

# *Order of Worship*

27th Sunday after Pentecost  
November 24, 2024

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**Gathering and Welcome** *We Gather Together*

**Prelude** *Count Your Blessings* – arr. Kenneth Renfro

**\*Call to worship** (based on Revelation 1:5-6)

What brings us together in this place?

**To worship Christ, who loves us,  
who freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and who made us a kingdom, priests serving his God  
and Father.**

To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

**Amen.**

Let's prepare our hearts and minds to worship Jesus Christ,  
our king.

**\*Opening Hymn # 268** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**\*Call to confession** (based on Hebrews 4:15-16, but with a little twist  
echoing John 18:33-37)

Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses. The one we call  
King in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without  
sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with  
boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to  
help in time of need.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**\*Prayer of confession**

**Lord, however much we call you king, we fail to follow your  
call to us. We succumb to the temptations of this temporary  
world, seeking power and security while you call us to  
service and hospitality, consuming your creation while you  
call us to care for it, not caring for our neighbors, whom you  
call us to love. In our failure to claim you, we identify more  
with the world than with your kingdom.**

**We pray that you reclaim us as your people, forgive us as  
your children, and continue to be our Lord and our hope  
for salvation.**

**\*Assurance of pardon** (based on Psalm 93:5, Revelation 1:5)

Hear the good news:

Jesus Christ loves us and has set us free from our sins.

In the name of Jesus Christ, and by the certainty of God's decree, know that we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

God has poured out love upon us,

and we have received forgiveness for our sins.

We can now live in peace!

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

**Choral Anthem** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Give Thanks* – by Michael Barrett

**Prayer for illumination**

Holy Spirit, we pray that you enter into the hearts, minds, and souls of those who hear these words of Scripture. Speak to us today, that we might understand your will and walk in your ways. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**Scripture readings** Revelation 1: 4 – 8; John 18: 33 - 37

**Sermon** *Faces Around the Table*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

**Affirmation of faith** (excerpts from The Theological Declaration of Barmen)

**Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.**

**The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.**

**\*Hymn of Praise # 100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

**Call for the offering** (based on Revelation 1:8)

The Lord God is Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. All that is, all that was, and all there will be belongs to God. Let us now return to God in part what is God's in whole.

**Offertory** *Holy Manna* – arr. John Carter Jessye Whitis, pianist

**\*Doxology # 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Prayer of dedication** (a light allusion to Daniel 7:13-14)

Holy One, we pray that you take these gifts of our labor, our wealth, our time, and our lives and use them to express your everlasting kingdom of love in this world. Amen.

**Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

To the one who reigns over all creation, the Almighty,  
Lord of Peace, Lord of Love,  
Lord of Life, Lord of Lords,  
King of our Hearts,

King of the Kingdom with No End,  
King of Kings,  
Christ, Messiah, Anointed One,  
Word of God,  
we name our prayers to you  
trusting that you,  
the Alpha and Omega,  
the beginning and the end,  
hear them and intercede on our behalf.

Hear us as we pray saying,  
Come Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

We lift these prayers  
to the One who is, who was, and who is to come  
saying, “**Our Father...**”

**\*Hymn of Sending # 647 Give Thanks**

**\*Blessing for ingathering of Pledges**

**Charge and benediction**

Love God,  
Love yourself,  
Love your neighbor.  
Live as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with your spirit.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Postlude** *Come Ye Thankful People Come* Jessye Whitis, pianist

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### **Litany of Dedication for Stewardship Pledges**

L: Almighty and Everlasting God, we give You thanks this day as we gather the pledges of support for Your Church in the coming year. We bring them before You with eager anticipation and hope.

**P: Hear us, O God, as we give You our thanks and praise.**

L: For those whose lives have been touched by Your Spirit, who have increased their commitment,

**P: We give You thanks and praise.**

L: For those who are responding to Your creative grace by pledging for the first time,

**P: We give You thanks and praise.**

L: For those who are tithing, and even exceeding a tithe,

**P: We give You thanks and praise.**

L: For those whose lives are in transition or turmoil and who feel they cannot pledge, but who continue to be a vital part of our community,

**P: We give You thanks and praise and we pray for calm in their lives.**

L: For committee workers who have labored in this effort to enable Your people to make a pledge of support for Your Church,

**P: We give You thanks and praise.**

L: That each one of us, and Your whole Church, become more faithful to the call of service in Jesus Christ,

**P: We ask Your continuing guidance and care.**

L: That these pledges may emerge as real gifts, thereby enabling the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ to move forward through this congregation and the Church Universal,

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to this action. Amen and Amen.**