



The Olive Branch

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

This Sunday, we observe and celebrate the Reign of Christ.

I will admit, I hesitated about using the word “celebrate” in my first sentence, even though that word does accurately describe at least part of what we have done and will do in our liturgy this Sunday.

This past week, I experienced one of the most difficult weeks of my life when several years of work culminated in a decision that was far worse than even the worst case scenario I had prepared myself for. The specific details are not relevant to this article, but also not secret. If you are concerned or curious, please don’t hesitate to ask.

My point in sharing this is not to garner attention, but rather to share with you that this year, the reign of Christ is a difficult concept for me.

What I have come to more fully understand from Scripture and many brilliant teachers is that the reign of Christ is so much more than some future reality that exists only in the promised “new heaven and new earth.” The reign of Christ, in its full reality exists now. The reign of Christ is marked by love, compassion, mercy, and yes, justice. The reign of Christ is marked by a lifting up of the poor and broken-hearted, the weak, the mourning, those who are hungry, the peacemakers.

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SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, November 21

Reign of Christ

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., November 17

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's
 Choir (on Zoom)
 7:15 pm - Cantorei
 rehearsal

Thurs., November 18

**10 am – Ordination of
 Jonathan Holtmeier**
 7 pm – Narcotics
 Anonymous

Sat., November 20

9 am – Chancel Cleaing

Sun., November 21

Regin of Christ
9 am – Holy Eucharist
11 am – Holy Eucharist

Tues., November 23

Noon – Bible Study

Wed., November 24

10 am – Staff meeting
 5:30 pm - Children's
 Choir (on Zoom)
 7:30 pm - Cantorei
 rehearsal

*In the
 presence of God.
 Being the
 presence of God.*

Sunday Morning Schedule

There are **two worship services on Sunday morning, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** To be able to continue COVID-related safety measures, we ask the following:

During this time, we will continue to request R.S.V.P responses for each worship in order to allow for physical distancing in the sanctuary. You no longer need to check your name off before proceeding to worship. We will continue to require that you wear a well-fitting mask that covers your **nose and mouth**. Please do not move the pew ropes, to help with social distancing, and **please** leave the short pews for those with wheelchairs. This is especially important to protect those who are not vaccinated, including children. Coffee hour has been temporarily suspended.

The link to RSVP for worship is

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mountolive> .

This link will be live each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Celebrating Jonathan Holtmeier's ordination

On Thursday, November 18, 2021 (tomorrow!), at 10:00 a.m. at Mount Olive, the congregation will welcome Bishop Ann Svennungsen as she presides at the ordination of Mount Olive member Jonathan Holtmeier into the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Jonathan has been called to serve as pastor of the Congregational Church of Excelsior. As with our Sunday liturgies, we ask all who wish to attend to RSVP. Here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/holtmeierordination>

We give thanks to Almighty God for setting Jonathan apart for this ministry and pray God's rich blessings on his service.

National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival: *The Earth Adorned*

During *The Earth Adorned*, we will view the birth of Christ alongside the beauty of this world through works for choir and instruments, including Aaron David Miller's "Chanticleer," Paul John Rudoj's "Orbit Carol," and the "Creation Suite," by NLC's founding director, Dr. Larry Fleming.

The Earth Adorned will also include community singing of carols, recitations of poetry, and more echoing through the Basilica of Saint Mary.

While *The Earth Adorned* will be presented through three live performances, it will also be live streamed to bring sacred choral music to everyone, everywhere!

Performance details:

Friday, December 10th, 2021 - 4:30pm and 8:00pm

Saturday, December 11th, 2021 - 8:00pm

Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, MN

To learn more or purchase tickets, visit our website: www.nlca.com.



Mission: JOY

Join Mount Olive members and friends for a viewing of the film *Mission: JOY* on **November 29 at 7:00 p.m.** Join in-person in the chapel lounge or connect on-line from your home.

"Deeply moving and laugh-out-loud funny, *Mission: JOY* is a documentary with unprecedented access to the unlikely friendship of two international icons who transcend religion: His Holiness the **Dalai Lama** and **Archbishop Tutu**. In

their final joint mission, these self-described mischievous brothers give a master class in how to create joy in a world that was never easy for them. They offer neuroscience-backed wisdom to help each of us live with more joy, despite circumstances."

Our partner organization, Interfaith Power & Light network has been offered a unique opportunity to be among the first to share the new film. Join to watch together and then have a few moments to share with each other following the movie.

[Watch the trailer and register here.](#) The film will be available at the November 29 showing at Mount Olive (with popcorn) or for free online viewing at home with family and friends, or anytime between November 19 - Dec 2.

Thank you for all you do to heal the earth and spread joy!

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Yet, this year in particular, it is hard to see that reality. We all see and hear and read the news. Seeming continual trials with uncertain outcomes. A warming planet and leaders who refuse to act. A continual drive for more and more profit at the expense of humanity. A more and more divisive political discourse. Fractured relationships. A constant striving for justice that all too often sees very little success.

In college, I had a friend who would remark after particularly difficult experiences, "Jesus could come now." That is indeed how I am feeling. Perhaps you too. Jesus could come now.

I long for the fulfillment, the full realization of the reign of Christ, not the clouded, sometimes almost invisible one we experience now. And I find comfort in the fact that God has promised it will come. But I also know that the full realization of the reign of Christ does not come on our schedule or at a time of our choosing. And as difficult as it may be, we have a role in the here-and-now reign of Christ. We, as followers of Jesus, those who live under the reality of Christ's reign, can be about the business of lifting up poor and broken-hearted, the weak, the mourning, those who are hungry, and the peacemakers.

That may not be the message you need or want to hear. I get that. I hesitated even writing it. So I will end with this. Another aspect of the reign of Christ is that we who feel the burden of living into our calling as followers of Jesus can find care too. Perhaps you are feeling poor or broken-hearted. There are people around to care for you. Perhaps you are feeling weak or weary of peacemaking. There are people around to lift you up, to give you a respite, a time to recover. If you are mourning, there are people who will share a hug, a meal, a listening ear. If you are hungry, there is food.

Dear, dear friends. Let us live into the reality of the reign of Christ by not only striving for what that reign means. But, perhaps more importantly than ever, let us care for one another. Until the reign of Christ is fully realized.

- *Jim Bargmann*

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 25, 10:00 a.m.

Bring non-perishable food items to help re-stock local food shelves. Monetary donations are especially welcome (for every \$1 donated, food shelf personnel are able to buy about \$9 worth of food!)

As has been our custom for a number of years, the entire offering received at the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day will be divided between Sabbathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services food shelves.

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event **this Saturday, November 20, beginning at 9:00 a.m.**

Please join our crew – for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Questions? Contact Beth Gaede – bethgaede@comcast.net.

Staff Christmas Gifts

As is our tradition, this is the time of year that we gather monetary gifts for our church staff. If you would like to contribute, please either use the offering envelope provided especially for this, or simply note “staff gifts” on your check/envelope and send it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please have the gifts in by Sunday, December 19.

Thanks for your generosity.

Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 am. They have resumed meeting at church.

For December 11, they will read *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell, and for January 8, 2022, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: November

Throughout the pandemic, our Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month program has continued in a modified form. We have continued to support our community partners through a financial contribution, our corporate and individual prayers, and continual check-ins to see how things were going. We inadvertently dropped the regular article highlighting our Partner of the Month from the Olive Branch. That omission was recently brought to our attention, and so that feature returns this month. Our partners continue doing great work in our community, and we are proud to support that work however we are able and anxiously await the day when you all will again have the opportunity to visit in-person with the leaders of these incredible organizations.

Our Neighborhood Ministry Partner for November is Restorative Justice Community Action.

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) brings residents and victims together with adults and youth who have committed crimes in their area. Together they participate in community conferences, an alternative sentencing option and restorative justice process that strengthens accountability and opens a line of communication between the offender and those harmed. The goal is to seek true restoration, especially in terms of community standing and relationship, for those who have committed crimes and the victims of those crimes.

As a reminder, Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget. However, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner of the month for the month in which the contribution is received.

Lost and Found

There are a number of items which have been left at church over the last couple of years which we'd love to have picked up by their owners.

Have a look on the table in the coat room next time you are at church and see if any of those items belong to YOU! We will have the table out for a couple of weeks before donating anything left over.

Thank you!

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; Joe & Elizabeth Beissel; Susan Cherwien; Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Heather Halen; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Carla Manuel; Carolyn Mowery; Rhoda Nelson; George Oelfke; Jerry Ostlund; Robin Rayfield; Evelyn Royce; John Salveson; Pariann Schenk; John Wall; Berta Wick; James Wilkes; *Adalyn Lerum*, relative of Nancy Anderson; *Danna Nelson*, *Gerry Coleman*, friends of Jim Bargmann; *Tom McCarr*, friend of Keith Bartz; *Cassandra Thompson*, friend of Al Bostelmann; *Scott Spooner*, son of Cathy Bosworth; *Sara Brunette*, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; *Arthur Kaemmer*, friend of David Bryce; *Lela Frazier*, sister of Irene Campbell; *Klarrisa Ramirez*, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; *Kristin Eklund-Johnson*, *Greg Eklund*, *Ryan Snelling*, daughter, son, and friend of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; *David G. Gutierrez, Sr.*, *Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr.*, father and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; *Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong)*, friend of Eunice Hafemeister; *Norma Pera and Hilde Dobberpubl*, sisters of Eunice Hafemeister and aunts of Linda Hafemeister; *Cat Robinette*, friend of Emily Hellerich; *Tami Huisinga*, relative of Wes Huisinga; *Craig Cunningham*, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; *Bob Adamson*, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; *Barbara Dabl*, sister of Carla Manuel; *Dani Olson*, *Harper Linqvist*, *Steve Camper*, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; *Jan McCuen*, mother of Matt McCuen; *Brenda Frankman*, friend of Rachel Meuret; *Martha Johnson*, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; *Kathleen Austad*, sister of Jerry Ostlund; *Kirsty Langfield*, cousin of Gary Pagel; *Dn. Steven Arnold*, friend of Andrew Stoebig; *Sue Smith*, *Steve Swanson*, and *Mary Peterson* friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; *Vince DeLusia*, friend of Cynthia Prosek; *Rudd Rayfield*, *Jolie Mesbber Hassler*, *Katehyn Bowden*, *Cindy Williams*, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; *Leila Jeffers*, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; *Miranda Ahvis*, niece of Tim Sneer; *Carrie*, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; *David Duran*, friend of *Kevin Vazquez*; *Andrew Wiechman*, son of Grace Wiechman; *Rachel Wilkes*, former wife of James Wilkes; *Judy Bonnes*, *Tommie and Susie Hunter*; *Barbara C. Johnson*, friends of Mount Olive.

Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.

Our continual prayers are offered for peace: We pray for all the world's governments, leaders, and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: *Ross Chambers*, nephew of Berta & Bob Wick; *Solveig & Philip*, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and *Tyson Crosby*, relative of the Crosby family. (*Italics indicates non-member friends of Mount Olive.*)

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.



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Church Staff

Pastor – [Joseph Crippen](#)

Cantor – [David Chernien](#)

Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

Coordinator of Neighborhood

Ministries - [Jim Barymann](#)

Administrative Assistant – [Cha Posz](#)

Sexton – [James Wilkes](#)

Advent Procession

Sunday, November 28

4:00 pm

Mark the season with a solemn procession and a series of lessons and carols for Advent. Candles, incense, and beautiful music help draw all into this season of hope in the darkest time of the year.

Please sign up for this service beginning Wednesday, November 24.
COVID protocols of masking and social distancing
will be observed.