

(54500)

Welcome to Worship at West Point Grey United Church

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 26, 1995

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Bruce McAndless-Davis

Call to Worship

One: The reason we are gathered is so that we can meet God.
How do you go about meeting someone that is closer than
your hands and feet, someone you are dealing with
all the time?

It seems we have to stop what we are doing in order to
realize what we are doing.

We have to be still to know God is God.

Silence

Opening Prayer

All: Living God, You are active in places and events where
we fail to recognize you. In the work of building our
lives we reject the stone you put at the head of the
corner. We mistake the signs of your drawing near.
Open our eyes to your active presence. Open our hearts
to your word. Flood our hearts with your spirit.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Hymn: "Rejoice the Lord is king" (Tune Darwall #44) HB # 45

Prayer of Confession:

All: Gracious God, We come before you singing the praises
of Christ the King. Help us to search our hearts for
how genuine that allegiance is to Christ's kingship. He
is a strange kind of king and we both desire and fear
him, We panic at the thought that his kind of love is
sovereign. Yet only such love is enough to save us. Only
such boundless love can save the world.

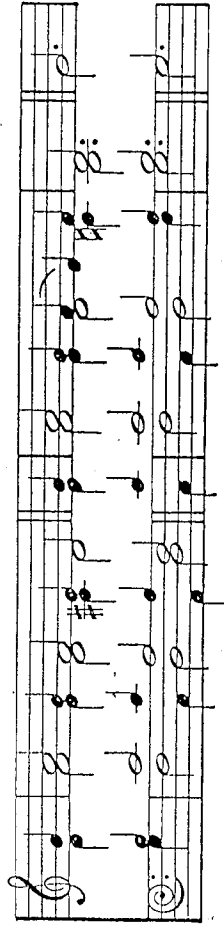
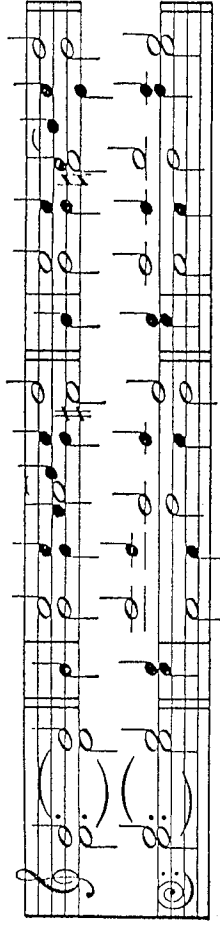
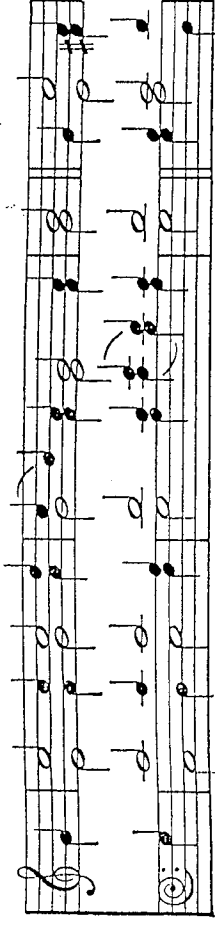
* indicates those who are able are invited to stand

God in Creation, Providence, and Redemption

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HIGH ROAD. 10 4 6 6 6 6 10 4. Moderately fast.

MARTIN SHAW, 1876.



By permission, from Curwen edition No. 6300, published by J. Curwen and Sons, Ltd.,
21 Berners St., London, W. 1.

LET all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

2 Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

GEORGE HERBERT,
1593-1633.

Absolution:

Why one will hardly die for a righteous ~~person~~ - though perhaps for a good person one will dare, even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. It is God who justifies us - who is - how to condemn us.
Hallelujah -

Sermon

This Sunday closes the church year. Next Sunday opens the new church year with the first Sunday in advent.

For ages the Theme for the last Sunday of the year has been CHRIST THE KING.

The chosen lessons are not steps along a walk through different biblical books but ~~some~~ ^{are} selected because they were seen as having something to say about the THEME.

JEREMIAH - God is disgusted with the kind of shepherds ruling Israel - raise up one himself - a branch of David.
- honest to possess King

GABRIEL - Luke ^{made up} ~~most~~ of gestator
Go before ^{6th} from the beginning of the year - John the Baptist
Fallen arise upon John's birth -

COLOSSIANS has flower descriptions
of the LORDSHIP of Christ →
itself an early Confick - based on
Wisdom literature in Hebrew
Scriptures.

~~Gospel~~ Luke's forgiveness re
Crucifixion → Jesus as mocked
response of the two thieves
crucified with him are
contrasted.

Something about our TIMES -

makes it harder than it used to be
for us to hear the sharp word
contained in the claim that Christ
is KING.

Down the ages Christians have been shaken up
by the claim that Jesus was King - he was
not your usual kind of King.

→ Clearly pictured in his mocking at
the Crucifixion. —

We in our time are coming to be very
ambivalent about Kings and all kinds of
authority. We avoid words like LORD
+ LORDSHIP and SOVEREIGNTY + RULER

~~Such concepts are all washed out~~

With all such concepts worked out
no very sharp word to the claim
that Jesus is King.

It may be that we can recover some of the
Majesty that was part of our talk & thinking
about GOD - if we listen to the talk
of Modern astronomers as they talk about the
size & nature of the UNIVERSE.

HUBBLE TELESCOPE - out in Space
- had start doing fine.

Clear Sight - measure accurately the
distance of Galaxy M100. 56 Million
light years away

Clear picture Massive Star 150 Times
as big & 4 million times as bright as our sun
10,000 light years distant.

Galaxies crashing into each other
500 million light years away
collision creating billions & new stars

Incomprehensible magnitude of the Universe
- random - any which way, unguided?
Magnitude of the ORDER of Universe

Supposing the parent that is right - Cross of Christ
- unbroken suffering window into GOD'S KINGDOM?

Saa Cuore d'X NATURE of the Order of the
Sovereign

Saved others - can't save himself

That Order in the Flesh → sweep the boards

misbehaving ones →

Teach upon himself this misbehavior
evil

THOS overcome it,

What Follows? That's who's King?

That's what's Sovereign?

① Unkind Soto strips you of everything
except the opportunity to love →

left with everything.

② Sighs - what's the reward for a lifetime
of Love → no more valuable value to
add to work all that long work it.

③ Woe & hope - you call it love

- finite reward

very notions of Order of the universe

at any minute you can be transformed
into a lover of the world,

Colossians letter - others to ; -

just a word to you & my inner spirit.

That love has overcome the world
That's who's King out there!