

**BETHEL MURDOCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
9602 Murdoch-Goshen Road, Loveland, OH 45140  
**November 20, 2022 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrating 208 years of Faithful Service to Our God**  
**Christ the King Sunday**

***We Enter Into God's Presence***

**WELCOME**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made

**P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**THE PEACE**

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

**“SURELY THE PRESENCE”**

**Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.**

**I can feel His mighty power and His grace.**

**I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face.**

**Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Look up and raise your heads,

**P: because your redemption is drawing near.**

L: Be alert at all times,

**P: praying that you may stand before the Son of Man.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it shall cease to be, You are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN: 263 “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!”**

1 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!

2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

3 Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

4 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

### **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God as we pray together saying,

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Eternal God, in every age you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ.**

### **SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**L:** Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

**P: We know that we are forgiven and we can be at peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **\*RESPONSE:**

### **“Gloria Patri”**

Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.

***We Hear God's Word***

**SPECIAL MUSIC: W&R-177 "Jesus, Name Above All Names"**

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior,  
Glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is  
with us blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

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**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Colossians 1:11-20**

<sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you<sup>[a]</sup> to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> 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.

**PSALM: Psalm 46**

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

<sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.

<sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

<sup>8</sup> Come and see what the LORD has done,  
the desolations he has brought on the earth.

<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields<sup>[d]</sup> with fire.

<sup>10</sup> He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

### **GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 23:33-43**

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**MESSAGE:                      *The King of Life*                      Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman**

If I would say to you, "Behold the King!" what would you envision? Perhaps you would imagine a majestic procession of soldiers dressed in their parade uniforms marching together in long columns. Behind them a team of beautifully groomed horses bedecked in jewel-studded harnesses with bright shiny bits in their mouths, drawing an elaborate carriage festooned with flowers and flags. And in the midst of that sits a figure in deep purple velvet robes edged with white fur that is held together by a clasp of the finest silver. A magnificent crown sits squarely upon the man's head accentuating the handsome regal face whose eyes scan the gathered crowd.

This king is set apart and concerned more with the matters of state and propriety. Governance is his calling card; obedience and loyalty expected from his subjects. The king appears to think himself above it all as if he deserved all of the attention given to him by the masses. That might indeed be what you would expect to see if I had said, "Look, it's the king."

And yet, that vision of King does not seem to fit our savior, even on this Christ the King Sunday. If I would say to you, "Behold the King, Jesus" do you think you would get the same picture in your mind? When we think of Jesus as King, most of us have a very different image than a pompous, richly dressed, detached and distant king.

King is probably not the word most folks think of to describe Jesus right off the bat. Some people think of Jesus as a relevant and innovative teacher. A man who spent time showing his disciples by thought, word and deed just how to put God first in our lives, love our neighbor just as we love ourselves and to do what we can to help other people. Others think of Jesus as a significant and awe-inspiring preacher. He is someone who

shares the good news of God's love for each and every person with the world. Some think of Jesus as a noteworthy and gifted healer, who performed miracles of driving out the demons that possess people. That seems to still hold true as many people today credit Jesus as the one who has saved them from a mentally, emotionally or physically destructive path. Many of us relate because we have felt his healing love and complete acceptance of who we are right here and right now.

There are some who understand Jesus as a suffering servant. One who came to live a human existence; in that way, Jesus is truly able to relate to the trials and pitfalls of the human condition. All Christians think of Jesus as Savior to all of creation. It is this same Savior who was falsely arrested and beaten, whose captors dressed him in robes and a crown of thorns mocking him calling him King of the Jews and then hung him on a cross to die. But this Jesus obediently gave his life taking on the sins of the world so that we who believe might be forgiven of our sins. And when Jesus was resurrected on that first Easter morning, he became the King of Life and therefore each one of us can be assured that we will live eternally in the presence of God.

No, Jesus does not fit into the human ideal for a king, but Jesus fits perfectly as the King of Life. God's own Son who was sent because God the creator wanted all of creation to live; not just here and now, but for all time. Out of God's love came the Son for all of humanity to believe in so that we might live eternally with God. What a wonderful week to give thanks for Jesus, the teacher, the preacher, the healer, the suffering servant, and especially with gratitude to God for Jesus the King of Life.

### ***We Respond with Thanksgiving***

**HYMN: 260**

**“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”**

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone!  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus, out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne.  
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
Here on earth both priest and victim in the Eucharistic feast.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. (*The Apostles' Creed-Ecumenical*)

**OFFERING (Please remember to mail your offering to Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church, 9602 Murdoch Goshen Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140)**

**DOXOLOGY** Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above Ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**JOYS & CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION – (Please send your joys and concerns to the church email and we will publish them in the weekly ENews)**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray,

Almighty God our creator, you made all things in your wisdom, and in your love you save us. We pray for the whole creation, especially in this time of crisis. Overthrow evil powers, right what is wrong, feed and satisfy those who thirst for justice, so that all your children may freely enjoy the earth you have made, and joyfully sing your praises.

Eternal God, you sent us a Savior, Christ Jesus, to break down the walls of hostility that divide us. Send peace on earth and put down greed, pride,

and anger, which turn nation against nation and race against race. Speed the day when wars will end and the whole world accepts your rule.

O God, whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbors, remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people, so that your children may be reconciled with those we fear, or resent, and live together in your peace.

We ask healing for those who are sick, in pain or experiencing dis-ease in their lives.

We mourn with those who mourn, even while You welcome those who have taken their next step to be in heaven with you.

We share with joy the exciting things that have been happening.

We ask travel mercies on those who are traveling.

We take just a moment to pray for ourselves.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray and to offer our petitions to you in his name. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love. It is in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord that we pray the prayer he taught us,

### **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### ***We are Sent Out to Love and Serve***

### **HYMN: 268      "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

1 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.

2 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;

no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

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

4 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time;  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

### **Charge and Benediction**

Go out into the world in peace. Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself.  
And as you go out, know that you take with you the love of God, the grace  
of Our Lord, Jesus Christ and the *awesome* power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Choral Amen**

### **Postlude**

### **We believe that our mission is to:**

**B**ring people to Jesus

**E**ducate them in God's truth

**T**each them to love God and each other

**H**eal the brokenhearted in loving family community

**E**njoy God and each other

**L**ive worshipful lives