



grow. pray. serve.

Reveille UMC Weekly Guide

November 18-24, 2019

Sermon by Lead Pastor Doug Forrester

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Sermon Title: "Who is Your King?"

Notes from sermon on 11/17:

Prayer requests:

Family Focus Questions (before sermon):

What truly rules your life?

3 Questions for small groups (after sermon):

1. The prophet Jeremiah warns of shepherds who will destroy and scatter God's people (Jeremiah. 23:1-2). How do we discern the difference between shepherds who have come to scatter and shepherds who have been raised up by God?
2. Paul declares that peace was made through the blood of the cross (Colossians. 1:20). How do we think about the inherent violence in the crucifixion?
3. Is there a way to reconcile the call to be peacemakers with this statement that peace comes through the blood of the cross?

Monday, November 18: Read Luke 23:33-38

This week, we prepare for the final Sunday in our liturgical calendar- the Celebration of Christ the King. Before we start the season of waiting...of Advent...in which we turn to the prophets and saints awaiting the birth of a Savior who will save the world, we focus on the fruition of what that child became, and what he did for the world. What he did for each of us.

Today's reading may be very familiar to many of us, as it describes part of the Passion of Christ and the cruel mockery he received from both the Judeans and the Roman soldiers. Let us take a moment, however, to marvel at the behavior, words, and conditions of Christ the King compared to most of the world's leaders throughout history and today. No words of blame, only forgiveness. No posturing for power, but willing abdication of it.

No self-serving strategies, only self-sacrifice. Is this the type of leader and king we usually follow? Is this the King we are truly following today? This week we are challenged to take a closer and more reverential look at our Christ the King and place Christ at the center of our lives. If he isn't at the center, who is? Who or what is the ruler of our life?

Tuesday, November 19: Read Luke 23:39-43

In past sermon series, we have explored not only the blessings of a life of discipleship, but also the demands. This week, we celebrate a Savior and King who remembers us and remembers our sufferings and sacrifices- all that we have done for the sake of his name and his Kingdom. The interchange between Jesus and the two criminals on either side of him as they were all being crucified – one of the most horrific forms of torture and death imaginable- is quite remarkable. As they struggle for each breath, one man uses all his remaining energy to deride Jesus for not being the leader he expected and demanded. The other man recognizes him as both the Heavenly King and the Sacrificial Lamb, and is eternally rewarded. Today, our crucified king promises us the same hope of something prepared for us by God's grace, something Jesus died to bring us.

Wednesday, November 20: Read Jeremiah 23:1-6

It can be easy to feel invisible and insignificant, especially around people of great stature and power. Our voices can be ignored in board meetings, legislative assemblies, and even our own dinner table. Today's scripture shows us that we are not only noticed and heard by the greatest Power of all, but fiercely loved and guarded. When we are hurt, the Lord rises to action. When we need hope, we are sent salvation. God not only cares about our physical well-being, God wants us to live without fear and isolation. Jesus was the branch of David who came to save us, gathering all of us into his flock. Are we listening to his voice? Are we being his voice to those lost sheep who don't yet know how much they are loved, welcomed, and forgiven?

Thursday, November 21: Read Luke 1:68-79

Today we read Zechariah's prophesy to his newly born son John, who will later be known as John the Baptist. "You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins" (verses 76-77). Can we follow in John's footsteps 2000 years later to give knowledge of Christ the King to people who still don't know Jesus and the healing he brings? Can we, like Zechariah, give witness to God's promises of a Savior and the proof of that fulfilled promise in our own lives? How many people need help to turn away from the false idols that promise happiness but deliver stress, anxiety, depression, and discord? What if we could show them the joy that comes from following the true King who brings peace, righteousness, joy, and love?

Friday, November 22: Read Colossians 1:11-20

Let us read today's scripture slowly, as a prayer, giving thanks to God for our incredible and undeserved inheritance as God's children and Christ's followers. Let us drop to our knees in awe and wonder that the very "image of the invisible God" is the very one who sacrificed and died for each of us. Let's take time to discuss how Jesus is the image of God, and how we can become better attuned to Jesus's words and actions so they can better guide ours. How can following Christ reconcile us to one another and all of creation? What will change when we truly make him the head of everything we do, and give him first place in everything?

Saturday, November 23: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Colossians 1:15

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."

Sunday, November 24: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship in praying our Prayer of Common Confession: *Holy God, we confess that we have neglected to declare Jesus the king and model for our lives. We have been quick to call on others to follow the ways of Christ yet slow to do the same. We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness yet quiet when it comes to offering inclusion, love, and compassion. Forgive us, O God. Restore in us, yet again, the commitment to be more Christlike in word, in deed, and in spirit. Amen.*