

November 21, 2021  
Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King, B Proper 29  
St. Mary's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church  
Ramona, CA

Open Hymn: We All Live in the World God Made,  
Tune: Yellow Submarine  
Played and sung by Joshua Charney, Ph.D

In the world where I was born, lived a man from Bethlehem, and he taught us how to live, the man of Bethlehem, he did. And he walked upon this earth, yes the man of Bethlehem, and he taught, and healed and loved, yes, the man of Bethlehem.

We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.  
We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.

And the man from Bethlehem made some friends to preach his word; the merry band began to play.....

We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.  
We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.

And the man of Bethlehem carried a cross to Calvary, and he died upon the Tree, for the sins of you and me. But the man of Bethlehem, rose to live again, quite free, and now he's gone from earthly plane, but he lives in you and me.

We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.  
We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.  
We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.  
We all live in the world God made, the world God made, the world God made.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
People And Blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Trisagon,  
Tune: Lucy in the Sky

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one

Have mercy

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one  
Have mercy

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one  
Have mercy

The Celebrant then says  
    The Lord be with you.  
People And also with you.  
Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

#### **Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

As I watched,  
    thrones were set in place,  
        and an Ancient One took his throne,  
his clothing was white as snow,  
        and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
        and its wheels were burning fire.  
A stream of fire issued  
    and flowed out from his presence.  
A thousand thousands served him,  
    and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.  
The court sat in judgment,  
    and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being  
    coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient One  
    and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people  
*Thanks be to God*

### **Psalm 93**

#### ***Dominus regnavit***

- 1 The LORD is King;  
he has put on splendid apparel; \*  
the LORD has put on his apparel  
and girded himself with strength.
- 2 He has made the whole world so sure \*  
that it cannot be moved;
- 3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; \*  
you are from everlasting.
- 4 The waters have lifted up, O LORD,  
the waters have lifted up their voice; \*  
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.
- 5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea, \*  
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.
- 6 Your testimonies are very sure, \*  
and holiness adorns your house, O LORD,  
for ever and for evermore.

### **Revelation 1:4b-8**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

*Thanks be to God*

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John**

Glory to you Lord Christ

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon:

Christ the King Cycle B Proper 29 November 21, 2021  
2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-13, (14-19)  
Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Today is the Feast of Christ the King, and many may greet such a presentation of Christ as King, with the same cynical skepticism as Pontius Pilate when Jesus was held in captivity. "So you are

a king?" said Pilate. The bleeding sarcasm is obvious like, "Well, most people who are real kings don't stand in chains before me. I guess you might be a legend king in your own mind. I hope that such fantasy is working for you."

This feast day invites us to explore our understanding of monarchies and then try to re-appropriate an insightful notion of how Christ can be a king for us today.

There were biblical kings. God did not want Israel to have kings; they had leaders like Moses, Joshua and the Judges and High Priests. But the people wanted a king like the other nations and so Samuel complied, but warned the people that a king would usurp resources of the land. But the people thought, "we need to be good at war to protect ourselves; and we need a king to be good at war among the nations."

So, God gave Israel the first two kings at the hand of the last great Judge, Samuel, who poured oil over the heads of Saul and David in an anointing ceremony. The Hebrew word for such anointing is the word from which Messiah derives.

Israel had perhaps two noteworthy Kings, David and his son Solomon. Neither were perfect. David arranged for the murder of a man whose wife he stole, and that woman Bathsheba was the mother of Solomon, who was famous for his wisdom and for building the first Temple. He was also responsible for sending Israel on a downward trajectory, because in marrying so many wives and having so many concubines, he allowed the gods and goddesses of his wives to have a place in Israel in opposition to the One Lord God.

The kings of Israel did not do well; the kingdom was divided, the kingly lineage died when foreign conquerors carried the people off into exile.

What does an exiled and oppressed and kingless people do? They dream about the good old days of David. Their dreams gave birth to a vision of a future king like David who will be one to restore Israel to the greatness like the Davidic times.

It did not happen, and people continued to dream and be inspired to write all kinds of visionary literature about a future great king.

Jesus of Nazareth in his history was not such a person; and so, the Gospel of John purposefully shares the skepticism of Pilate, "So, Jesus you're a king? Really?"

Fast forward to America. We are the heirs of a government based upon not having kings, since we with enlightened political thinking came to share the view that "absolute power, corrupts absolutely." We wanted to be rid of the control of the English Monarchy.

What is one of the differences between the rule of the many and the rule of the few? The rule of the few or the one can be very efficient, and such can be beneficial for all if the one or the few are perfect and omni-competent and caring people, but such perfect people don't exist, so the rule of the few and the one tends toward cruel dictatorships or oligarchies with no respect for diversity.

We see now in our democracy that the rule of the many has revealed the public incompetence of many politicians, many of whom seem to be dominated by very narrow special interest groups. Some people wish for the rule of the few and the rule by the wealthy. Some want a theocracy; a retired recently said we should have a country with only one religion.

What do many people like to do with the notion of monarchy? We make them into dream kingdoms and iconic symbols with "Royals" who we want to be good for tourism and nostalgia.

The most prominent kingdom in America is the cinematic kingdoms of Disney. We make romantic child friendly kingdoms with "child morality plays" of good and evil, but mainly we want to sell lots of stuff and Halloween costumes from such romantic figures of kings, queens, princes, and princesses.

When we try to find a place for Christ the King, we are forced to admit that Christ the King is more like a romantic Disney King rather than a warrior king like David, because Christ the King is an inner and spiritual king.

Christ the King does not have the same manifestation as the Jesus of history. The Jesus Movement spiritualized the notion of the Messiah as being a Risen and Ascended Person of Significance. What does Risen and Ascended mean in practical terms? It means that the Risen Christ is available through the Holy Spirit to the inner lives of people in such a way that loyal relationships have occurred.

A large group of people came into the experience of a spiritual relationship with the most significant and omni-competent person of their lives. They did not actually see Jesus the person; but the constellation of words which surrounded him could overtake and influence lives, and those lives were energized and changed so that they could change the world in external and physical ways.

The Risen Christ came to be named the perfect, omni-competent King. He was the only one who was good enough to deserve the authority of kingship, because all earthly kings have been failures, in some way.

So, while the Risen Christ the King is like the imaginative kings of Disney creations, the Risen Christ inspires such profound interior spiritual relationship, that significant effective changes happen in the hearts of loyal subjects; but not just in their hearts because the loyal followers of Christ make real changes in the external world.

What kind of changes? The kind of changes which are known as kindness, love, and justice. Kindness, love, and justice have material and physical reality, meaning that spiritual Christ the King has continued fleshly, incarnational, body language significance.

We pray "thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven," because we believe that the very best of the interior world of love, justice and kindness has to be very external and physical love, justice, and kindness in the specific lives of people.

The validity of Christ as King is only challenged if we make it Disney-like romantic and sentimental piety, and not world changing, people changing, love, justice, and kindness behaviors.

God and Christ are too good for the notion of kingship, because we will not know earthly figures who are omni-competent enough to be worthy of the title and the requirement of what perfect kingship can and should mean.

Christ is idealized kingly person who uses absolute power, not for aggrandizement, but for service and love and kindness.

We need the personification of the right use of absolute power, and so we have Christ the King to inspire our lives to be converted to use the power of our lives, not for self or tribal aggrandizement, but for the effective service of love, kindness and justice.

The understanding of Christ as King, is the way that we rehabilitate and rightly use power and authority. And remember if we follow the spiritual Christ the King, we will not live in palaces or pride, but like Jesus we will humbly follow our heavenly parent in the ways of kindness for the people in our world who need it.

In this way, I invite each of us to worship Christ as our king today. Amen.

The Nicene Creed (page 357)

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our Neighbor  
Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in  
eternal life. Amen.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you

Hymn: Something in the Way God Loves Me

*Tune: Something*

Played and sung by Joshua Charney, Ph.D.

Something in the way God loves me like no other love I know. Something in the way God loves me. I know I need to know it more. You know I need to know it more.

Something in the way God love us the love of Christ came to us. Something in the way God loves us. Jesus walked upon this earth. Jesus took away the curse.

You're asking me will my love grow, for God, I sure hope so. As God loves me, I will know. I will know, I will know.

Something in the way God loves me. God's Spirit is with me now. Something in the way God loves me. I know I need to know it more. You know I need to know it more.

Doxology: Sung by Rob and Deb Lewallen

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Sanctus  
Tune, Here Comes the Sun

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation: Tune, *Eleanor Rigby*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Led by Rob and Deb Lewallen

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,  
    for ever and ever. Amen.  
The Breaking of the Bread

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Led by Rob and Deb Lewallen

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,  
    for ever and ever. Amen.  
The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn: O, They Tell Me of an Unclouded Day  
Stanley V. Smith, Jr., Hammer Dulcimer

1 O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,  
O they tell me of a home far away;  
O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise;  
O they tell me of an uncloudy day.  
Refrain:  
O the land of cloudless day,  
O the land of an uncloudy day.

O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise,  
O they tell me of an uncloudy day.

2 O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,  
O they tell me of that land far away,  
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom  
Sheds its fragrance through the uncloudy day. [Refrain]

3 O they tell me of a King in His beauty there,  
And they tell me that mine eyes shall behold  
Where He sits on the throne that is whiter than snow,  
In the city that is made of gold. [Refrain]

4 O they tell me that He smiles on His children there,  
And His smile drives their sorrows all away;  
And they tell me that no tears ever come again,  
In that lovely land of uncloudy day. [Refrain]

Post Communion Prayer (BCP, page 365)

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Benediction:

Dismissal:

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: O Lord, You Are My God

Tune: Hey Jude

Played and sung by Joshua Charney, Ph.D

O Lord you are our God. You have called us to love and serve you. O Jesus, you showed us how to love, and now we want to tell the wonders of God's love.

Spirit, our guide and friend. You abide in us forever, with wisdom, and with grace, we will ever sing, Alleluia.

And anytime I feel alone, O God, I know you carry me upon your shoulders; and when I try to play the fool and not seek you, I try to take life on my shoulder. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no!

Lord Christ, your law of love gives hope for human friendship. Remember in breaking of the bread, we can know your life to be with us.

O Lord, you are our God. We were made to know and love you. Whenever we let you into our lives, we will always sing Alleluia. Al le lu ia, al-le-lu-ia.