

**NOVEMBER 22, 2020
TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (UCC)
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY**

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus
Performed by Leon Burke, III

arr. Diane Bish

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diane McLean, *Announcer*

TOLLING THE BELL (AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

Blessed be our God who gathers us as the church of Jesus Christ.

And blessed be God's holy reign now and forever.

Rejoice, people of God, in the one who came that all may have life and have it more abundantly, who places the needy – “the least of these” – at the heart of God's love.

**Praise and honor to Jesus Christ, God with us, who calls us friends
and reigns in our midst by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus Anonymous (*Schönster Herr Jesus*)
Jennifer Jones, vocalist; Leon Burke III, piano Tune: ST. ELIZABETH

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of creation,
Thou of God and Anointed One,
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the flowers of blooming spring,
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the sorrowing spirit sing.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Thou of God and Anointed One,
Glory and honor, praise and adoration
Now and for evermore be thine!

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

Merrimon Boyd, *Student Minister*

Loving God, nurturer of our souls, hear the longing of our hearts for fullness of life. Too often we have exchanged the gift of your grace for things that do not endure. We speak of Jesus Christ with reverence but have so often spent our days in service to selfish ends. We sing of our Savior's reign but have chosen to believe more often in our own self-importance. Deliver us from everything that confounds our relationships with you and one another. Be present with us now, and guide us into your grace and truth. We ask this in the name of the one who taught us to pray for your reign to come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

THE WORD SHARED

Merrimon Boyd and Elston McCowan, *Student Ministers*

From the Prophets
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

From the Gospels
Matthew 25:31-46

For thus says the Sovereign GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Sovereign GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide...

I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, Yahweh, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, Yahweh, have spoken.

When the Human One comes in glory, and all the angels as well, then the Human One will sit on the throne of glory. All the nations will be gathered, and people will be separated one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and the sheep will be given the place of honor and the goats given the place of accursedness.

Then the ruler will say to those in the favored place, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Parent, inherit the commonwealth prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for 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, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer, 'Sovereign, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the ruler will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then the ruler will say to those others, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Sovereign, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'

Then the answer will come, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Ride On, King Jesus
Performed by Leon Burke, III

Spiritual

MESSAGE OF THE DAY “They All Have That Side Eye” Rev. Denoon

INTERLUDE *Transgender Day of Remembrance* ONA Coalition

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Share Our Joys and Concerns Elston McCowan

Prayer of the Day Rev. Denoon

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; they will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS Diane McLean

Invitation

Raising the Covenant (Unison) *Covenant of 1977*

Let us consecrate our gifts and ourselves by raising our Covenant together:

We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust God’s promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.

HYMN

Lift High the Cross

George W. Kitchin

Performed by Leon Burke, III

Tune: CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim!

Let all adore and praise that sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ the Child of God. *Refrain.*

O Christ once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. *Refrain.*

So shall our song of triumph ever be
praise to the Crucified for victory. *Refrain.*

BENEDICTION from Jude 3 and Luke 2 Rev. Denoon

Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of God’s glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Sovereign, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time and now and forever. Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among all with whom God is well pleased. Amen!

POSTLUDE *O Lord, How We Need Thee* J. S. Bach

Leon Burke, III, organ

DISMISSAL Diane McLean