



PLUM Afternoon Worship

Christ the King

God Promises a New Covenant

November 22, 2020

PRELUDE Your Grace Still Amazes Me

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's law is within us.

It is written on our hearts

To remind us that we are God's people,

That we know and are known

By the one who gives us life

And forgives all our sin.

HYMN The King of Love My Shepherd Is

1 *The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.*

2 *Where streams of living water flow,
With gentle care he leads me
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with heav'nly food he feeds me.*

3 *Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

4 *In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with you dear Lord, beside me,
your rod and staff my comfort still;
your cross before to guide me.*

5 *And so, through all the length of days,
your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house forever.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house forever.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of the covenant,

You have never failed in your promises to us, but we often fail to be your faithful people. We waste our time and resources on things which do not give life. We doubt our abilities and hide our light away from the world. We flee from your call when it doesn't appeal to us. Forgive us and call us back to your sustaining love.

God hears us when we repent and is quick to pardon our failures. Hear the words of your forgiveness and believe that you have been restored by your creator's great mercy and compassion. Rejoice! **Amen.**

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.

PEACE

The minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of wisdom, Your word lives within us, within our very souls. Make us living scriptures by which the world can see your love clearly demonstrated and shared. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING **Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28, then 31:31-34**

Readers: Narrator, Lord, Jeremiah

Narrator: In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord:

Lord: Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. It may be that when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Narrator: Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him. And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying,

Jeremiah: I am prevented from entering the house of the Lord; so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the Lord's house you shall read the words of the Lord from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of Judah who come up from their towns. It may be that their plea will come before the Lord, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the Lord has pronounced against this people.

Narrator: And Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the Lord in the Lord's house. Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier. Now, after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:

Lord: Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned. The days are surely coming,

Narrator: says the Lord,

Lord: when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL **Luke 22:19-20**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

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

SERMON

PASTOR JOHN GROPP

HYMN **Canticle of the Turning**

*1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

2 *Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.* Refrain

3 *From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.* Refrain

4 *Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.* Refrain x2

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Your word stands fast in spite of those who have disregarded, disrespected or distorted it over the ages. Continue to inspire us through the holy scriptures and other revelations of your timeless truth. God of the covenant, **Hear our prayer.**

As we pause this week to ponder all that we are thankful for in our lives, may your grace and faithfulness be first on our list. Bless those who travel and be present in our gatherings with loved ones, amidst the joy and occasional friction which arises at such times. God of the covenant, **Hear our prayer.**

God of all creation, you have made everything good, but we do not always treat it with the care and respect it deserves. Foster in our hearts a love for this planet which strives to protect and nurture all that you have made. God of the covenant, **Hear our prayer.**

Heal all who have had words used against them as weapons of dogma, hatred and abuse. May they know instead words of reconciliation and atonement. Send your healing spirit to those who need it, especially... God of the covenant, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have gone before us in faith, and those who bore witness to your gospel of love in our lives. May we follow in their footsteps as signposts of grace that help others find their way to you. God of the covenant, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant confidence and zeal to members of our PLUM congregations that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. God of the covenant, **Hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered.

Receive these prayers as parents hear the cries of their own children, and answer us in your time, in your way, for the sake of Jesus. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.

Let us pray. We honor your word when we live according to your ways. Accept these offerings which we present to you for the sake of your work in the world, in the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(spoken) **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord taught us.

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1 *God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy pow'r;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*
- 2 *Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,*
- 3 *Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

- 4 *Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.*

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Awesome God

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

PLUM Pastors:

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Paul Koch	773-848-1470
Vicar Mandy Gilberti	814-241-8150

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to:

**Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries
405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110**

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25 7 PM Worship Service via ZOOM

Join friends from PLUM congregations as we give thanks to God.

Join PLUM for
Advent Family Bible Study on Zoom

This study starts December 1, 2020,
Tuesdays at 1 pm
and the same study will be offered on
Thursday evenings at 7 pm.

We will explore the meaning behind the four candles of the Advent Wreath: **HOPE FAITH JOY LOVE**

The call in line for PLUM Sunday 3 PM and Thanksgiving Eve 7 PM worship services and Bible Studies:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: **(646) 876 9923**

Meeting ID: 401 596 541