

University UMC – Order of Worship
November 26th, 2023
Christ the King Sunday

Centering Words:

Wisdom and truth touch our hearts and
open our minds when we open ourselves to Christ.

Prelude:

- Jilsca Oppier

(*) Gathering Songs:

- Tony & Wanda Woolery

“He Who Began a Good Work in You” (FWS 2163)

He who began a good work in you,
he who began a good work in you
will be faithful to complete it,
will be faithful to complete it.
He who started the work
will be faithful to complete it in you.

“How Great is Our God (W&S 3003)

The splendor of the King,
clothed in majesty;
let all the earth rejoice,
let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light,
and darkness tries to hide;
it trembles at his voice,
it trembles at his voice.

Refrain:

How great is our God!
Sing with me, “How great is our God!”
And all will see how great,
how great is our God!
Age to age he stands,
and time is in his hands;
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, Three in one,

Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb,
the Lion and the Lamb.

“Here I Am, Lord” (UMH 593)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Gathering & Recognition of Guests:

- David Nesamony

Birthdays:

- Donald Nessman, 2nd
- Levi Ward, 13th
- Carol Ann Nelsen, 22nd

Anniversaries:

- **Steve & Jessie Wintergerst, 11/20/2020**
 - Celebrating 3 yrs. of marriage!

(*) **Call to Worship:**

- David Nesamony

Make a joyful noise, a noise of service and love.

Praise God with lives of compassion

Sing with acts of kindness.

Glorify God with acts of mercy

Praise God with works of justice.

Praise God with overflowing love.

(*) **Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

(UMH 400)

- Leslie Kowalski

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

(*) **Opening Prayer:**

God of grace and God of glory, reveal yourself through our lives and our love. Shine your wisdom and truth into our hearts this day. Help us know the hope to which we are called, that we may be the servants you craft us to be. In your glory and grace, we pray. Amen.

Children's Message (*if children are present*)

Prayer Hymn: "When the Poor Ones" (UMH 434) - Leslie Kowalski

When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,
then we know that God will go that road with us,
then we know that God will go that road with us.

Community Prayer

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer in Unison

Choral Anthem: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

(*) **Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSVUE)** - David Nesamony

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 who 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 brothers and sisters of mine, you

did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I 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.’ ⁴⁴ Then 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?’ ⁴⁵ Then 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.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

The Word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon: “One of the Least of These”

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

Invitation to the Offering

- David Nesamony

With hearts wide open, with spirits ready to serve and give, let us bring our gifts and treasures to share with those in need of God’s love.

Offering

(*) Doxology: “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise” (TFWS 2031)

- Leslie Kowalski

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.

We bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord.

And we offer up to you the sacrifices of thanksgiving;

and we offer up to you the sacrifices of joy.

Offering Prayer

- David Nesamony

Shepherd of love, transform these gifts into nourishment for a hungry world. May they offer shelter from the storms of life. May they bring kindness and compassion to the lost and the lonely. Transform us, even as you transform these gifts, that we might be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

Announcements:

- David Nesamony

Advent Bible Study: Join our Advent Bible Study on **11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21 at 7 PM in the Conference Room or via Zoom. We will follow the material of Dr. Walter Brueggemann “Names for the**

Messiah”, secure your spot and materials by speaking with Pastor Rubén Esponda or the Church Office.

Special Reader Invitation: Light up our Advent and Christmas services by signing up for candle lighting on **12/3, 12/10, 12/17, & 12/24**. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Candy Cane Lane: Join us for our delightful Candy Cane Lane event on **Saturday, December 9th, 10 am - 12 pm!** Kids can craft gifts, visit with Santa, and enjoy our wrap and card making stations. Donations and volunteer sign-ups are welcome; please contact Leslie Kowalski or email petrkow@hotmail.com.

Poinsettia Announcement: Rachel Wintergerst is taking orders now for \$10 and will place one in the chancel for you or you are welcome to bring and place your own. Designate your poinsettia in celebration of, or in memory of a loved one; remember to take it home after the December 31st service.

Hanging of the Greens/Potluck: Let's adorn our church in festive greens after service today, followed by a festive potluck. We hope to see you there and share in the fellowship!

Christmas card Exchange: Join our Christmas Card Exchange in the Fellowship Hall! Place your cards in the alphabetized blue boxes by the Christmas tree and check back for your own cards until New Year's Eve. Unclaimed cards after January 1st will be mailed to their respective families.

Christmas Family: Join in our Christmas Family Sponsorship tradition at University UMC! Reach out to Bob Denham for guidance on what gifts to donate. A detailed list of needed items is now available for sign up. Let's share the joy of the season with a deserving family!

(*) **Closing Hymn: “There’s a Spirit in the Air” (UMH 192)**

- Leslie Kowalski

There’s a Spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.
Lose your shyness, find your tongue;
tell the world what God has done.

God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living working, in our world.

Still the Spirit leads the fight,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone,
when the homeless find a home,
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

There's a Spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

(*) **Benediction**

- Rev. Rubén Esponda

Seek the lost and care for the wounded.

**We will strengthen the weak
and encourage the downtrodden.**

Seek justice and love mercy.

**We will be God's mercy and love
for the world.**

Postlude

- Jilsca Oppier