

Christ the King Sunday
Women of the ELCA Thankoffering
November 22, 2020

WELCOME

It is a joy to have you here at worship with us today. We especially remember those who are not able to be with us this morning and keep them in our prayers.

For the safety of all, we ask throughout the worship service that you please wear your face mask. If it becomes troublesome to breathe, please excuse yourself and go to the hallway (if possible) prior to removing your mask. We understand that breathing may be challenging for several of us, feel free to leave if you need to.

If you are in need of a mask, please let our ushers know.

The Coronavirus spreads easily through singing, so we are not having congregational singing for a while. As you may have anticipated, projecting our voices also extends the distance of the virus spreading, so it is recommended that you use your library voice as you speak responses in our worship service today.

Following worship today, please let us know if you have suggestions for future services. We are all learning new ways together.

Visitors are invited to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today. Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.

Children are always welcome in church.

Large print bulletins for today's worship are available. Feel free to ask an usher if interested.

When leaving, please take your bulletin with you so others do not need to touch the same paper.

Pastor Nicholson will be available outside following worship to talk with you. You are encouraged to exit the building and talk with persons outdoors as well.

If by chance you contract the virus in the next couple of days, please let the church know so we can try to contact those who sat near you.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Psalm 95 (appointed psalm for the day)

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

^{7a}For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.
Come, let us worship the Lord.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-46

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for 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, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king 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.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I 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.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, 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?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘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.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Oh, Worship the King

Because of the Coronavirus, we ask that you please listen to the music and meditate on the words. You may hum along if you choose.

- 1 Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

- 2 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

- 3 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING *Returning our thanks to God with our offering is a regular part of our worship service. To reduce the odds of spreading the coronavirus, we have placed the offering plates at the entrances to our worship service. You are encouraged to present your gifts to God as you leave worship today.*

As we give our offerings today, we share in a tradition that goes back at least to the 1800's, when Christian women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to support the mission of the church. When others said there was not enough money to carry out the church's work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. In these societies, each woman collected offerings at home. On occasion, they would gather as we do today to worship and make their offerings with thanks and praise. When Women of the ELCA was formed 32 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Together we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, you are invited to mail any thankoffering gifts to the church office by the end of November. Please make checks payable to "Women of the ELCA."

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray: **God of all goodness, generations have turned to you and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that give thanks for your rich blessings and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC & PRAYERS

**“Christ, Be Our Light”
sung by Sally Herritt**

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Text © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Sally: Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Joyce: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. Sovereign God, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless the Women of the ELCA and all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Christ be our light.

Assembly Shine in your church gathered today.

Sally Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Joyce: Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Christ be our light.

Assembly Shine in your church gathered today.

Sally Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Joyce: We pray for those who are without food and shelter. Guide those in ministry organizations who organize the backpack program, Meals on Wheels, Maranatha Food Ministry, Chambersburg Cold Weather Shelter, Gracie's Place, and Noah's House. We give you thanks for all of those who contribute food, finances, and their time to alleviate hunger and homelessness in our world. Christ be our light.

Assembly Shine in your church gathered today.

Sally Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Joyce: May your gift of healing be upon those in need, especially those whom we carry in our hearts. (pause) Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Christ be our light.

Assembly Shine in your church gathered today.

Sally Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Joyce: In Jesus name we pray. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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, forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Remember in your prayers...

Ruth Blair (11/26)	Christian Bruce (11/30)	Tom Burkey (12/18)
Sandy Curfman	Aloma Dawkins	Ernie Fricke
Rick Gates (11/30)	Bob Hammer (12/11)	Dorothy Hammer(12/11)
Nancy Jacobs	Elva Kroeger	John Newcomer
Dalton Paul (11/26)	Julie Paul (12/3)	Elaine Singer (11/30)
Dia Schumacher (11/23)	Evelyn Scott	James Warne
Connie Wilkins (12/18)	Grace Williams (11/30)	Jim Woods (11/26)
Private Parker Brown	Sergeant Amanda Hammer	



Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Nancy Burkey and Mr. & Mrs. Enos H. Horst and the Honorable Mr. & Mrs. Enos H. Horst by Thomas Burkey.

Soundboard: Bob Lawyer

November 15 Attendance: In person 43
On line: 45 views x 2 = 90 (ELCA formula)

STEWARDSHIP SNIPPETS

“And the king 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.’”— **Matthew 25:40**

When our thankfulness translates into action and service to “the least of these,” we may never fully realize the ripple effects. How might you show gratitude to God in tangible ways that lift up your neighbor in need?

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Christ the King Sunday-Thankoffering Sunday-Worship Service
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
Thursday	Office Closed for Thanksgiving	
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	First Sunday of Advent-Worship Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION COUNCIL Congratulations to those who were elected to our congregation council on November 15. Jeffrey Dorand, Timothy Gotwald, Gerald Wilson, and Rosemarie Wilson will be serving on council for the term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023. Our gratitude is extended to Bob Hammer, Dot Hammer, and Gertrude Kampmeyer for their service throughout the last three years.

ANNUAL REPORTS from committees/staff are due to felccoffice@gmail.com by Monday, January 4, 2021.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for the January newsletter is **December 7**

CHRISTMAS COATS Without Christmas worship in person this year, the Neighborhood Task Team (NTT) thought it would be wonderful to share the spirit of Christmas through the gift of coats with our neighbors. We will be collecting coats for children and adults alike. Please bring winter coats to the church between now and December 23. These items will be placed on the fence on December 24. What a wonderful Christmas gift of warmth for those who are in need of them. Contact Mary Gotwald if you would like to help either on December 24 or sorting them prior to that. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

POINSETTIA DELIVERY We are hoping you would be willing to deliver poinsettias on behalf of our congregation to our homebound members. Please be in touch with Mary or Tim Gotwald if you would be willing to brighten people's spirits with a flower delivery the weekend of December 19, 20, 21. We request that you give the flowers to the people at their door and do not enter into their living space. The church will provide the poinsettias.



POINSETTIAS FOR WORSHIP Without in person Christmas Eve or Day worship this year, we will be ordering poinsettias earlier so they will be in the worship space for December 13 and 20. You would be welcome to take them home with you following worship on December 20. Maybe place them next to your device you will use to worship on Christmas?

BACK PACK PROGRAM November suggested items are: Canned fruit or fruit cups in light syrup; dried fruit such as raisins, plums and cranberries; and applesauce. Thank you for your continued support of this much-needed program.



THE GIVE AND TAKE BOX If you are able, please pick up a few items to share. Remember this box supplies personal care items. Needed items include shampoo, deodorant, tissues, toothpaste and brushes, hand soap, body soap, laundry detergent, dish detergent, band aids, toilet paper. Thank you.



COLLECTION OF QUARTERS by The Neighborhood Task Team has resumed for future Laundry Events. If you have donations you may drop them off at the church office during office hours or you may drop your donations at either entry/exit from the sanctuary. There is a basket at back of the sanctuary and a Laundry Soap container at the elevator entrance. Thanks so much for your support of this ministry to our neighbors.

SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN CHAMBERSBURG AUXILIARY You may make a contribution to the programs the auxiliary supports at Luther Ridge for 2020. Please send your donation to Marjorie Dale, Auxiliary President, 235 Woodvale Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201 or Mary Jane Lindsey, Auxiliary Treasurer, 273 Cherry Lane Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202.

ADVENT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. “Open the door” to the season with your own **Advent Calendar**. We will be placing them in Memorial Hall on November 15.

The Advent Wreath will be lit at worship each Sunday leading up to Christmas. If you do not have a wreath – feel free to take 4 candles – dinner candles, votive candles, electric candles, whatever you have and place them in a circle, lighting one each week. In our congregation we traditionally use blue candles as that is the color of hope.

Advent Bible Study via Zoom will take place on Monday, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 at 1:00 p.m. Please pick up a book in Memorial Hall. The information to participate via zoom is attached to the book. If you are not interested in the zoom format, you may pick up a book for independent study.

Gift Collection for Prison Ministry We have received word that the jail ministry will NOT be collecting gifts for the children this year. Although the volunteer opportunities are on hold at the jail, the work of the Chaplain continues daily. Checks may be sent to: Franklin County Jail Ministry; c/o Ramona Torres; P.O. Box 102 Scotland, PA, 17254

First Lutheran’s Christmas Project this year is to support the children in our community who are learning remotely. The YMCA has a program to assist those without wifi in their learning endeavors. They are also serving breakfast and lunch to the children. The expense to support one child is approximately \$100 per week. Look for contribution envelopes in the December newsletter and Memorial Hall beginning November 29.

CHRISTMAS

GETTING READY for Christmas Eve and Day Worship This Christmas we will be worshipping online. We are working to make this a very meaningful experience for those who worship in their homes or with family. In order to do this, we need your help. Being with people is an important part of worship and we are working to find ways for you to be included – even if you do not have online access.



- We would like for you to deliver a photograph of you or/and your family with a nativity scene. Photos may be sent to Theo.felcc@gmail.com or dropped off in the church office by December 14. In memo line of email write “Nativity Photo”
- Would you be willing to record a verse of “Silent Night” with your family while lighting candles? Talk with Freda. felccmusic@gmail.com
- Would you be willing to record “O Come All Ye Faithful” with you or your family? We will join all of the recordings together, so your voices will be blended with others. Talk with Freda for details. felccmusic@gmail.com
- Would you be willing to read scripture or prayers and have that recorded for worship? Let Pastor Nicholson be aware of this. flcpastor@outlook.com



With everyone’s help, this will be an incredibly meaningful worship service. Please remember – worship is our gift of thanksgiving to God on Christmas. Join us in the celebration.



CHRISTMAS EVE ZOOM GATHERING Part of attending worship is greeting everyone prior to the service. So we will be having a Zoom gathering prior to worship to say hello to everyone on Christmas Eve. This zoom gathering will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Pop in as you are able. Go to www.zoom.us . Then click on “join a meeting.” Type in this id number: **867 0905 2421** . Type in this password: **Christmas** . (I wonder what I should wear? – pjs or tuxedo and evening gown? - Whatever you choose is fine!) **See you then!**

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP Christmas Eve Worship, Worship with Families on Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day worship will be on facebook and www.felcc.org