CHRIST THEKING

For the kingdom of God is... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. —Romans 14:17

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 12, 2021 10:30 am Morning Worship

Prelude

The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped — it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him.

— Eugene H. Peterson, The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways That Jesus Is the Way

Preparation

We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

Prayer (Collect) of Preparation:

Deliver us when we draw near to You, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind: Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may worship You in Spirit and in Truth. Amen

Call to Worship

Kris Sachsenmeier

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Congregation: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

Leader: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Congregation: For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

All: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

— Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12

Call to Worship

God calls his people to assemble for worship; accordingly the church calls itself together.

Invocation

life

in

us,

and

turn

to

thee.

God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive work.

The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.





Call to Confession

In God's presence, the evil that mars our lives – corporate and individual – comes to light. Through Jesus Christ, we are safe to be honest about ourselves because we fear no condemnation.

Declaration of Absolution

God declares through his Church that all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.

Call to Confession

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!
O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared. — Psalm 130:1-4

Prayer of Confession

All: Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distresses. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins. Amen. — Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18

Declaration of Absolution

Leader: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Whoever believes in him is not condemned. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. To those who repent and look to Jesus Christ for their salvation, the absolution of sins is effected in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

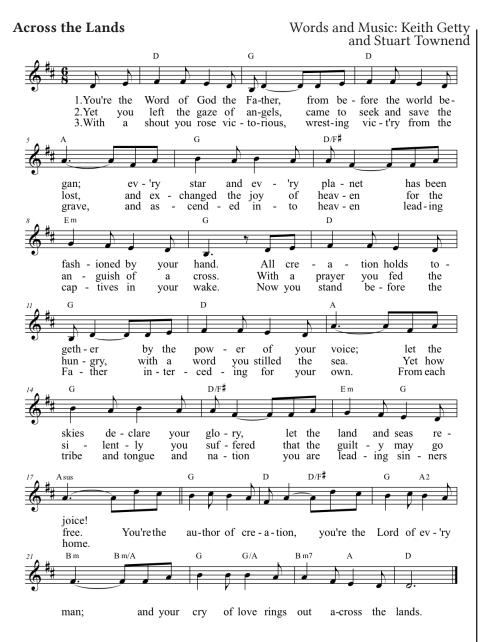
Congregation: the Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips,

Congregation: and our mouths will declare your praise.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.



Offertory

Offertory

We give back to God our wealth and talents in recognition that they all come from him. These gifts help support the mission and ministries of the church.



Life Together

We share important announcements and prayer requests for our church community.

Pastoral Prayer

We cry out together for grace and mercy in a time of need.

Life Together

Pastoral Prayer

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you!

Psalm 23 Words and Music: Stuart Townend D Asus Shep - herd, I'll 1.The Lord's my not want. He makes me 2.He guides my ways in right-eous ness, and he a -3.Andthough I walk will the dark - est path, Ι not D G/B G Α Α lie pas - tures green. He leads me in by the still, still noints my head with oil; And my cup, it o - ver fear the e - vil one; For you are with me, and your D G/B Em7 Asus A D ters. his good - ness re stores my soul. Men: And I will wa with Ι feast on his pure de - lights. flows joy, rod and staff are the com - fort I need to know. D Asus D D G/B Women: I will trust, I will trust in you. I will trust, I will D D D G/B Asus in you lone, and I will trust in trust a you G D G/B Asus trust in you. End - less mer - cy fol - lows me, G D G/B Asus lone: foryour end - less mer - cy fol - lows me, your Em7 Asus good ness will lead me home. Em7 Asus A D good ness will lead me home.

Passing of the Peace

We remind each other of the peace given us in the gospel – peace first between us and God, leading to reconciled relationships with each other. Scripture Reading

The public reading of God's Word is integral whenever God's people gather to worship. The first step to faith is listening to his Word.

Sermon

God has ordained the preaching of his Word to illuminate and apply the good news of Jesus Christ to our hearts that would remain dull and hard apart from the operation of his Holy Spirit

Lord's Supper

God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form – uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ.

Servers come forward. Grape juice is available in the center of each wine tray and a plate of glutenfree bread on either aisle for those who desire such. Please hold the elements until all can partake together.

Scripture Reading

Reader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Word for the Kids

Sermon

Rev. Michael Whitham

John 14:1-7

Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: Christ is spiritually present at this meal – at work through our confession. What do you believe?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried:

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the quick 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. – *Apostles' Creed*

Words of Institution

Distributing of Elements

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer for Those Desiring to Trust in Jesus Christ for the First Time Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving



Benediction

Benediction

We depart with this 'good word' of God's calling upon our lives in the world.

Please join us outside for refreshments immediately following the service, as weather permits.

WELCOME

Welcome visitors! We're glad you could join us online. Please fill out a digital visitor card at ctk-cambridge.org/visit so we can get to know you better. Find out more about us by contacting office@ctkcambridge.org. For more information on CTK's response to the coronavirus, visit ctkcambridge.org/coronavirus.

SUNDAYS

Adult Education & Sunday School Classes

Typically, Christ the King offers classes for adults, youth, and children every Sunday morning. During the summer, we will be offering Adult Education, but our children's Sunday school gatherings are on hiatus until the Fall.

In continuation of our study of *hesed*, or God's lovingkindness, and in preparation for our subsequent study on the theme of God's justice, the **Adult Ed class will be going through a 2-week study of US Presbyterian history, focusing on the history of our tradition's response to issues of justice, particularly in the area of race and ethnicity. The class will look at teachings about race in the 20th century southern Presbyterian church, the role of African Americans in these churches, the cultural forces at play in the formation of the PCA in the 1970s, and more recent 21st-century denominational statements about race and corporate repentance.**

FOR FAMILIES

Nursery

- · Nursery is open for children ages 6 months 3 years. Children must be able to sit on their own independently.
- The room will be open to 8 registered participants, with a waitlist available as well. Please recognize that we have limited space available and if you sign up and are unable to make it, please contact us as soon as you can. If you have any questions or if you need to cancel your registration, please contact our nursery coordinator, Lara Kastelein (lara@ctkcambridge.org).

During the service

- · Encourage children to participate in each part of the service.
- · For non-readers, place your arms around your child and point to the words in the bulletin as they are read.
- · During the sermon, kids might complete one of the worship activities provided at ctkcambridge. org/worship-kids or available in the church foyer along with "Pew Pouches" containing writing and drawing supplies.

After the service / During the week

- · Reread the Scripture passage. For younger children, read from a storybook Bible or more accessible translation like International Children's Bible (ICB) or NIrV available at biblegateway.com.
- · Discuss the service and sermon as a family using the worship guide (at ctkcambridge.org/worship-kids) to help children understand each part. Have everyone recall a part of the service that stood out to them.
- · Listen to and discuss the songs from the service at ctkcambridge.org/songs. Visit this page to also preview songs to prepare for the upcoming service (songs are updated mid-week).

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Christ the King is a multi-congregational church worshipping in Cambridge, Dorchester, and Quincy. We also have sister congregations worshipping in East Boston (in Portuguese), Newton, Hanover, West Roxbury, and Somerville. See ctkboston.org to find out more.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Now as always, Community groups are central to our life together at CTK as a way to study and pray together and serve each other and our communities. Right now, groups are meeting virtually. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/community-groups for a full listing with contact information.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

Men's Fellowship Groups: Church Office (office@ctkcambridge.org)

Women's Ministry: Martha Olson (women@ctkcambridge.org)

Youth Community Group: Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org)

Vocational Fellowship Groups: Church Office (office@ctkcambridge.org)

College Students can join Reformed University Fellowships

BÜ: nathan.dicks@ruf.org,

Harvard: michael.whitham@ruf.org,

MIT: solomon.kim@ruf.org.

Meals Ministry: Erin Ward (meals@ctkcambridge.org)

Overseas Partner Liaison: Morgan Crago (missions@ctkcambridge.org)

Online Resources

Samples of the songs for Sunday's worship service are posted on the website by the Wednesday before the service, along with the coming Sunday's bulletin and Scripture passage, at ctkcambridge.org/songs.

For online giving, visit ctkcambridge.org/giving.

Sermon recordings and Adult Ed classes can be found on the website at ctkcambridge.org/sermons and ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation, respectively.

For recommended daily Bible reading plans selected by pastoral staff, visit ctkcambridge.org/daily-bible-readings.

To sign up for the CTK Reader, our weekly e-newsletter, visit ctkcambridge.org/reader.

CTK is a member of Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Scripture texts are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version™, ©2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL 60187, CCLI #912939.

LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Registration Reminder: With COVID numbers on the rise, we continue to ask that folks please register to attend on Sunday mornings. Whether you choose distanced or open, registering allows staff to know how many seats of each type we need.

Children's Worship is starting soon for children 4 and 5 years! Parents and children are invited to join us after the service TODAY for an Open House. Come tour the classroom in our newly renovated basement, preview our curriculum, and familiarize yourself with the class schedule and procedures. Class will then open on Sunday, September 19 for up to 10 registered students (with a waitlist available). Kids will be dismissed from the service prior to the sermon and parents must escort children to class in order to check them in. Please contact Dana Russell (dana@ctkcambridge.org) with any questions.

There are **two women's Bible studies starting up this fall**. One group started last week and will meet **every other Thursday from 7-8:30p**, going through a study on Luke and Acts, led by Morgan Crago (mcrago@bu.edu) and Valerie Godwin. The other group will meet on **every Thursday morning from 9:30-11am starting on September 16** in the social hall, going through *What's She Doing Here? The Messy Women in Jesus's Genealogy.* Please contact Kelly Sawyer (bostonkelly@gmail.com) with questions for the morning group.

Save the Date! CTK's 25th Anniversary party will be Saturday, September 18th from 5-8p. In addition, there are other ways to participate, including video and photo submissions. Please visit ctkcambridge.org/ctk-anniversary for more details.

Discovering CTK is a class for those interested in learning more about our church and denomination (PCA) and what it means to become a member. The next class will be offered the first weekend in October. Registration is now open at ctkcambridge.org/discovering-ctk

THIS WEEK AT CTK:

For more details, see ctkcambridge.org/weekly-events, or email office@ctkcambridge.org

Sun, 9a :: Adult Education :: Online ctkcambridge.org/adulteducation

Tue, 7a :: **Morning Prayer** :: Online ctkcambridge.org/prayer

Thu, 9:30a :: Women's Morning Bible Study :: Social Hall

ctkcambridge.org/women

Thu, 8:15p :: Evening Prayer :: Online

ctkcambridge.org/prayer

Please contact the following staff members by calling our office at (617) 354-8341 or by email:

Interim Pastor Rev. Clyde Godwin cgodwin@ctkcambridge.org
Church Administrator Laura Bullock office@ctkcambridge.org
Director of Children's Ministry Dana Russell dana@ctkcambridge.org
Nursery Coordinator Lara Kastelein lara@ctkcambridge.org
Music Director Amanda Holley amanda@ctkcambridge.org

For questions about the CTK Pastoral Search Committee, please visit ctkcambridge.org/psc or email psc@ctkcambridge.org