REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 24, 2024
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth* Diane Bish

from Psalm 86

CALL TO WORSHIP Thom Olshewsky

All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.
Teach us your way, O Lord,
that we may walk in your truth;
give us undivided hearts to revere your name.

***HYMN 268** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* DIADEMATA

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet. *(continued next page)*

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy One,
we dare to call you Lord,
but yield to you only fragments of our lives.
You had nowhere to lay your head;
we surround ourselves with comfort.
Forgive our greed, our lack of trust,
and our desire to pick the times and places
we respond to your call.
In your abundant mercy,
teach us what it means to follow,
not only in spirit, but also in truth.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 37** (v. 1) *Let All Things Now Living* ASH GROVE

Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us;
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Based on an old Appalachian tune, this anthem expresses our Advent longing for a world that feels to us and every lost soul like home.

ANTHEM *The Road Home* Stephen Paulus
(The Chancel Choir)

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost so long ago?
All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling from far away.
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart as the only song.
There is no more beauty than where you belong.
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 987

SCRIPTURE READING John 18:33-38

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *What is Truth?* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Thom Olshewsky

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* arr. Paul Manz

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Thom Olshewsky

Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom
and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms.
Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;
to take up our cross,
risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;
to walk by faith, not by sight,
to hope for what we have not seen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 36** *For the Fruit of All Creation* AR HYDY NOS

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* arr. Steven Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street • Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 • www.firstpressarasota.org

Music: CCLI License #2296940 One License #A-700000