

Order of Worship Service

The Reign of Christ Sunday

24 November 2024

Living out the good news means showing who Jesus Christ is in our lives. It encourages us to express our faith in real ways in our communities. As we worship on the Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday of the Lectionary calendar, we remember that the crucified Christ, who brings the world back to Himself, is also the same Jesus Christ who will come as a humble baby in a manger during Advent and Christmas. This helps us think about how we can actively join in the work of Christ every day.

Why is it important for our local churches to collaboratively embody the values of Christ's reign—justice, humility, and reconciliation—as we reflect on the Reign of Christ, and how can this collective effort strengthen our UCA communities and enhance our witness in the local area?

This Common Liturgy has been crafted collaboratively to reflect the values of Christ's reign in our communities. It comes, as an offering, from the Uniting Church congregations, faith community, and chaplaincy in the City of Ryde Zone, part of the Presbytery of Sydney Central Coast. Six worshipping congregations will join together to use this liturgy for Reign of Christ Sunday on November 24, 2024. You are welcome to modify or add elements to fit your local context or traditions.

Welcome to worship

Acknowledgement of Country

We, [Name of the congregation or placement], acknowledge the work and legacy of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present.

We commit to walk softly and gently on this land. May we take our place in bringing healing and flourishing, which is a central calling of our Christian faith.

Call to Worship

The cosmos and all it contains
comes from the mind and heart of God.
Let us rejoice in the goodness and creativity of God.
Today, let us celebrate.
Today, let us be glad that God is with us.
Today, let us worship.

Prayer of Invocation

God of love and care,
We know we live in a world of competing loyalties

We remember that you are committed to us.
In a world of power used to control, we remember your power to free us all.
Remind us again on this day
That you are a power like no other power and Lord like no other lord.
Remind us today of your presence with us always.
Amen.

[From the 'Words for Worship Oct-Dec 2024, Year B/c' MediaCom Education Inc., p. 1.](#)

Hymn Crown him with many crowns (228, Together in Song)

Prayer of Adoration

God the Father, God beyond us.
You are the depth of all that is.
We adore you.

God the Son, God beside us.
You are the perfection of humanity.
We adore you.

God the Spirit, God around us.
You draw us to Jesus and the Father.
We adore you.

You are our Alpha and Omega
Who is and who was and,
Who is to come
We adore you.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
We adore you.

[Adapted from a liturgy from Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest, ACT](#)

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Sovereign God,
we confess we have given idols power over us,
the idols of power and wealth, fame and security.
We confess we have fallen into the ways of this world
and have forgotten our kindred in Christ.
We have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth,
and instead have allowed the idols of the world to rule over us.

Forgive us.
Call us into Your reign,

to declare You are the One who has power over us
because Your power is love.
Call us to love our neighbours as ourselves,
and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another
in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus came to us not to reign as a king over us,
but to serve us,
and to show us the way of God is the way of love.
Jesus said the first would be last and the last would be first.
Jesus called us to become humble and serve one another,
and that the most important commandment
was to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.
This is the way of our Sovereign.

Go, knowing you are forgiven,
and love and serve one another,
especially our neighbours in need,
as Christ serves us. Amen.

Attributed from the Rev-o-lution blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org>

The Peace

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Hymn At the name of Jesus (231, Together in Song)

Bible Readings

John 18:33-37
Revelation 1:4-8

Response:
For the Word of God within us.
For the Word of God to live in us.
For the Word of God who weaves us together.

Sermon

Offering and prayer of blessing

Prayers of the People

King and Creator of all people of nations,
we believe that Jesus Christ is the King and rule within our worship
and our life together as your people.

We also believe that Jesus should rule over our work in the communities
and within our families.

Indeed, we confess that he is the Lord of our lives,
the sovereign King in all our relationships, friends and neighbours.

Help and guide us to make this manifest in what we do every day—
in how we make decisions about how we journey with our King Jesus,
in how we employ our hands to love and serve others,
in how we speak and in how we think,
in how we rest and in how we work.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Call to Action – Reflective questions based on the bible readings

Gospel Reading (John 18:33-37):

Jesus tells Pilate, "My kingdom is not from this world."

How do you understand the idea of Christ's kingdom being "not from this world"?

What does it mean for you to live as a follower of a kingdom based on truth and spiritual principles, rather than worldly power?

How can this understanding shape your daily actions and interactions with others?

Second Reading (Revelation 1:4-8):

Jesus is described as the "faithful witness" and "the Alpha and the Omega."

In what ways do you see Jesus as a faithful witness in your life, and how do you respond to his call to live as a faithful witness to others?

Song Majesty, worship his Majesty (206, Scripture in Song)

Commissioning and Benediction

Grace to you and peace from God,
Who is, who was, and who is to come.

Go gently into this day.
Go softly into this night,
Go into the great world of God in joy.

Grace to you and peace from God,
Who is, who was, and who is to come.

God in the name of God,
Go in the way of Christ.
Go in the power of the Spirit.

Grace to you and peace from God,
Who is, who was, and who is to come.

[From the 'Words for Worship Oct-Dec 2024, Year B/c' MediaCom Education Inc., p. 4.](#)