

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH METCALFE, ON. NOVEMBER 21, 2021

**The Feast of the Reign of God **

Reverend Michael Fleming

Celebrant: As we gather this new day to celebrate the end of the Christian year and to anticipate the future, we affirm that our parish lies on the unceded territory of the Ashanabee Algonquin people.

People: **May we continue to work together towards reconciliation through mutual respect and concern.**

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: **and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Dearest Lord, as we move towards the dawn of a new year as children of your Promise, we ask that your gifts of wisdom and strength be constantly present to us and within us. We pray that you will make us strong and courageous to face the year which now peeks over the horizon and bless us with the ability to witness to you so that you might be honoured by our service and so that others may, because of the light we bear, be drawn into your circle of peace, love, joy and hope. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word A Reading From Jeremiah 23: 1-6

"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord. Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the Lord. "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.

I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the Lord. "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 95: 1-7 Pg. 833

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God.

and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Second Reading is from Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the blessed St Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The

King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

(St. Matthew 25: 31-46)

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Celebrant: I believe in God the Father Almighty, People: **creator of heaven and earth**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father

He will come again

to judge the living 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

Leader: Heavenly Father, celebrating the Feast of Christ the King or the Reign of God, we ask that you become the Lord of our lives and transform the way we live. Lord, hear us...

People: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader: In response to the Lord, we take responsibility for serving the voiceless in our society, especially those in prison, the homeless, the widowed and orphaned, the sick and the lost. Fill our hearts with a passion for your justice. Lord, hear us.

People: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader: We pray for the lonely, especially for those who feel isolated because of COVID-19. Let us show love and compassion to them and remember all those on the front lines of our society who are so dedicated in their service to bring hope and companionship for the journey. Lord, hear us. People: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader: We pray for all those living in poverty or want. Let us share our food, our clothing, our time, our resources and our selves with them especially as the winter season looms. We also pray for all those ministering to the homeless and the shelterless and those whose beds are the streets of our villages, towns and cities. Lord, hear us. People: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader: We pray for our young people. Help us to remember to encourage, support and inspire them, especially those who are struggling to find employment and those who feel so isolated that life seems hopeless; those battling physical and mental health issues, those who find themselves at any age engaged in addictive behaviours and those who cannot see light in their future. Lord, hear us.

People: **Lord, graciously hear us**

Leader: We pray for our parish, remembering particularly today Howard, Irene, Kirsten, Graham, Marjorie, Roy, Zachariah, Cheryl, Jeanette and their families. In our diocese, we pray for Emmanuel, Arnprior and The Reverend Canon Christine Piper, Interim-Priest-in-Charge, for St. Luke's Table, (one of our Diocesan Community Ministries) and its Executive Director Rachel Robinson and for the chaplain to the Ottawa Police Service, The Reverend Canon Robert Heard. Lord. Hear us People: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader: As we pray our " adieu" to the old year and move forward to embrace the new dawn, give us a renewed sense of purpose, ministry and mission. As few as we may seem to be, use our hands, feet and hearts to bring hope to the hopeless, love to the unlovable and peace to the broken in our families and our community. May we shine as your light from this day forward. All this we pray in Jesus' name.

People: **Amen and Alleluia!**

Celebrant: My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness. Most merciful God,

All: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. People: **Amen.**

Celebrant: May the peace of the Lord of Lords and King of Kings be always with you.

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Eternal God, by your grace you have raised us up and enthroned us with Christ in the heavenly places. Receive all that we offer you this day and lead us in those good works for which you have created us; we ask this in the name of Jesus the King. **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Holy God, Lover of creation, we give you thanks and praise for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts. When we turn from your love and defile the earth, you do not abandon us. Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah, through prophets, sages, matriarchs and patriarchs, and saints in every age, to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your creation. Joining in the song of the universe, we proclaim your glory by saying,

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Gracious God, in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ to share our fragile humanity. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, you open the path from brokenness to health, from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you.

Rejected by a world which could not bear the Gospel of life, Jesus knew death was near. His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him. He took

bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying, "Take eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks and said, "Drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many; do this for the remembrance of me." And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share the bread of Christ and the cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith:

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Breathe your Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the universe, upon these gifts which we bring to you; this bread, this wine, ourselves, our souls and bodies, that we might be signs of your love to all the world and ministers of your transforming purpose. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Creator of all and we bless your holy name forever.

Amen

Celebrant: And as Christ has gifted to his church, we pray,

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

People: **So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD AS THE CHILDREN OF GOD

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have made us a royal priesthood in the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Make known his victory through us, we pray, that all the world might see his light. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Light of lights and True God of gods. **Amen**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for making all things new. As another new year begins, help us to give each day for you. May we continually have a new song in our hearts to sing to you, no matter what comes our way. We trust in you because we know that your mercies are new every day and that there is nothing that lies ahead that will be able to overwhelm or overcome us with you as our brother, friend and companion on the journey. In grateful thanksgiving we pray,

People: **Amen and Amen.**

Celebrant: Lord, we pray that you would provide for all our needs and we ask for your grace and favour. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper in the Gospel work you lay before us and make every plan that you have birthed in our hearts to succeed. We pray that others will take notice of your goodness through not only what he say, but as powerfully by what we do. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in the world, for your glory. Set your way before us, Lord, and may we reflect your presence and healing in this broken world. And may God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit lead us forward this day and every day and give us all the blessings of his Heart. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen**