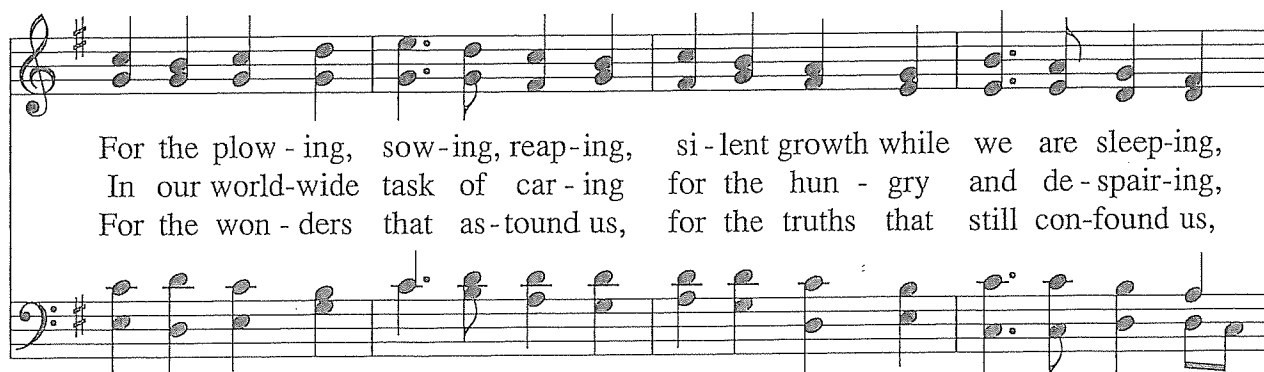
Fred Pratt Green, 1970



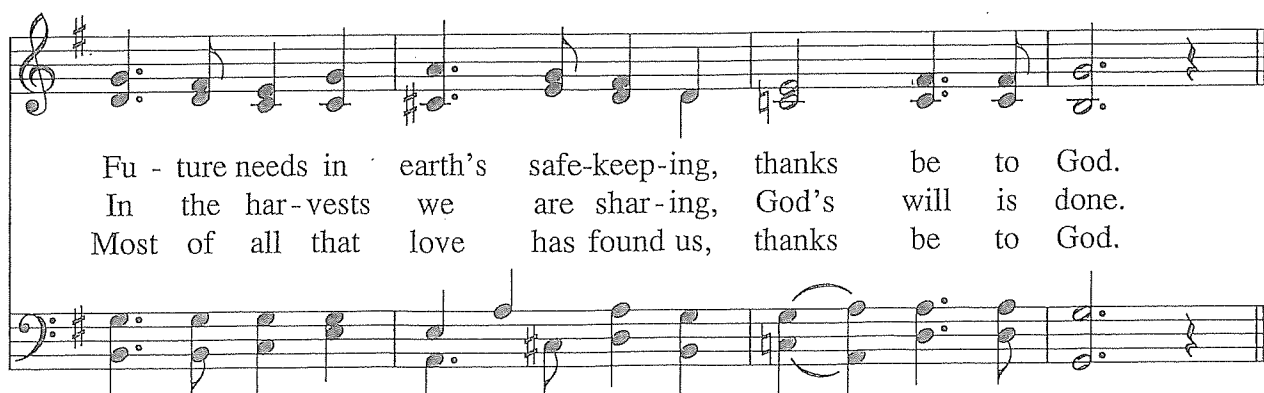
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
Welsh traditional melody