



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1676 SOUTH BELCHER ROAD
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33764-6517
WWW.STJOHNSCLEARWATER.ORG
727-531-6020

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – THE REIGN OF CHRIST
November 21, 2021

Prelude: "He Is Here"

Jimmy Owens

He is here, He is here. He is moving among us.
He is here, He is here, as we gather in His name.
He is here, He is here, and he wants to work a wonder
He is here, as we gather in His name.

He is Lord, He is Lord. Let us worship before Him.
He is Lord, He is Lord, as we gather in His name.
He is Lord, He is Lord. Let us praise and adore Him.
Yesterday and today, and forever more the same.

Announcements

Processional: "What A Mighty God" Donna Thomas – Ron Harris
What a mighty God we serve; what a mighty God we serve
Angels bow before Him, heav'n and earth adore Him
What a mighty God we serve.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**
Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise: Glory to God in the Highest Jackie Conte Hymes

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you who take away the sins of the world have mercy on us;
Have mercy on us; have mercy on us.

You who are seated at the right hand, the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen... Amen... Amen... Amen

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*Silence.*)

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Election of a Bishop

Gracious God, as we walk by faith the shared journey of choosing a bishop for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, nurture within us discerning hearts and minds hopeful for possibilities yet to be revealed. Send to us a caring leader, we pray, who will uniquely delight in the abundant gifts of our diocese, and the beauty of this land, which so richly reflect your unity in diversity. Equip our human eyes and ears with divine recognition for the chief pastor of our diocese whom you have chosen to lead us in the ever-unfolding mission of your Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel (23:1-7)

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from

the rain on the grassy land. Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 132:1-18

Refrain Let us fall upon our knees. Oh Lord have mercy on us

- 1 LORD, remember David, *
and all the hardships he endured;
- 2 How he swore an oath to the LORD *
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
- 3 "I will not come under the roof of my house, *
nor climb up into my bed;
- 4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *
nor let my eyelids slumber; **Refrain**
- 5 Until I find a place for the LORD, *
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- 6 "The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.
- 7 Let us go to God's dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."
- 8 Arise, O LORD, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength. **Refrain**
- 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.
- 10 For your servant David's sake, *
do not turn away the face of your Anointed.
- 11 The LORD has sworn an oath to David; *
in truth, he will not break it:
- 12 "A son, the fruit of your body *
will I set upon your throne.
- 13 If your children keep my covenant
and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *
their children will sit upon your throne for evermore." **Refrain**
- 14 For the LORD has chosen Zion; *
he has desired her for his habitation:

15 "This shall be my resting-place for ever; *
here will I dwell, for I delight in her.
16 I will surely bless her provisions, *
and satisfy her poor with bread.
17 I will clothe her priests with salvation, *
and her faithful people will rejoice and sing.
18 There will I make the horn of David flourish; *
I have prepared a lamp for my Anointed. **Refrain**

A Reading from Revelation

(1:4b-8)

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual : "Majesty"

Jack W. Hayford

**Majesty, worship His majesty,
unto Jesus be all the glory, power and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His thrown unto His own, His anthem Raise!
So exalt, lift up on high the Name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (18:33-37)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world,

my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Andrew T. Gerns

The Nicene Creed (*Stand*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

Celebrant: In Baptism we have been raised with Christ, ordained to a royal priesthood, and made a holy people. Let us pray for ourselves and the whole world, saying: *Sovereign God, hear our prayer.*

Lector: For the Church: especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Dabney, our bishop, Andrew our priest, and for all the holy people of God, that in all times and places we may bear witness to God's reign of justice, love, and peace. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

For this parish family, that we who hear God's Word may be true disciples of Christ in our decisions and actions. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

For leaders of government in nations, cities, and states, that they may recognize that their authority comes from God and that it is intended for the service of the human community. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

For all who bear the marks of suffering, persecution, or famine, that the world community may recognize their dignity and work to alleviate their pain. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

For a spirit of gratitude, that we may recognize all our gifts as signs of God's loving care and have the freedom to share them with all who touch our lives. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

For grateful hearts in response to God's love and bountiful goodness, that we may commit ourselves to offer all that we have in love and service to God's people. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

For all those commended to our prayers, remembering especially, Nancy Bailey, Gerry Boone, Barbara Bowdoin, Harris Brown, Bill Buchanan, Roscoe Cobb, Jaclyn Corbett, Lois Doe, Mary Every, Jane Farrell, Pat Ferrario, Peg Gerns, Leah Johnson, Marilyn Jones, Bette Knutson, Dale Kruse, Nan Lanham, Joan Lutz, The Rev. Glad McCurtain, Carol North, Lea Rummler, Gabe Runza, Gary Shamley, Simon Taylor, Stuart Walker, The Rev. Kathleen Walter, Leona Weber, Mhairi Williams, Bob Wittenberg, Nathan Wyatt, Sheree Wyatt, Bonnie Zwigaitis, and those known to us (*pause*) that they may find healing and hope in Christ. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, and those known to us (*pause*) that they may find in eternal life the fullness of Christ's glorious reign. Sovereign God, **hear our prayer.**

I invite your prayers, thanksgivings, and intercessions: (*The people may add their own prayers, silently or aloud.*)

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, Blessed John the Evangelist, and all the saints who have borne witness to Christ, let us offer ourselves, and one another, to the living God through Christ. **To you, O God, we give glory and praise.**

Celebrant: Eternal God, by your grace you have raised us up and enthroned us with Christ in your heavenly realm. Hear the prayers we offer you this day, and grant that we may know the power of your care, and the riches of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in

thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and for give us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(The people may greet one another with a wave, a nod or a "namaste.")

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory : "We Thank You For Your Love" Jackie Conte Hymes

Dear God we thank you for each leaf that you have made

Dear God we thank you for the sun and each ray

We thank you for the sunrise, we thank you for the rain

We thank you for the moment, again and again

We thank you for the kindness, instilled in all of us

But most of all we thank you for your love.

Chorus: We thank you for your love. We thank you for your love.

We thank you for your love. We thank you for your love.

Dear god we thank you for the rainbow that you have made

Dear God we thank you for the clouds of blue and gray

We thank you for the sunset; the mystery of faith

We thank you for each moment, again and again

We thank you for the peace we're all capable of

But most of all we thank you for your love (*Chorus*)

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer 3 [*Enriching Our Worship*]

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord. Holy, Holy, Holy Jackie Conte Hymes
Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Holy, holy, holy
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes, blessed is he who comes,
Blessed is he who comes, comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest**

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mary the God-bearer, John the Evangelist, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, ***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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

(The Celebrant breaks the bread. After a moment of silence, then is sung:)

Fraction Anthem: "Lamb of God"

Carey Landry

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the word, grant us peace.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(said by the Celebrant and those at home):*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already

come, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

(All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.)

Communion Song : “Give Thanks”

Henry Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks, because He’s given
Jesus Christ, His Son. (repeat)

And now, let the weak say “I am strong”
Let the poor say “ I am rich”
Because of what the Lord has done for us; (repeat)
Give thanks....

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Seasonal Blessing

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. **Amen.**

God the Son, our great high priest, who has passed into the heavens, clothe you with power from on high. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful followers of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing: Hymn: “New Hope”

Carey Landry

New hope, new hope, is what we have been given by the Lord
New hope, new hope is what we have been given by the Lord.

New Life, new life, is what we have been given by the Lord (Repeat)
Refrain

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord

A new heart, a new heart is what we have been given by the Lord
(Repeat)

Refrain

Celebrant: Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude: “King Of Kings” Sophie Conty & Naomi Batya
King of kings and Lord of Lords, glory, Hallelujah!
King of kings and Lord of Lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, Hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, Hallelujah

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The church office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, Nov. 24 and will be closed all day on Thursday, Nov. 25.

Welcome Visitors!

Please sign the guest book at the welcoming stand where information is available.

Visit our Website: <https://stjohnsclearwater.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsClearwater/>

Join us for coffee and fellowship on the patio immediately following the service.

Announcements

Thanksgiving Day Service: Service will be available on St. John’s FB page, YouTube, Fr. Andrew’s blog and our website only. The service will be pre-recorded and available for viewing on Thursday, November 25 at 9:00 am on Fr. Andrew’s blog and with YouTube, FB and website.

Advent Study Series: *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*, by Matt Rawle. December 1, 8, 15 & 22. We will be joining Good Sam for a service in their church, a simple (potluck) supper, followed by the series led by Fr. Andrew. More details to follow.

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through popular fable.

Blue Christmas Service: St. Giles', 8271 52nd St. N, Pinellas Park, will offer a special service on Tuesday, December 21, 2022 at 7 p.m. with Father Joe Diaz, to accommodate those for whom the season is trying and difficult. Flyers with more information is available at the entrance to the church.

Thrift Shop Volunteers Needed! The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work the front desk. There are two shifts - Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please contact Caroline Barnett if interested. (727) 459-3650.

The Thrift Shop is also in need of items to sell! Donations can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop Donation shed at the back of the church property anytime.

Episcopal Migration Ministries: As The Episcopal Migration Ministries continue to welcome and resettle Afghans to the U.S. through our affiliate network and engagement programs, the greatest need continues to be assistance with housing. Those who want to financially support these efforts can make a donation online at <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/donate-afghan-allies/> or donate by mail and send checks to: DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US, P.O. Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983. (Include "Episcopal Migration Ministries and Afghan SIV's" in the memo line.)

Prayer Chapel: The Chapel is open for anyone wishing individual prayer. Everyone is welcome to go to the Chapel after communion to

receive prayer with a member of The Daughters of the King. Prayer requests are held in strict confidence. Please feel welcome to come to the chapel to pray.

Lazy Boy Lift chair: If anyone is in need of a lift chair, please contact Caroline Barnet for more information. 727-459-3650.

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours

Tuesday 9:30 – 3:30

Thursday 9:30 – 3:30 – THRIFT SHOP CLOSED NOV. 25 FOR
THANKSGIVING

Saturday 9:30 - 3:30

Retirees – Parish Hall

2nd Monday of the month, 10:00 am

Hand Bell Choir - Church Sanctuary

Tuesday 6:00 pm

Voice Choir - Choir Room - 2nd Floor Adm. Bldg.

Tuesday 7:00 pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study - Parish Hall

Wednesday 10:00 am

Fiber Art – Parish Hall

Thursdays 10:00 am

Children's Sunday School is occurring on Zoom. Contact Miss Mary to be included (Manders200@ gmail.com).

Every Perfect Gift

The Gift of Relationship

Jesus stands before Pilate. We know this story. We hear it on Good Friday, we remember it every week in the Nicene Creed. And our ears hear it anew today, on the cusp of Advent, as we are emerging and rebuilding from an unimaginable time of pandemic. Once again, we proclaim Christ the King of all Creation.

As Jesus and Pilate talk, we learn something powerful about who Jesus is and how he serves God and humanity. We are reminded of who he is called to be and what he has come here to do. And it invites us to wonder who we are and who we are called to be, in this moment, in this season of our lives, and in this moment of our Church. What strikes me how Jesus acts in the time of trial. He acts with integrity. He makes a choice to remain wholly who he is, firmly rooted in love of God and clear about the work he has come to do. In that moment Jesus stays true to who he is. His trust in God remains steadfast too.

We're invited to do the same. We know this in a distinct way in stewardship season. Our money is one of the most powerful and honest symbols of what we offer to God and to the church. It is one of the truest ways we can understand what we value and what we believe. Faithful, selfless and generous giving invites into a deeper relationship with God and our money. And it requires us to do the hard, but essential work of looking deep within to discover what we truly value, what we consider most precious. |

The Rev. Sarah Fisher is rector of St. Catherine's Church in Marietta, Georgia and is a former member of the Board of Directors for TENS.



**Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, Bishop**

St. John's Mission Statement:
To love, to serve, to grow in Christ

Church Staff

Priest In Charge	The Rev. Andrew T. Gerns
Priest Associate	The Rev. James Beaton
Office Administrator	Jan Davis
Music Director	Jim May
Sexton	Bob Cates
Children's Ministry	Mary Anders

Vestry

Marti Moore	Sr. Warden
Jackie Smith	Jr. Warden
Annette Wyatt	Christian Formation & Worship
Pam Carlbo	Pastoral Care & Outreach
Bob Courdway	Treasurer
Jessi Griffin	Communications
Carol Jefford	Membership

Where to find it

Restrooms	Narthex/Church entrance
Prayer Chapel	The Chapel in Church entryway
Parish Hall	Parallel to parking lot
Thrift Shop/Ministry Center	Two-story clay-colored building
Nursery	Entryway to church
Offices	Ministry Center - First Floor

The Last Sunday After Pentecost

2 Samuel 23:1-7

The books of Samuel end with six appendices: some are stories which fit earlier chronologically, and some are poems. Our reading, “the last words of David”, is such a poem. God has made David the founder of a dynasty.

**ONE
STEP
FURTHER**
November 21, 2021

Revelation 1:4b-8

John begins and ends this book as a letter. Literally, it is “to the seven churches of Asia,” that is, of the Roman province in western Asia Minor, but “seven” symbolizes totality, so while John may speak to all churches in the province, his message is to all churches, everywhere.

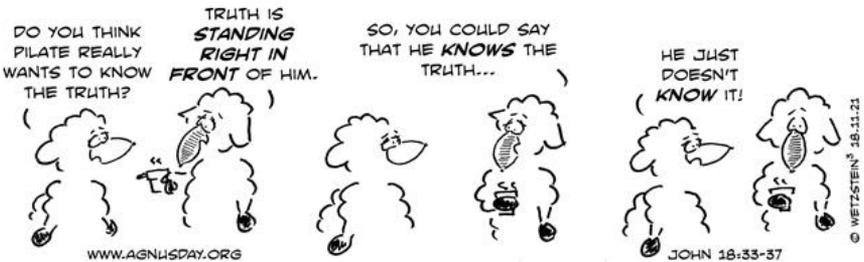
John 18:33-37

Our reading is part of John’s account of Jesus’ trial before Pilate. Pilate has asked some Jews who seek to have Jesus punished what charge, valid in Roman law, they wish Jesus to be charged with. They propose none, so Pilate asks Jesus whether he is leader of a revolutionary sect.

‘Agnus Day’ by Pastor Jim Wetzstein

John 18:33-37

On not seeing the Truth right in front of you.



Stewardship Snippet - John 18:33-37

“So you are a king!” said Pilate. A faithful steward recognizes that the sovereignty of Jesus goes beyond any earthly boundaries.