

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Organist: **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt**

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We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 1 territory, and that the land is the traditional lands of the Anishinabe and Dakota Nations, and the homeland of the Métis Nation

ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET

CHRIST THE KING THE FINAL SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 21 November 2021

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to our guests, and invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary. Unfortunately, however, we are not yet able to resume our after-service fellowship time.

Online Services - An abbreviated version of the service is recorded each Sunday, and uploaded to YouTube. If you would like to receive the link to the recorded service each week — or even just occasionally — please let John know. The link to the weekly service can also be accessed from our congregational website, which is at www.firstpcportage.com. Each service is saved for two weeks, and then deleted.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are

- 2 Samuel 23.1-7 - King David's last words
- Psalm 132 - "LORD, remember David"
- Revelation 1.4-8 - "The ruler of the kings of the earth"
- John 18.33-37 - "My kingdom is not from this world"

The readings for next Sunday (Advent 1) will be

- Jeremiah 33.14-16 - A righteous Branch from David's line
- Psalm 24 - In you, LORD, my God, I put my trust
- 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 - "Blameless when our Lord Jesus comes"
- Luke 21.25-36 - The second coming of Jesus: "Watch!"

The Reader today is **Keith Kelly**.

The Greeters this month are **Rob and Cheryl McPherson**.

This Week in First Church:

- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, by Zoom

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 28 November - Deadline for submissions for the December Newsletter
- Sunday, 28 November - The First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, 5 December - Hanging-of-the-Greens Service

The Christian Year - Today is **Christ the King Sunday**, the final Sunday of the Season after Pentecost, and the final Sunday of the Christian Year. A new Christian Year begins a week from today, with the First Sunday of Advent.

The book *Preaching Through the Christian Year* explains the origins of Christ the King Sunday as follows: *The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by [Pope] Pius XI in 1925 to celebrate the kingship of Christ as a way of combating the destructive forces of this age. Originally, it was celebrated on the last Sunday of October, and was seen as a prelude to the celebration of All Saints' Day. This was fitting symbolism, because the triumphant Christ was seen to have motivated the [noble deeds of the] saints ... The feast is now celebrated, however, on the last Sunday of the [Christian] year as the climax toward which the celebration of the year moves, and toward which individual Christians orient their own lives.* (page 474)

The Common Lectionary readings for today celebrate, in one way or another, the kingship of Jesus, both in the present age, and especially, in the age to come — we celebrate Jesus' rule in heaven, and look forward to the day when he will assert his power and authority on earth as well.

The symbolic color for this Sunday is **white**, signifying joy and celebration.

Newsletter - If you have something to contribute to the December issue of the congregational Newsletter, please get it to Lisa Sneesby (bsneesby@mymts.net) by next Sunday, the 28th. We hope to have the Newsletter ready for distribution by the following Sunday, 5 December.

Advent Candles - We are looking for a few people to light the Advent candles each Sunday, starting next Sunday, the 28th. Because of pandemic protocols, we don't like to have more than one person in the lectern in any one service, so we need the candle lighter and the scripture reader for the day to be the same person (or members of the same household). If you would like to take a turn, please speak to John.

WICM - Winnipeg Inner City Missions, a Presbyterian Church mission in the “north end” of Winnipeg, is appealing for donations for its annual **Christmas Hamper** program. Although WICM is also accepting donations of homemade baking and basic new household items, donations of money are probably the most convenient way for us in Portage la Prairie to contribute. Cheques payable to Winnipeg Inner City Missions can be mailed to WICM at 415 Logan Av., Winnipeg, Man. R3A 0A4. Donations can also be made online, through WICM's website at www.wicm.ca. You can check the website as well for information on WICM's programs.

Soup Kitchen Envelopes - Special envelopes are set out on the table at the back of the sanctuary for anyone who would like to make a donation to the Soup Kitchen. Donations can be made at any time during the year.

Gifts of Change - Copies of the 2021-22 edition of the “Gifts of Change” have been set out on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Copies can also be picked up during the week from the stairs just inside the office entrance. The catalogue lists various ministries and projects toward which people can make direct donations, through the national church — such as “A Classroom for Every Child” on page 8, “Train Christian Leaders in Malawi” on page 11, and “Grow Children’s Ministries” on page 14. Each project/ministry description indicates what can be done with donations of various amounts. To make a donation, you can fill out the form on page 3, and mail it, along with your cheque, to Church Offices in Toronto, using the envelope enclosed in the catalogue. Alternatively, you can make your donation using your credit card, either by phone or online (details on the back cover).

Vacuuming the Sanctuary - Many thanks to **Lalaine Buan** and **Rob McPherson**, who have taken turns vacuuming the sanctuary so far this fall! If anyone else would like to take a turn from time to time, please sign up on the sheet that’s on the music stand at the back of the sanctuary. Since we keep the sanctuary cool during the week, the easiest time to do the vacuuming is on Sundays, either before or after the service. Since we can’t afford to pay a janitor, we depend on volunteers to keep the sanctuary clean.

Proverb of the Week -

*Gracious words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul, and healing to the bones.* (Proverbs 16.24)

Sweeteners - Have you ever wondered why biblical writers speak of honey, but never of *sugar*? It’s because sugar was first cultivated in southeast Asia, and was unknown in western Asia (the Middle East) until after the First Century A.D. — by which time the books of the Old and New Testaments had all been written.

Protocols - In order to protect each other from transmission of the COVID-19 virus, please follow these protocols in our Sunday services, until further notice:

- Wear a mask. Those participating in leading the service may remove their masks when they are speaking, so that they may be more easily understood.
- Maintain physical distance (2 meters) from others (except members of your own household).
- Use hand sanitizer when entering the sanctuary.
- An offering plate has been set out at the back of the sanctuary.
- Remain seated throughout the service, including for the hymns.
- Bring your own cushion and/or Bible each week, if desired.
- Prefer that washrooms not be used.
- There will be no coffee/fellowship hour.
- Refrain from shaking hands, etc.
- The names of attenders will be recorded each Sunday, so that we have a record of who attended on which Sunday, in case contact tracing should need to be done later.

Attendance Limit - The latest public health orders (effective 13 November) limit attendance at our services to 25 people, period. Our highest attendance so far this fall has been 22 (including the pianist and the minister), but our average attendances have been lower than that — so we should be all right, unless attendances increase.

Mission Moment

Protecting Children in Malawi

Ten-year-old Joseph lives with his family in northern Malawi. One day, Joseph showed up to school, not quite himself. His friends noticed and asked what was wrong. “My father and mother shout at each other and fight almost every week. Sometimes my father calls us bad names and chases us out of the house at night, for no reason,” he said. His friends, who had learned about children’s rights and what support was available to them, urged him to speak to a Child Protection Worker. The Child Protection Worker understood the economic challenges that were exacerbating the abuse and connected the family with resources to address them. Together, the family is using what they have learned to build a more peaceful home. This project is supported by *Presbyterian World Service & Development*.