

# Sow Good News

*"Faith comes by listening." (Romans 10:17)*



## INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN THE OLD STONE CHURCH OF INDEPENDENCE

### REGIN OF CHRIST

*November 26, 2023*



C.J. Briggs, Music Director  
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Karen Shallcross, Liturgist  
Amber Balista, Guest Preacher

*God's control and God's power have only one form, in the visible events of the world;  
and that form is service, suffering, identification with the sinful, in a word: LOVE.*

~ Michael Kitchener

## ~ GATHERING ~

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Romans 10:17)*

So faith comes from what is heard:

**and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

### \*GATHERING

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING

GTG #456

Kenyan (NENO LAKE MUNGU)

*Refrain x2*

### \*LITANY FOR THE REIGN OF CHRIST

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

The Lord is robed in majesty and girded in strength.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

God has established the world, and God's realm will never be shaken.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of the Lord.

**Christ will reign forever and ever.**

Come, let us worship Christ our King.

### \*HYMN

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

GTG #20

by Cecil Frances Alexander

ROYAL OAK

### POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*[Silent Confession]*

**\*RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY  
American folk melody

GTG #551  
LAND OF REST

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*Isaiah 52:7*)

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**~ LISTENING TO THE WORD ~**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**HEBREW BIBLE**

EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

(*NRSV*)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
**For faith comes by listening.**

**WORD**

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US  
by Dorothy Ann Thrupp

GTG #187  
BRADBURY

**GOSPEL LESSON**

MATTHEW 25:31-46

(*NRSV*)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
**For faith comes by listening.**

**SERMON**

AMBER BALISTA

**~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA*)

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

*[continued on next page]*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(continued)*

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

**\*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**\*RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**~ GOING FORTH ~**

**\*HYMN**

WHEN THE LORD REDEEMS THE VERY LEAST

GTG #852

by Sylvia G. Dunstan

I'LL FLY AWAY

**\*BENEDICTION**

How are we to proclaim unless we are sent:

**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Know that you are loved by God &  
Go forth to sow the Good News of God's love and peace.*

***Next Week: First Sunday of Advent (Hope)***

***Sacred Encounters: Elizabeth and Zechariah***

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Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA);  
*Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids, Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri Ott.

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