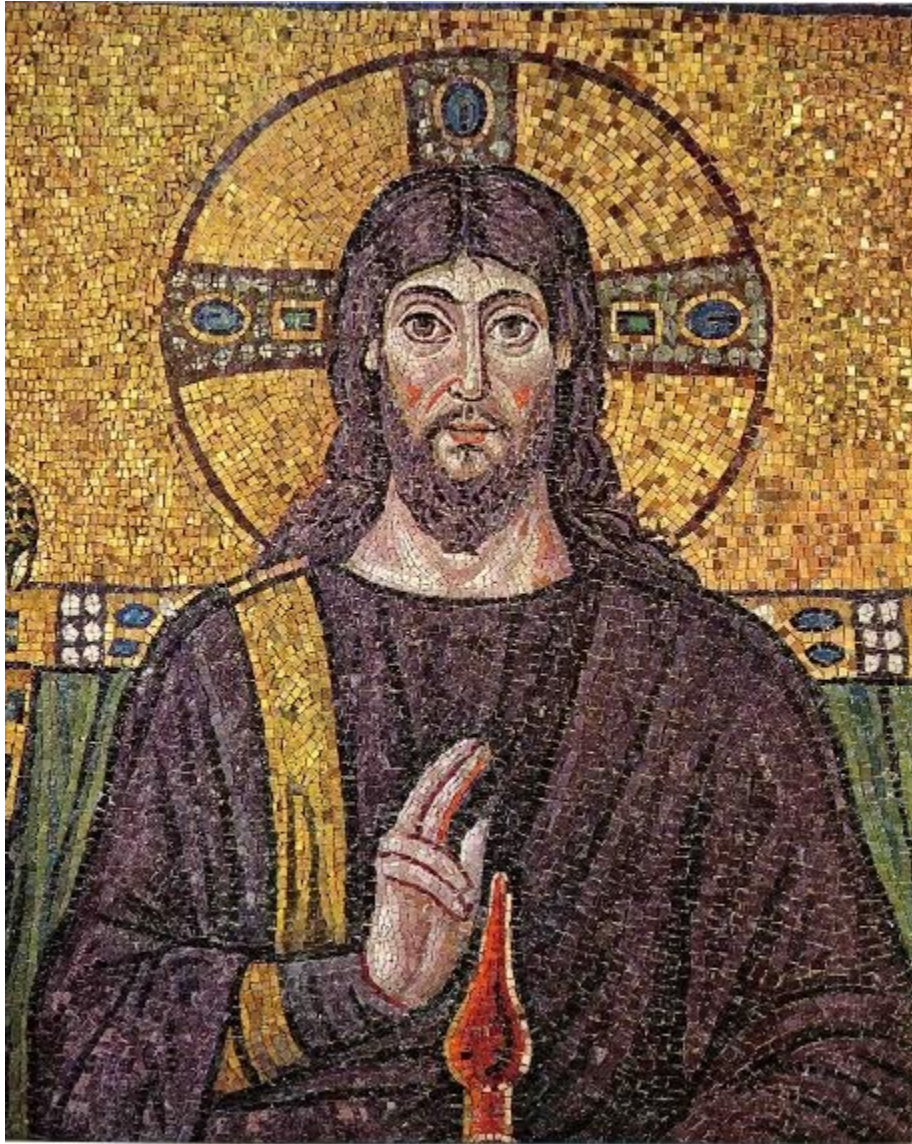


**The United Church of Canada
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Reign of Christ Sunday – November 23, 2025**



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Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land:

We welcome all God's people – whatever you believe or do not believe, whatever you have done or left undone, whoever you are, and whomever you love. Because we are the church of Jesus Christ and Jesus taught us to "Love God and Love One Another" without exception.

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of (Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),

(Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),

who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church

Join us for Coffee Hour at Carlisle every Sunday after church downstairs in the Gathering Room. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Gather your hearts around the flame of this candle.

The light of the candle reminds us that the light of Christ is with us and in us.

Gathering

Centring Music: MV 77 – Be Still and Know

Words: Psalm 46:10; Music: John L. Bell

These words from Psalm 46:1 are set to music by John Bell and sung in a gentle round by musicians of Peninsula United Church.

[Be Still And Know-MV77 - YouTube](#)

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Opening Words:

And then all that has divided us will merge

And then compassion will be wedded to power

And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind

And then both men and women will be gentle

And then both women and men will be strong

And then no person will be subject to another's will
And then all will be rich and free and varied
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many
And then all will share equally in the Earth's abundance
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old
And then all will nourish the young
And then all will cherish life's creatures
And then all will live in harmony with each other and the Earth
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again.

Opening Prayer:

In our gathering together may we become a microcosm of a world where all live in harmony with each other and the Earth. May the compassion and wisdom of Jesus, our Christ, reign in our hearts and guide us in our life together. May what we do and learn here nourish our spirits and embolden us to live with justice, peace, and compassion bringing healing and hope to this world. Amen.

Hymn: VU 217 (vv. 1, 2, & 5) – All Creatures of Our God and King

Words: St. Francis of Assisi 1225; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne 1623

This video by Catholic Music Initiative, founded in 2000 and dedicated to fostering deeper spiritual engagement through music, features co-founders and singers Dave and Lauren Moore. They sing a paraphrase of a 13th-century Italian text by Francis of Assisi known as the "Canticle of the Sun," inspired by Psalm 148. The paraphrase was written by English hymnodist and Anglican priest William Draper and was first published in 1919.

[All Creatures of our God and King \(Lyric Video\) - Catholic Music Initiative](#)

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 5 Let all things their Creator bless,

and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Prayer for Grace

Assurance of Grace

Sung Response: MV 77 – Be Still and Know

Words: Psalm 46:10; Music: John L. Bell

[Be Still And Know-MV77 - YouTube](#)

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

Prayer for Illumination:

May we listen with open minds and quiet hearts. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 23:1-6

A righteous shepherd for Israel

23:1 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

23:2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.

23:3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

23:4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

23:5 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

23:6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Jesus crucified with two thieves

23:33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.
 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.
 23:35 And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"
 23:36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine
 23:37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"
 23:38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."
 23:39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"
 23:40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"
 23:41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."
 23:42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."
 23:43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Response: These are words of faith from your people of faith. Bless them to our understanding. Amen.

Hymn: VU 593 – Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Words: Tom Colvin 1969; Music: Ghanaian folk song, adapt. Tom Colvin 1969

Catholic singer and guitarist Chris Brunelle gives a gentle, soothing performance of this Ghanaian folk song, which was collected and adapted by Tom Colvin in 1969. Colvin (1925-2000) was a member of the ecumenical Iona Community and a Church of Scotland minister who worked for the church in Africa – particularly Ghana, Malawi, and Zimbabwe – for 26 years.

Jesu, Jesu

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve
 the neighbours we have from you.*

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
 silently washes their feet,
 master who acts as a slave to them. R
- 2 Neighbours are rich and poor,
 varied in colour and race,
 neighbours are near and far away. R
- 3 These are the ones we should serve,
 these are the ones we should love,

all are neighbours to us and you. R

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. R

Reflection: What Kind of King?

Psalms 46: God says, "Stop it!"

(a paraphrase by James Taylor in Everyday Psalms)

Wars and rumors of wars swirl around us;

corporate conflicts engulf us.

Only God stands firm in these shifting sands.

God is our shelter from strife;

God gives us strength for the stresses of each day.

2 We have nothing to fear.

Though the social order is shaken,

though our leaders come crashing down,

3 though time-honored standards fly at half-mast

and the values we inherited are scorned –

even then, we have nothing to fear.

4 The comforting presence of God pours over us

like cool water on a burning beach;

it makes us glad.

5 God is with us;

God is an oasis of calm in a frenzy of feeding sharks.

The ambitious climb over each other;

the emperor stands naked in the clear eyes of innocence.

They are all frozen in their folly.

7 But God is with us; God is our sanctuary.

8 See how wonderfully the Lord works!

Those who would beat others have beaten themselves;

9 those obsessed with winning wind up as losers;

those who think only of themselves

find that no one thinks of them at all.

All their struggles add up to nothing.

10 **This is God's word to the warring: "Be still!**

Be still, and know that I – and only I – am God!"

11 **In the tumult of the nations,**

in the torment of the earth,

God is with us.

God is our sanctuary.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: MV 77 – Be Still and Know

Words: Psalm 46:10; Music: John L. Bell

[Be Still And Know-MV77 - YouTube](#)

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Offering Prayer

Offertory: VU 218 – We Praise You, O God (v. 1)

Words: Julia Cory 1902 alt; Music: Netherlands melody 1626, harm. Eduard Kremser 1877, desc. Scott Withrow 1980

Conducted by their Music Director Tom Trenney, the choir, congregation, and musicians of First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska perform this hymn in an arrangement by Carolyn Jennings.

[We Praise you, O God \(KREMSER\)](#)

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:

Singing into Prayer: VU 400 – Lord Listen to your Children Praying

Words & Music: Ken Medema 1970

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Hymn: VU 344 (vv. 1, 2, & 4) – How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Words: John Newton 1779, alt.; Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle ca. 1830

The N Crew provides a guitar-and-voice rendition of this 18th- and 19th-century English hymn by John Newton with music by Alexander Reinagle. Newton is famously the ex-slave ship captain who eventually became an Anglican clergyman and ardent abolitionist, composing "Amazing Grace" in 1773.

[How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds](#)

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes the sorrows, heals the wounds,
and drives away all fear.
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,

and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

- 4 Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Commissioning & Benediction

Sung Sending Forth: MV 172 (vv. 1 & 4) – God Says (tune: O Waly, Waly)

Words and Music: Mary Bittner 1993

Composer Mary Bittner was a Pennsylvanian who taught school music classes and several instruments and served as music director and/or organist at several churches. She began writing hymns while enrolled in a Master of Theological Studies in Church Music program, a degree she completed in 1993. Her Hymn "God Says" is performed by Music Minister David Rogers from Trinity United Church in Port Coquitlam, BC.

MV 172 God Says

- 1 God says, "Be still so you may hear
the words I whisper in your ear.
If you will listen, you will know
I'm with you always where you go."
- 4 God says, "Reach out! The world's in need
and wants a word, a song, a deed.
I send you forth to speak, to sing,
to act for Christ in everything."

Online Postlude: Hallelujah Chorus

Conducted by Brett Weymark, 600 singers from the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and the Sydney Philharmonia Orchestra join forces at the Sydney Opera House to perform the Hallelujah Chorus from George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* (1741), an oratorio that premiered in Dublin on 13 April 1742 and eventually became one of the most well-known and frequently performed choral works in Western music. These days the oratorio is often performed annually at Christmastime, but the lyrics for the Hallelujah Chorus in particular are especially relevant for Reign of Christ Sunday. Enjoy!

Handel's 'Hallelujah!' Chorus live at the Sydney Opera House

Credits

Photo Credit: detail from the apse mosaic in S. Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy, as found at <https://jonathangrieser.com/2019/11/24/humiliated-reigning-reconciling-a-sermon-for-the-reign-of-christ-2019/>

Liturgy Credits:

Candle Lighting, Opening Prayer, Prayer for Illumination – mgn

Opening Words – *Celebrate God's Presence*

Psalm 46 paraphrase – James Taylor, *Everyday Psalms*, Wood Lake Publishing