

First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

Christ the King Sunday

CCLI License # 2839486

November 24, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have chosen to be here, where God remembers us.

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Like leaves skipping over the carpet of grass:

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon:

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless, autumn night:

God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

GATHERING PRAYER

Eternal God, Jesus taught that true power is made known in service: we are to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves as we reveal your reign of peace. Give us the will to do this work and the grace that we may accomplish it; with you, in Christ, and through the Holy Spirit, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***HYMN: "Thine Is the Glory" #238**

JUDAS MACCABEUS

CALL TO CONFESSION

While there are many with power in our world—power to hurt us, power to hire or fire us, power to control us—only God has the power to forgive us and make us new people. Let us confess how we fear the power of the world, and welcome the power of God's grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The choices we make, Mighty God, reveal who we are. Choosing the lies of the world, your Word has not been on our lips. Choosing independent and isolated lives, we do not reflect your Spirit in our actions towards others. Choosing to exalt the powerful of our day, we are unable to follow the One whose weakness gives us life.

Forgive us, God who became weak for our sake. Do not turn your face from us, but help us to face ourselves honestly. Free us from our captivity, so we may faithfully follow Jesus Christ, our King, our Lord, our Savior.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Shout for joy, children of God! The God who was, and is, and is to come loves you, forgives you, and renews you.

God's Spirit rests upon us, grace and peace are the gifts of our loving God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, Holy Spirit; open our hearts to receive a word of truth, then set us free to follow in the power of Christ's love. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 The coming one rules over all

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

New Testament Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8 Christ, the ruler of the earth

⁴Grace 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, ⁵and 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 ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: "A Perfect World"

Responsive Psalm 93 Praise to God who reigns

¹The LORD is king; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he is girded with strength.

He has established the world; it shall never be moved;

²your throne is established from of old;

you are from everlasting.

³The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice;

the floods lift up their roaring.

⁴More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,

more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD!

⁵Your decrees are very sure;

holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Gospel Reading: John 18:33-37 The kingdom of Christ

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

³⁵Pilate 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?"

³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to 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."

³⁷Pilate 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."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Community of the Coming King"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" #450

SLANE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Jesus said, Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice. Heeding his word with grateful hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we offer our gifts in this moment to you, Holy God, we pray that they might be used to bring hope, to bring healing, to bring new life to all your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "O for a World" #372

AZMON

CHARGE

Let us go forth to serve God's children in weakness,
so others might find the strength to live.

Let us go forth as powerless as Jesus,
to empower others with hope.

Let us go forth with our arms full of the Spirit's peace,
so the world might be healed of all its brokenness.

BENEDICTION

We would like to thank Scott Chaffee for sharing his gifts with us today.

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Nancy Rolando
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s): Linda Barry
 Greeter(s): Diane & Bob Eshelman
 Coffee Hour: Marilee Mathias

Volunteers Next Week 12/1/24

Liturgist:
 Tech: Betsy Crocker
 Usher(s):
 Greeter(s):
 Coffee Hour: Julie Sawicki
 Communion: Nancy Rolando, Pat Loeswick

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

CALENDAR

Sunday, Nov 24

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
 10:30am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Nov 25

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, Nov 26

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
 8:00am Harvesting Tree for Roswell Park

Wednesday, Nov 27

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Nov 28

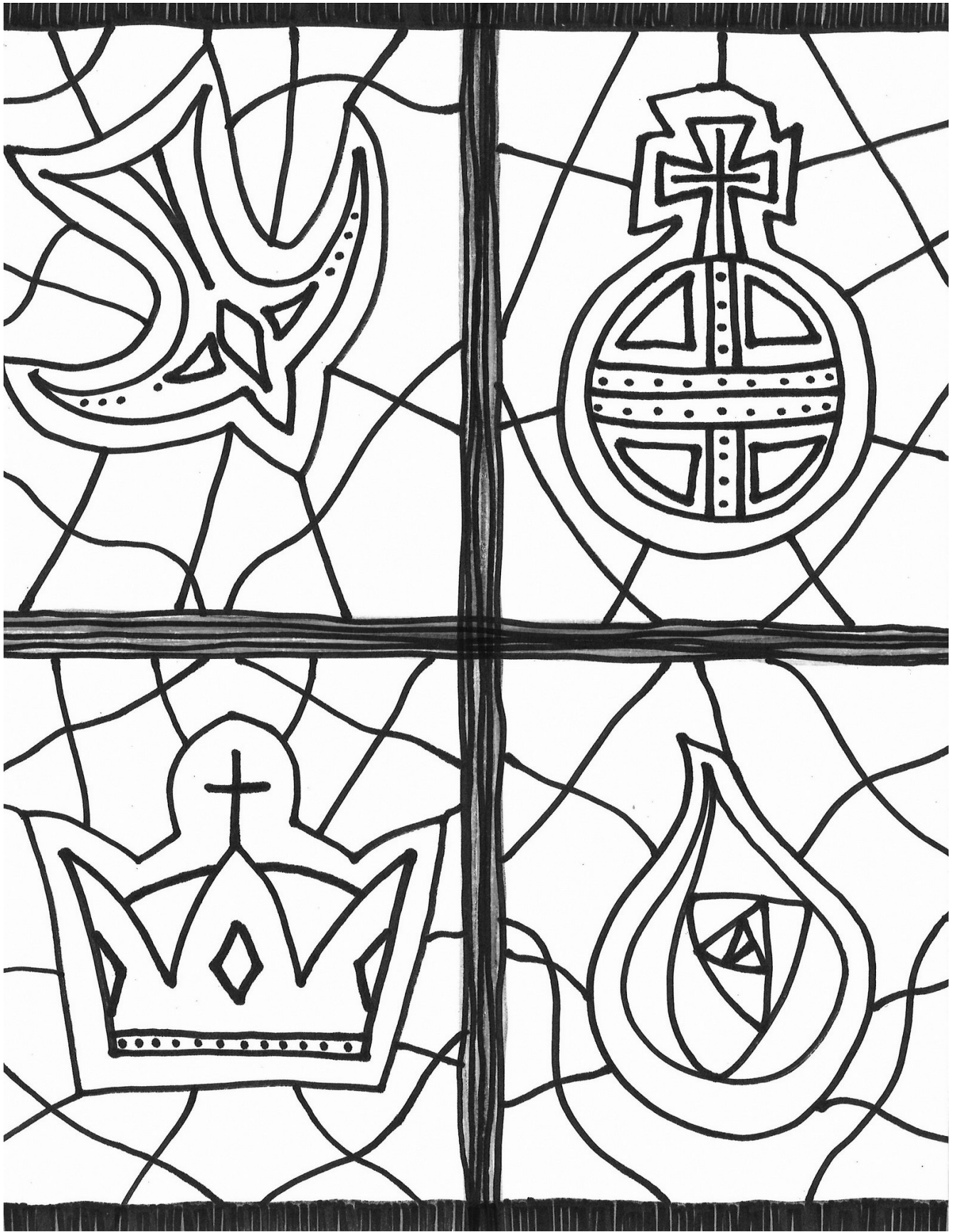
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
 Office Closed

Saturday, Nov 30

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Dec 1

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)
 10:30am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.