



THE BEST IS YET TO COME

HOPE FROM HABAKKUK

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 26, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Jesus, you lived two thousand years ago, and still you hold power over our lives. You lived two thousand years ago, and yet your way of power, justice, and love is the way to bring true fullness of life to all people. We lift you to the place of greatest honor. We praise your holy name. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John White

PRELUDE

Hymn Improvisation on Now Thank We All Our God

Burkhardt

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. John White

One: Around the world this day, the universal church celebrates "*The Reign of Christ.*"
Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned
above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

ALL: *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.*

One: God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet, appointed the One who
wore a crown of thorns as the supreme Head of the Church, His body.

ALL: *Enter His gates with thanksgiving, come into His courts with praise.
Give thanks and praise God's holy name!*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DIADEMATA

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION + PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Gracious God, the Apostle Peter encourages us to rejoice over the new heaven and
the new earth promised by you. Yet so often we live without joy, and we seek our
own kingdom instead of yours.

ALL: *Forgive us, O God.*

(A time of silent confession)

One: Too often, Merciful Father, we look with indifference upon those less fortunate,
and ignore the poverty of our own souls.

ALL: *Forgive us, O God, and lead us to true repentance.*

(A time of silent confession)

One: Loving God, let us never take for granted, or neglect the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
Open our eyes and our hearts to his body which is broken for us, and his blood
which is shed for us.

ALL: *Grant that we might be renewed and restored by the gift of your Son. In Christ, we find our joy. In Christ we find our hope. May our joy and hope be contagious, so that others are drawn to its source and foundation. Lead us, O God. By the power of your Spirit, transform us, and anchor our lives in you. Through Christ we pray, Amen.*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God to whom we have been reconciled by Christ. *(2 Corinthians 5:17,18a)*

ALL: *Thanks be to God! In Christ, our lives are made new and we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!** CORONATION

*All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Macey Berry, soloist

Lyn Murray

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(See insert, Prayer Litany)*

Rev. John White

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Habakkuk 3:17-19 (page 874)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Romans 12:9-13 (page 162)*

Rev. John White

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

The Best is Yet to Come: Hope from Habakkuk

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *A Creed from Colossians 1:15-23*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Who is Jesus Christ?

ALL: *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once we were alienated from God, but now God has reconciled us by Christ's physical body through death to present us holy in his sight. Thanks be to God!*

OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OFFERTORY

Prelude in A Minor

Krieger

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

*Dedicatory Prayer | *Harvest for Hunger* (see insert)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN: 515** *I Come with Joy* (verses 1-3)

DOVE OF PEACE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (See insert)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

CLOSING PRAYER

***HYMN: 515** *I Come with Joy* (verses 4-5)

DOVE OF PEACE

SENDING

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. John White

CHORAL BENEDICTION

May the Grace of God Our Savior
Chancel Choir

Stainer

POSTLUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. McDonald