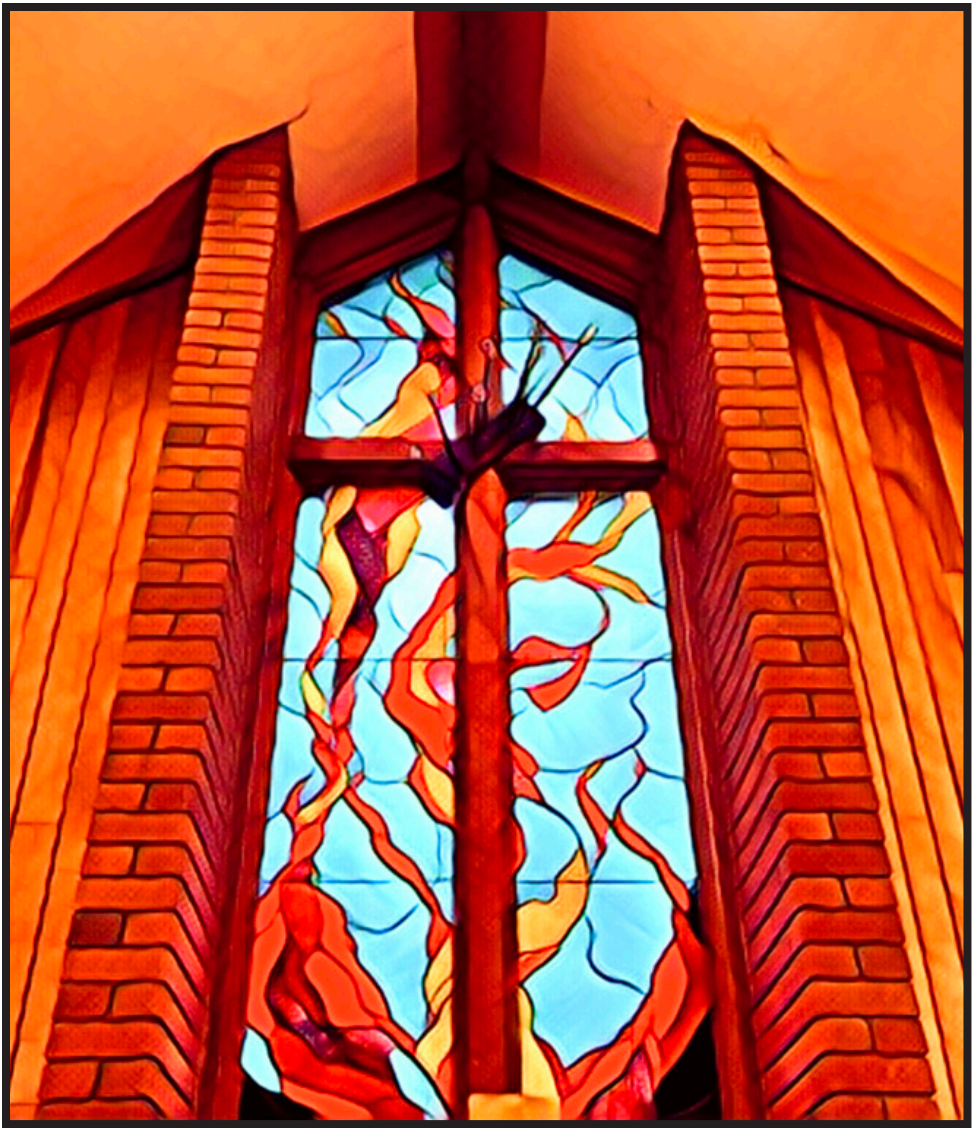




*Bright Hope Laurel
United Methodist Church*

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Jane Patterson, Pianist

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday November 23, 2025

Chimes of the Trinity

Prelude and Lighting the Altar Candles

Welcome and Call to Worship

Psalm 46

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

P: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

L: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.

P: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

L: Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

P: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

Passing the Peace

*Welcoming Hymn

"O, How I Love Jesus"

#170 (vs 1)

Prayer of Confession

All: Imagining your reign can be difficult, eternal God.

It is difficult to picture a world governed by your justice and righteousness alone. Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers, and powers. When nobler visions fail and we settle for kingdoms of our own making, correct and forgive us.

Free the borders of our imaginations, that we may envision your greater good and celebrate the coming of your reign on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon *Luke 1*

Hear the prophecy of Zechariah: Tender mercy and forgiveness are the ways of God. We are forgiven. Let the church say, **Amen.**

Hans Holznagel, "Worship Elements: November 20, 2022," Ministry Matters, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4410/worship-elements-november-20-2022>.

Prayers of the People

The Family of Dick Galphin; Frances Powell; Nathan Woody; Eddie Leindecker; Glenn White;

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgiving.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Hymn of Thanksgiving "Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast" #339 (all)

Scripture Reading

Acts 28:23b-31

(NIV)

Handbells

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Children's Sermon & The Lord's Prayer

Sermon

"Writing the Next Chapter"

Prayer

Offering & Response

- What is one thing you heard today that stands out?
- What part of this brings hope for you?
- What part of this is challenging for you?
- What are you being asked to trust God with today?

Doxology

#94

*Closing Hymn

"Where He Leads Me"

#338 (vs 1 & 4)

Announcements

- ❖ Tuesdays at 10am - Spiritual Support - BHL Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Wednesdays at 6:30pm - Handbells - BHL Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Second Saturdays at 8am - Men's Breakfast - Little Creek Cafe
- ❖ November 29 at 10 am - Hanging of the Greens
- ❖ December 7 at 12:30 pm - Christmas Fellowship Potluck
- ❖ Sundays at 9:45am - Youth & Adult Confirmation/Reaffirmation Class - FH
- ❖ Sunday, December 14th - Confirmation Sunday
- ❖ Sunday, December 14 at 12:30 pm - Cookies & Carols
- ❖ December 24th @ 5:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service

Benediction

Postlude