

Bringing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music *Tethered* PHIL WICKHAM
Presley Dishman, Soloist

✠ Doxology
UMH 94 ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; OLD 100TH***
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 NSRV
¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Response to the Word
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

✠ Hymn of Preparation *O Jesus, I Have Promised* ANGEL’S STORY
UMH 396 (vv. 1, 4)

✠ Gospel Lesson Matthew 25:31-40 NRSV
³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵for 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, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then 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? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

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The Word of God for the people of God.
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Sermon *On Service*

✠ Affirmation of Faith Apostles’ Creed
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now reverently and sincerely declare:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

✠ Gloria Patri *Glory Be to the Father* MEINEKE
UMH 70
Glory 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.

Prayers of the People

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 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, forever. Amen.

✠ Invitation to Christian Discipleship

SENDING FORTH

✠ Sending Hymn *Here I Am, Lord* HERE I AM, LORD
UMH 593 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

✠ Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

✠ Announcements

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

What about the White Paraments Today?

Traditionally, white paraments are used on the Lord’s Table, the pulpit and the lectern on the Sundays when the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated. So, why are the white paraments being used today?

The reason is that today is *Christ the King Sunday*, which is the traditional title for the final Sunday of the Christian year. The emphasis is on allegiance to the Savior, Jesus the Christ. For some, *Christ the King* refers to the person of Christ and, therefore, can be used to capture all that he was and said during his earthly ministry, as well as the position of authority he now holds “at the right hand of God the Father.”

If there is a Sunday when creeds are appropriate, this is it. Joining in a creed or affirmation of faith is an opportunity to claim one’s faith within the body of the gathered community. It is at once an individual and a corporate act. “This is *my* faith,” we declare, alongside “This is *our* faith.” Whatever words or formulations we use in our affirmation of faith, we can pledge allegiance to Christ once more. We belong to Christ, the unifier, the one who gathers us and claims us as precious children of God.

We need to know the Christ we claim today and to study his words and example. We need to focus on the gospel that Jesus brings, namely, the call to love God and neighbor. *Christ the King Sunday* is a day to stake our claim as followers of Christ.