

November 24, 2019 | Reign of Christ, Year C (Common Time) | Liturgical Color: White

****indicates to stand as able. Due to the sacredness of this time, please silence electronic devices. Please greet those with whom you are sitting!**

Morning Meditation

I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain.
James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*

Prelude

Hymn of Thanksgiving
arr. Martha Powell Setchell

Choral Introit

Every Day Is Thanksgiving Michael L. Pickett

**Call to Worship

Be still, and remember that God is our refuge.

When the cross looms and evil stands tall we remember:

God is courage in destruction's wake.

God is love that sets the captives free.

God is solidarity in the midst of struggle.

God is justice that brings cruelty to an end.

Our strength does not mirror systems of dominance.

Salvation is this: God within us, God among us.

With thanks, we gather with God, our hope in times of trouble.

**Opening Prayer

Vulnerable One, you challenge all our notions power. You do not seek the thrones of our time. You turn, instead, towards taking on flesh in people and places despised. Free us, O God, from all that deceives us into seeking our deliverance among the mighty and forceful. Through Christ, our way, amen.

**Hymn

Wounded World that Cries for Healing TFWS 2177

1st Testament

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Common English Bible

Children's Moment

Epistle

Colossians 1:11-20, Common English Bible

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

We have sinned against both Shepherd and flock, even at times not knowing that we were blocking the work of divine love.

Forgive us for driving others away from the land of justice and safety.

We have sinned against both Shepherd and flock, even at times not knowing that we were blocking the work of divine love.

Forgive us for not attending to the needs of others.

We have sinned against both Shepherd and flock, even at times not knowing that we were blocking the work of divine love.

Forgive us for not bringing back to the fold those who are fearful, and have gone missing from community.

Like the bandits who were crucified next to Jesus, we too are forgiven—no matter how much we may have scoffed at the Shepherd's love, no matter that sometimes we may not have known what we were doing. For in the Shepherd all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through the Shepherd God was pleased to reconcile to God all things, whether on earth or in the heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross. The Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, has remembered us and forgiven us--the gates of Paradise have been unlocked; we are free to enter where the Shepherd reigns forever and ever!

Thanks be to God!

Sharing Christ's Peace

Anthem

We Gather Together arr. John Ness Beck

Gospel

Luke 23:33-43, Common English Bible

Sermon

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Not by might nor by riches will the Kingdom of God be built. It takes community. And persistence. And laughter. And the labor of those who

hunger for righteousness. With faith in the strange and sacred ways of God, let us bring with gratitude our gifts and offerings.

Offertory *Give Thanks* arr. Mark Hayes

****Doxology**

UMH 95

Prayer of Dedication

Crucified One, you always remember the vulnerable, the despised, the ones deemed criminals. Even when we forget one another or turn our backs on our neighbors, you keep the suffering company. In offering these gifts, we pray for the strength to practice love like yours - love that is loyal and just. Amen.

Announcements & Prayer Requests

Prayer Hymn *Jesus, Remember Me* UMH 488

Morning Prayer

****Hymn** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* UMH 584

Choral Benediction *Benedictus* OSL

Benediction

Beloveds,
if you have been crucified, criminalized, bullied, or mocked because of who you are, or who you love, or for the radical visions of justice that seize you, remember you go in the company of the One in whom truth shall never be abandoned and justice is made to rise from the grave, again, and again, and again.
Thanks be to God.
Go in peace.

Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God* arr. Lee Dengler

Today's liturgy: Prayer of Confession, James E. Janecek, UCC Worship Ways; all other liturgy, Enfleshed, Liturgy That Matters November 24, 2019.

Church of the Redeemer

November 24, 2019



Rev. Shannon V. Trenton, Pastor
Joyce Roper, Liturgist
Shanelle Cook, Music Director

We celebrate God's grace and love for all people and strive to follow Jesus' teachings. You will find love and affirmation here, exactly as you are – No Exceptions.

2420 S. Taylor Road | Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 | (216) 932-2065

Watch out, you shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, declares the LORD.

²This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, proclaims about the shepherds who “tend to” my people: You are the ones who have scattered my flock and driven them away. You haven’t attended to their needs, so I will take revenge on you for the terrible things you have done to them, declares the LORD.

³I myself will gather the few remaining sheep from all the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply.

⁴I will place over them shepherds who care for them. Then they will no longer be afraid or dread harm, nor will any be missing, declares the LORD.

⁵The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous descendant^[a] from David’s line, and he will rule as a wise king. He will do what is just and right in the land.

⁶During his lifetime, Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And his name will be The LORD Is Our Righteousness.^[b]

Colossians 1:11-20 Common English Bible (CEB)

¹¹by being strengthened through his glorious might so that you endure everything and have patience;

¹²and by giving thanks with joy to the Father. He made it so you could take part in the inheritance, in light granted to God’s holy people.

¹³He rescued us from the control of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

¹⁴He set us free through the Son and forgave our sins.

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the one who is first over all creation,^[a]

¹⁶Because all things were created by him: both in the heavens and on the earth, the things that are visible and the things that are invisible. Whether they are thrones or powers, or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him.

¹⁷He existed before all things, and all things are held together in him.

¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the one who is firstborn from among the dead^[b] so that he might occupy the first place in everything.

¹⁹Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in him,

²⁰and he reconciled all things to himself through him—whether things on earth or in the heavens. He brought peace through the blood of his cross.

Luke 23:33-43 Common English Bible (CEB)

33 When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

35 The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one."

36 The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine

37 and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

38 Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40 Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die?"

41 We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."