

Holy Baptism

November 21, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6cV6b2dUblFOQ3l2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Proper 29B: The Reign of Christ the King

Prelude

All stand as they are able

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 616

Hail to the Lord's anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;
5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
 5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

|
Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

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.

All sit.

First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

A Reading from the book of Daniel.

⁹As 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.

¹⁰A 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.

¹³As 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.

¹⁴To 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

Psalm 23 *to be prayed in unison*

¹**The LORD is my shepherd; ***
I shall not be in want.
²**He makes me lie down in green pastures ***
and leads me beside still waters.
³**He revives my soul ***
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
⁵**You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ***
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
⁶**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me**
all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

^{4b}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, ⁵and 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, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! 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.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Tune: *O Quanta Qualia*

Spirit of God, you moved over the waters



Spi- rit of God, you moved o- ver the wa- ters
Spi- rit of God, like a dove you once rest- ed,
Help us to see you, still call- ing and car- ing,



Whisp'ring God's love to the whole of cre- a- tion.
Show- ing God's joy on the day Christ was bap- tized.
Help us to know you a- mong us, cre- a- ting.



You breathe your life in- to God's sons and daugh-ters.
 You sent Christ out to the hills to be test- ed,
 Spi- rit of God, give us cour- age and dar- ing —



Giv- ing us tal- ents and your in- spi- ra- tion.
 Through you he called us to see God with new eyes.
 To share God's love with a world that is wait- ing.

Holy Gospel

John 18:33-37

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate 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?” ³⁶Jesus 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 Jewish authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate 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.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Presider blesses the water of Baptism

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their

bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Presider dips the foot of the Paschal Candle in the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The candidates, parents and godparents, stand as they are able.

The Presider says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents

Parents and Godparents

I present Paislee Mae Presnell to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Mira Elizabeth Sparrow to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When all have been presented, the Presider then asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Presider

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Presider asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Presider addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Presider then says

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ, and renew our own baptismal covenant.

All stand as they are able

The Baptismal Covenant

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Deacon Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Deacon Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Intercessor Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Presider then says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

The candidates are presented by name to the Presider, who then pours water upon each candidate, saying

N.N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then the Presider places a hand on each person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

When this action has been completed, the Presider, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the newly baptized, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The Presider then says

Let us welcome the newly baptized:

Presider and People then say

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Children of the Sunday School say to the People

**To the river went Jesus and John,
God was proud of his only son.
On his head it looked like a dove;
The Holy Spirit came from above. AMEN.**

All remain standing as they are able.

The Prayers of the People

Presider Almighty God, you spoke, and your words brought endless worlds into existence. Remind us that our words and our lives matter. May our words and actions partner with each other in your holy purpose. Amen. Glory to you, Lord God.

Intercessor As the people of your hand and the people of your church, we approach you in deep humility and deep gratitude. Bless our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. Bless all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at Church of the Incarnation, Pittsfield Township, St Luke's, Allen Park, and Trinity Church, St Clair Shores. May we reflect your image in all that we are and all that we do. We are awe of your glory and majesty. **Amen. Glory to you, Lord God.**

Silence is kept.

As people of this time and place, we ask you to instill in our leaders, our courts, and fellow citizens wisdom and integrity, that we may reflect your image in all that we are and all that we do. We are in awe of your righteousness. **Amen. Glory to you, Lord God.**

Silence is kept.

As people who are flawed and frail, we ask you for healing for each of us and those we love, for those who face surgery, those who are consumed with endless worry and needless guilt, and those who turn their backs on their brothers and sisters. We pray for the sick and for those we love [especially _____]. We are in awe of your compassionate care and loving-kindness. **Forgive us and heal us.**

As people who have been given blessings beyond count, we give you our thanks, praise, and gratitude [especially for _____]. **Amen. Glory to you, Lord God.**

As people whose time is limited, we ask you to carry us at the end of our lives into your eternal habitation, where we will behold your glory forever. We pray for those who have recently died [especially _____] We are in awe of your promise of eternal glory with the saints in light and in your presence forever. **Amen. Glory to you, Lord God.**

Silence is kept.

Presider Almighty and transcendent God, your glory fills all creation, and your authority extends beyond time and forever: Let your Spirit open our lives to your grace and truth, that we may always see your Christ at his coming, to whom be glory and dominion forever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

A Minister then says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

Minister and People

**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.**

A Priest stands and says

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.**

Peace

All stand as they are able.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*

How the Holy Communion is prepared

The Presider, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

The Presider alone will bring the bread and wine from the credence table to the Altar at the time of the offertory. All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. The Presider alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the Presider during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the Presider alone**. They are consumed entirely by the Presider, or appropriately disposed of after the service.

The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.

During consecration, the Presider will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 19, 2020 Diocese of Michigan directive).

How the Holy Communion will be distributed

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

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The people will come to the Altar rail as they are able. The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the

person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

The people stand as they are able as a minister brings forward the alms basin.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing.

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

5
God of po - wer and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

9
God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

12
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! All

15
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -

18
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

24 *molto rit.*
Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

The people continue to stand, or kneel, as they are able.

The Presider continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption,
and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Parents; God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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 and ever. Amen.
Breaking of the Bread**

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God.

And we are the people of God.

And in union and solidarity with your faithful people
who are not able to be present at this table, we pray together:

**Strengthen and sustain us with your grace, Lord Christ,
and let us never be separated from you.**

Come spiritually into all of our hearts, Lord Christ.

**May we live in you, and you in us, in this life, and in the life to come.
Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**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 Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

You are the body of Christ.

May you have the heart of Christ, tender for mercy.

May you have the eyes of Christ to see a world in need.

May you have the feet of Christ to bring good news.

And may the blessing of the Holy One who made you,
 †Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Concluding Hymn

LEVAS 221

This little light of mine

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it
 3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it

Oh

1. shine, This lit - tle light of mine,
 2. shine, Ev - 'ry - where I go,
 3. shine, Je - sus gave it to me,

Oh

1. I'm gon - na let it shine; This lit - tle light of
 2. I'm gon - na let it shine; Ev - 'ry - where I
 3. I'm gon - na let it shine; Je - sus gave it to

Oh

1. mine, _____ I'm gon - na let it shine, _____ Let it
 2. go, _____ I'm gon - na let it shine, _____ Let it
 3. me, _____ I'm gon - na let it shine, _____ Let it

Oh _____

1. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 2. shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 3. shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Dismissal

Minister My brothers and my sisters, let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**



Postlude

Congratulations to the newly Baptized and their Families!

Paislee Mae Presnell
 Mira Elizabeth Sparrow

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church is today, November 21**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

A reminder that our Social Time is still active every Tuesday evening from 7:00-7:30 on Zoom! The link can be found on the church web site calendar, and also here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86367804283?pwd=eW9jelFKTTdaaUlXRozxMEc1NlM3Zz09>
Meeting ID: 863 6780 4283, Passcode: 894503

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Upcoming Commemorations

- November 21 William Byrd, 1623, John Merbecke, 1585,
and Thomas Tallis, 1585, Musicians
- 22 Clive Staples Lewis, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1963;
and, Cecilia: Martyr at Rome, c. 280
- 23 Clement of Rome, Bishop, c.100
- 25 James Otis Sargent Huntington, Monastic and Priest, 1935
- 26 Isaac Watts: Hymnwriter, 1748

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Proper 29B November 21, 2021

Samuel 23:1-7

King David—perhaps the greatest King of Israel—in his final words, did not take credit for himself, but instead declared that it was God who had anointed and exalted him to his place of leadership. David credited God not only for his rise to power, but also for his ability to rule the people justly. David proclaimed, “One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.” Godly leadership was not simply the right thing to do for King David, but it was a thing of great beauty. David understood that to use our positions of authority and influence for good and just purposes is to make our houses, our tiny kingdoms, like the Kingdom of God.

- In what positions of authority do you serve where you could invite the Kingdom of God to be made present?
- What is something small you could do today to make your house more like the Kingdom of God?

Revelation 1:4b-8

The scene that is described for us here in the first chapter of Revelation is one of a king arriving and there being no mistake regarding who he is or why he has come. The author declares, “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.” In this foretelling of Christ’s second coming, the Messiah is returning to the earth in an unmistakable fashion, befitting a king. This is most unlike his first inbreaking, when he arrived without the expected pomp and circumstance and instead came into the world as an infant, totally dependent upon those who would raise him up. This Jesus, he is the Messiah King, the “ruler of the kings of the earth,” who breaks into the world in surprising ways, not only to change the course of history, but also

to invite the whole world to participate and become his Kingdom on earth.

- How did Jesus come into your life and in what way(s) did his arrival surprise you?
- In what practical ways can you live in the Kingdom of God in your everyday life?

John 18:33-37

When questioned by Pontius Pilate, Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world.” This statement would be more surprising if it were the first time we encountered Jesus describing the Kingdom of God, but the more we hear about God’s Kingdom, the more we understand that it is very much upside-down or in reverse in comparison to the world as we know it. While our world so often operates on systems of scarcity and determining value based on supply and demand, in God’s Kingdom, there is not only enough for everyone, but there is abundance. In God’s Kingdom, all have enough and no one wants for anything. It is in this Kingdom that we can be loosed from the bondage of impulse and endless desire and finally be free to find eternal contentment in the One who had freed us. This is the good news that Christ our King came into the world to proclaim, and all who belong to the truth will listen to his voice.

- In what ways do you imagine that the Kingdom of God is different from the world today?
- In what small ways could we act to change our daily lives to allow the Kingdom of God to break in?

This study was written by Joshua Woods

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Sequence Hymn text at *Voices Found*, #58 Tune: *O Quanta Qualia* at *Hymnal*, #348.

Concluding prayer at the Intercessions adapted from *The Armed Forces Prayer Book*, 1951.

Sanctus musical setting from *St Barnabas Mass*, by Doug Howell. © 2016 Creative Measures. Used by permission of the composer.

Invitation to the Table from <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/bcr-132/> Accessed 12 June 2019

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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