

Bible Reading for November 29

Mark 13-24-37 “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Discussion Questions

• *Christians have been waiting over 2000 years for Jesus to return, holding on to the hope that God gives us. Do these words from Mark give you hope? Or do they make you uncomfortable?* • *For further reading, check out Isaiah 9:2-7 to hear the people waiting for Jesus to arrive. What hope do they name? What hope do you have?*

As you ponder these things in preparation for Sunday, I would love to hear what God is saying to you. Call me in the church office at 256-353-6941 or email me at miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com.



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



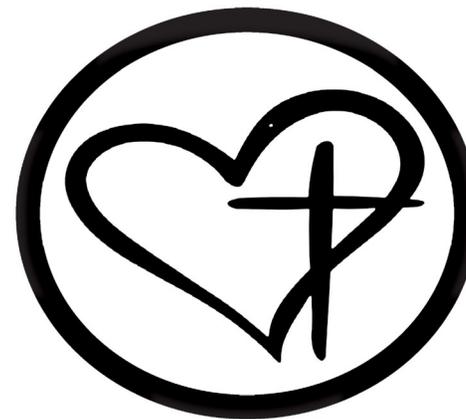
SERVE the World

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COMMITMENT

November 22, 2020
Christ the King Sunday

Musical Gift

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Sewell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Give Thanks

†

Prayers of the People

Rev. Miriam Smith

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 and the power
and the glory for ever. Amen.

Anthem *A Thanksgiving Gathering* arr. Graham

Bible Reading — 2 Corinthians 9:6-14 Rev. Miriam Smith

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

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The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message — “Commitment”

Rev. Miriam Smith

Choral Benediction *Rise Up, O Men of God* Merrill

**Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
to serve the King of kings.**

Musical Gift *Bless the Lord, O My Soul* Ritter

Organist: Virginia Paul

† *Give Thanks* by Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna Music. *A Thanksgiving Gathering* arr. Joseph Graham © 2018 Hal Leonard-Milwin Music Corp.

CCLI # 2306531

Welcome!

We are so happy to be here together! Here are a few guidelines for how we can worship safely together:

Please stay seated until the ushers come to guide you out of the Sanctuary. If you would like to make your offering while you are here today, there is an offering plate by the door. You may also continue to give using our website or by mailing a check.

In order to help keep everyone safe, please take your bulletins and any trash with you when you leave.

This service will be livestreamed on YouTube and a recording will be posted on social media for watching at a later time.