Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
November 22, 2026 – Reign of Christ



Christ the Redeemer
Rio de Janeiro

Opening Sentences

- In Christ all things hold together; he is head of the church and Lord of all.
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
For the Lord is a great God;
a great ruler over heaven and earth!

Opening Hymn All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! GG #263

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!

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!

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!

O 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!

Prayer of the Day: Litany for Reign of Christ

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!
Christ will reign forever and ever.

The Lord is robed in majesty and girded in strength.
Christ will reign forever and ever.

God has established the world, and God's realm will never be shaken.
Christ will reign forever and ever.

God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.
Christ will reign forever and ever.

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord.
Christ will reign forever and ever.

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior,
you pour our your power for the powerless
and your salvation for the lost.
Remember us in your new creation,
so that we may live in peace with you
in the presence of the Holy One,
to whom be all honor and glory,
through you in the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts
and your Spirit govern our lives
until at last we see the fulfillment
of your realm of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the lease of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but righteous into eternal life."

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

Homily The Throne of His Glory

Hymn Rejoice, the Lord is King!, v. 1 and 4 GG #363

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the judge shall come
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Through Jesus Christ, God has shown us
the sovereignty of divine love
in compassion for the least, the lost, and the lonely.
Therefore, we pray, saying:
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God we live in a world of plenty
in which the poor struggle for daily bread.
We pray for those who lack the basic necessities of life
and those who willingly share the resources you have given.
Correct those who hoard resources
out of anxiety, ignorance, or selfishness.
Open their eyes to your presence among the poor of the world
and free them for joyful giving.
For the poor, the benevolent, and the hard-of-heart,
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, you admonish us to offer hospitality to the stranger
and to welcome the weary.
We pray for travelers,
for those who emigrate to new lands,
for refugees of political and religious wars,
and for those who have no place to call home.

Bless those who offer refuge to the wayfaring stranger.
Convict the conscience and open the heart
of any who would raise walls of self-preservation and isolation.
For the stranger, for those who minister to them,
and for those who would refuse them,
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, you hear the cry of all who are in distress.
Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit.
Comfort them in their need and help those who care for them.
We also pray for those who abandon the sick and suffering
out of fear.
Teach us to serve our siblings
and to share the burden of disease of body, mind, and heart.
For the sick and those in distress, for those who care for them,
and those who are afraid to offer fellowship to them,
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

God, Jesus our Lord was a prisoner of Rome before his execution,
and he instructed his disciples to visit those in prison.
We pray for those who are incarcerated:
for those who are guilty of crime
and for those who may be unjustly imprisoned.
Save the lost, reprove the haughty, liberate the captive,
and let your disciples be a sign of your forgiving, liberating love.
We also pray for those who work in prisons,
that they may respect the humanity
of the women and men they guard
and not be overwhelmed by the moral dangers of their employment.
For prisoners, for those who minister to them,
and for those who guard them,
Compassionate Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, confirm our prayer
with the dedication of our lives to ministry,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray together, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

With gratitude for the glorious inheritance
we share in Christ Jesus our Lord,
let us offer our time, talent, and treasure
to the work of God's kingdom.

Offertory

Act of Dedication All People That on Earth Do Dwell, v. 1 GG #385

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
serve him with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.

Offertory Prayer

Holy God, use us, and these gifts,
to feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
and honor your presence in all people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preparing for Advent -- Dismissal to ministries of service

As we turn the church calendar from one year to the next, we acknowledge that all time is God's time and we give thanks for glimpses of the eternal given to us within our hours and days. We give thanks as well that we mark our linear human time with events and traditions and symbols that speak deeply to us and nurture us in body, mind, and spirit.

Our cherished traditions include adorning the church for the Season of Advent – the weeks that instruct us anew each year in the patience and the promise of waiting. Preparing our space honors the season and sets our intention to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with gratitude and joy. As a shared task, it's both an expression of community and a fun activity. So please pick a task that appeals to you – here in the sanctuary, out in the hallway, down by the Fellowship Hall.
We'll gather for a simple lunch in Fellowship Hall in about half an hour.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell Caly Fernandez John Adam Tabali
Beverly Avila Robert Garza Ale Pacheco FPC Chancel Choir

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