

Newtonville United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship for November 22, 2020 – Thanksgiving/Reign of Christ

Centering Music (*please be in silence as we prepare to worship*)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (*by Thom M. Shuman, "Lectionary Liturgies"*)

We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

Litany of Praise: (*from the Church of the Brethren*)

O God of promises, you remind us again and again that you are present with your people. When our hearts are broken,

You are here.

When we wait in worry to hear about a diagnosis,

You are here.

When we lose the ones we love,

You are here.

Where anyone is hungry or thirsty,

You are here.

When we feel like strangers,

You are here.

Where anyone is sick or in need of care and company,

You are here.

When people are in prison,

You are here.

When anyone needs clothing,

You are here.

Loving God, You are here with us when we suffer. Empower us to be with others as they suffer, our neighbors both near and far. You are here, God, in the midst of suffering—and we want to be where you are. **Amen.**

Musical Reflection

Morning Prayer: (*from the United Church of Christ*)

God of love, you created us to love you and one another. We confess that we have sometimes limited that love to words, and failed to make that love real by our actions. We have failed to recognize Christ in the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the naked, the incarcerated and the sick. Too often, we have turned away from your presence, failing to share what we have with our brothers and sisters and siblings in need. Forgive us. Turn our hearts, and guide us to follow in your ways anew. We pray in the spirit of Jesus, who taught us: God, lover of us all, most holy one, help us to respond to you, to create what you want for us here on earth. Give us today enough for our needs; forgive our weak and deliberate offences, just as we might forgive others when they hurt us. Help us to resist evil and to do what is good; for we are yours, endowed with your power to make our world whole. Amen.

Children's Message

Scripture Lessons: Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Message: "Reigning Jesus"

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the Community:

Loving Friend, hear our prayers. For the thin skinned who wear every comment as a thorn, and the tough-hided who are insensitive to the needs around them. For the too-generous who can't seem to say no, and the mean-spirited who shut their hearts tightly against compassion.

Loving Friend, hear our prayers.

For the anxious who imagine unseen dangers around every corner, and the over-confident who do not think before they leap. For the young who sometimes think they know it all, and for the foolish among the old who believe that ageing automatically bestows wisdom.

Loving Friend, hear our prayers.

For the peacemakers who risk themselves for the cause of reconciliation, and for the belligerent who put others at risk to attain their selfish ends. For politicians who well understand their ignorance and weakness, and those who are self-deluded enough to see themselves as the wise and infallible.

Loving Friend, hear our prayers.

For union leaders who are dedicated to serving their members, and others who use their position just to build their own little empire. For the churches who act as if they have all the answers, and for the churches that are too reticent about the Gospel committed to their stewardship.

Loving Friend, hear our prayers.

For the sick and injured who long for healing, and for some who become so attached to the sympathy they remain an invalid. For the dying who pray that the end will come quickly, and for others who cling frantically to every moment of breath.

Loving Friend, hear our prayers.

For the grieving who wonder if their tears will ever stop flowing, and for some whose grief seems banked up like a dam within their hearts.

For all these, Loving Friend, hear our prayers. Amen.

Closing Litany: *(from Teresa of Avila)*

"Christ Has No Body"

Christ has no body now on earth but yours;

no hands but yours;

no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world.

Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Sending Forth

Postlude

***Thank you for worshiping with us today! Please depart as directed when the service ends.
If you wish to make an offering there are plates at the front and rear of the sanctuary.
For the latest news and updates and to make worship reservations go to www.numc.net.
Advent begins next Sunday, November 29. Watch for special online worship opportunities.***