

## **Sunday, November 25**

**Organ Prelude: To be provided by Gary Postma**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Today is Christ the King Sunday – Christianity (Western churches).**

This feast day commemorates Jesus' teaching that he will return at the end of time to judge humanity. In the Western Christian liturgical year, this is the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

Next Sunday marks the first Sunday of Advent. This marks the beginning of a new liturgical year.

I would like to wish you a warm and loving Good morning.

Welcome to St John's Presbyterian Church.

It is a pleasure to see you here this morning at St John's.

### **Call to Worship**

**L: The lord be with you**

**C: And also with you**

**L: The lord lift his face upon you and shines his light on to you**

**C: We live in darkness o Lord, please show us the way and the truth**

**L: You are clothed O Lord, show us your strength and immense Power**

**C: We want to follow in your ways O Lord**

**L: We want to show you our love and our love for each other. Unite us in the bond of Christian affection.**

**C: This term "affection" expresses the love parents have for children, and brothers and sisters for each other. This is the love that Jesus seeks.**

**ALL: Ascribe to the Lord Glory and Strength, Ascribe to the Lord the Glory of his name, and let us worship the lord in full array.**

### **Opening Hymn: # 80 Teach me o Lord the way of Truth**

**Psalm 119 is known by its first verse, in the King James Version, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord." The Book of Psalms is the third section of the Hebrew Bible, and a book of the Christian Old Testament. It is referred to in Hebrew by its opening words, "Ashrei temimei derech" ("happy are those whose way is perfect").**

**With 176 verses, the psalm is the longest psalm as well as the longest chapter in the Bible.**

**It has been set to music by Johann Hermann Schein (20 January 1586 – 19 November 1630) was a German composer of the early Baroque era. He was born in Grünhain and died in Leipzig..**

□

**When his father dies Schein moved to Dresden where he joined the choir of the Elector of Saxony as a boy soprano. In addition to singing in the choir, he received a thorough musical training with Rogier Michael, the Kapellmeister, who recognized his extraordinary talent. From 1603 to 1607 he studied at Pforta, and from 1608 to 1612 attended the University of Leipzig, where he studied law in addition to liberal arts. Upon graduating, he was employed briefly by Gottfried von Wolffersdorff as the house music director and tutor to his children; later he became Kapellmeister at Weimar.**

**He was afflicted with poor health, and was not to live a happy or long life. His wife died in childbirth; four of his five children died in infancy;**

he died at age 44, having suffered from tuberculosis, gout, scurvy, and a kidney disorder.

Let us sing Hymn #80 Teach me O Lord the way of truth

**Prayer of Approach and Adoration (Unison)**

Let everyone praise your great and Holy Name Mighty God.

Mighty are you, O Ruler, who loves justice and establishes equity among the people.

Teach us to respect you as our One and Only leader .

Show us how to respect each other and support one another .

Bathe us in your Glory and infuse our minds with your truth .

We are weak and looking for your guidance .

You are our ONLY sovereign God and now as you taught us to pray saying Our Father (debts)

**Children's Hymn #377 Come children join to sing**

Christian Henry Bateman was born on August 9, 1813 at Wyke (near Halifax), Scotland. He studied in the Moravian Church, and ministered there for a time.

In 1843, he became minister of Richmond Place Congregational Church, Edinburgh, Scotland.

After 1846, he was successively Congregational minister at Hopton, Yorkshire, and Reading, Berkshire. He then took Holy Orders in the Church of England and served as curate of St. Luke's in Jersey; vicar of All Saints, Childshill, Middlesex ; and curate of St. John's Hawarden .

His hymns appeared mainly in The Sacred Song Book (Edinburgh, Scotland: Gall and Inglis), subsequently published as Sacred Melodies for Children and as 200 Sacred Melodies for Sunday Schools and Families; and The Children's Hymnal and Christian Year (London: J. Hodges, 1872). He was a prolific songwriter.

He died on July 27, 1889 at Carlisle, England.

## [Time with the Young and Young at Heart.](#)

Traffic lights and what do they mean.

Red Yellow and Green are the three colors but what do they mean.

## [Song of Illumination : Duet Keppel and Michele \(# 445\)](#)

### **The Scriptures: read by**

Romans 1 18- 25

Psalm 93 responsive

John 18:33-38

## [Hymn of the Month: Forgive our sins as we forgive #751](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude."

Rosamund Eleanor Herklots was born in Masuri, India, in 1905 to missionary parents. She was educated at Leeds Girls' High School and the University of Leeds in England. Working as a teacher and secretary, she began writing hymns in the early 1940s. She submitted hymns for the "Hymns for Britain" competition, two of which were selected to be sung on television. Her total corpus of hymns numbered more than seventy. Herklots died in Greenwich, London, in 1987.

The hymn Forgive our sins as we forgive was written in June 1966 and printed soon afterward in the parish magazine of St. Mary's Church, Bromley, Kent. The idea of the hymn had occurred to Miss Herklots when she was digging out weeds in her nephew's garden.

She reasoned that their deep roots, obstructing the growth of the flowers near them, resembled the bitterness and resentment that can become entrenched and hinder the Christian's growth in grace.

Herklots' language is potent in describing the blessings we miss when our "heart . . . broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart".

**In stanza three, she contrasts the "trivial debts [that] are owed to us" with "our great debt to [Christ]!"**

**The final stanza is a prayer of petition "cleanse . . . our souls" and "bid resentment cease." Forgiveness leads to establishing "bonds of love" so that "our lives will spread [Christ's] peace."**

### **Pre sermon Prayer**

**Lord we ask that you lighten our burden so that we can pay attention to the words that we are about to hear. We have so many distractions. Falsehoods and deceptions confuse us and we are in need of your guidance. Help us to clear our minds so that we can focus on the scripture lessons of this morning and apply your teachings to our daily lives. We ask these things in Jesus name AMEN.**

### **Sermon: What is the truth anyway**

**Before I start my sermon, I would like to thank the Lord for bringing me back safely from Poland and Germany yesterday. I would also like to thank the session for giving me this opportunity to speak to you in the name of our Father.**

**Today we are bombarded by streams of information from many sources. We have texts, chatter, emails, pings, snail mail, flyers , sometimes even phone calls and yelling across the room**

**And even with all of these methods of communication we do not get the truth.**

**Statistics from the Pew Internet & American Life Project show that today many people with cell phones prefer texting over a phone call.**

**It's not always younger people, though the data indicate that the younger you are, the more likely you are to prefer texting. The majority of those surveyed prefer texting.**

**Now this is creating a communication divide, of sorts - the talkers vs. the texters.**

**Some would argue that it's no big deal. What difference should it make how we communicate, as long as we do so.**

**But many experts say the most successful communicators will, of course, have the ability both, talk or text, and know the most appropriate times to use those skills to get their message across .**

**Some other people want to have direct communication to the masses so they tweet.**

**So one question that I have is how do you read the body language of the person that you are texting. I CANNOT. So how do you know if they are telling you the truth?**

**If you were to ask anyone today, "What is truth"? You will get a blank stare.**

**So this question "what is truth" is sure to start an interesting conversation.**

**Try it on a university campus and you're likely to receive laughter, scorn, and derision.**

**The concept of truth has clearly fallen on hard times. Fake news has thrown truth in the penalty box and then out of the game.**

**The master tweeter has taken to twitter to get his news on your mind.**

**The consequences of not knowing the truth is ravaging human society as we know it. So lets us rewind. What is truth?**

**One of the most profound and eternally significant questions in the Bible was posed by an unbeliever.**

**Pilate—the man who handed Jesus over to be crucified—turned to Jesus in His final hour, and asked, "What is truth?"**

**In verse 37 Pilate said "You are a king, then!"**

**Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”**

**So “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.**

**It was a rhetorical question, a cynical response to what Jesus had just revealed: “I have come into the world, to testify to the truth.”**

**Two thousand years later it seems that the whole world breathes Pilate’s cynicism. Some say truth is a power play, a narrative constructed by the elite for the purpose of controlling the ignorant masses.**

**To some, truth is subjective, the individual world of preference and opinion.**

**Others believe truth is a collective judgment, the product of cultural consensus, and still others flatly deny the concept of truth altogether.**

**So, what is truth?**

**Here’s a simple definition drawn from what the Bible teaches: Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God.**

**Even more to the point: Truth is the self-expression of God. That is the biblical meaning of truth.**

**Because the definition of truth flows from God, truth is theological.**

**Truth is ontological which is a fancy way of saying it is the way things really are.**

**Reality is what it is because God declared it so and made it so.**

**Therefore God is the author, source, determiner, governor, arbiter, ultimate standard, and final judge of all truth.**

**When Jesus said “I am...the truth” (John 14:6, emphasis added), He was making a profound claim about His own deity.**

**He was also making it clear **that all** truth must ultimately be defined in terms of God and His eternal glory.**

**After all, Jesus is “the brightness of [God’s] glory and the express image of His person” (Hebrews 1:3).**

**He is truth incarnate—the perfect expression of God and therefore the absolute embodiment of all that is true.**

**Jesus also said that the written Word of God is truth. It does contain nuggets of truth; it is pure, unchangeable, and (according to Jesus) “cannot be broken” (John 10:35).**

**Praying to His heavenly Father on behalf of His disciples, Jesus said “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17).**

**Of course, there cannot be any difference of opinion between the written Word of God (Scripture) and the incarnate Word of God (Jesus).**

**In the first place, truth by definition cannot contradict itself.**

**Second, Scripture is called “the word of Christ” (Colossians 3:16). It is His message, His self-expression.**

**In other words, the truth of Christ and the truth of the Bible are of the very same character. They are in perfect agreement in every respect.**

**Remember, Scripture also says God reveals basic truth about Himself in nature.**

**The heavens declare His glory (Psalm 19:1). His other invisible attributes (such as His wisdom, power, and beauty) are on constant display in what He has created.**

**Romans 1:20 states “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.**



**Knowledge of Him is inborn in the human heart (Romans 1:19), and a sense of the moral character and loftiness of His law is implicit in every human conscience (Romans 2:15).**

**Those things are self-evident truths. According to Romans 1:20, denial of the spiritual truths we know innately always involves a deliberate and culpable unbelief.**

**And for those who wonder whether basic truths about God and His moral standards really are stamped on the human heart, ample proof can be found in the long history of human law and religion.**

**Since Scripture is also the one place where we are given the way of salvation, entrance into the kingdom of God, and an infallible account of Christ, the Bible is the touchstone to which all truth claims should be brought and by which all other truth must finally be measured.**

**A corollary of what I am saying is “truth means nothing apart from God”**

**Truth cannot be adequately explained, recognized, understood, or defined without God as the source.**

**He alone is eternal and self-existent and He alone is the Creator of all else, He is the fountain of all truth.**

**If you don't believe that, try defining truth without reference to God, and see how quickly all such definitions fail.**

**The moment you begin to ponder the essence of truth, you are brought face to face with the requirement of a universal absolute—the eternal reality of God.**

**The whole concept of truth instantly becomes nonsense (and every imagination of the human heart therefore turns to sheer foolishness) as soon as people attempt to remove the thought of God from their minds.**

**That, of course, is precisely how the apostle Paul traced the relentless decline of human ideas in Romans 1:21-22: “Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

**Professing to be wise, they became fools.**

**There are serious moral implications too, whenever someone tries to dissociate truth from the knowledge of God.**

**We see it happening before our eyes in our society today. In fact, the widespread acceptance of all forms of “manufactured facts” and all forms of iniquity that we see in our society today is a fulfillment of what Romans 1 says always happens when a society denies and suppresses the essential connection between God and truth.**

**If you reflect on the subject you will soon see that even the most fundamental moral distinctions—good and evil, right and wrong, beauty and ugliness, or honor and dishonor—cannot possibly have any true or constant meaning apart from God.**

**That is because truth and knowledge themselves simply have no coherent significance apart from a fixed source, namely, God.**

**God embodies the very definition of truth. Every truth claim apart from Him is absurd.**

**When Orville and Wilbur Wright started looking for the truth about flight in 1903 they sought information from birds and studied their flight to determine how they flew.**

**Most people have never heard of Simon Pierpont Langley. He had thousands of dollars and an army of people from prestigious schools all looking for glory. They never studied the science of God’s creatures and as you know the Wright brothers flew 1st.**

**Simon Pierpont Langley quit a couple of days after the Wright brothers flew because he could not face the truth.**

**After thousands of years, the very best of human philosophers (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Kant, Hegel, Marx, James, and others) have all utterly failed to account for truth and the origin of human knowledge apart from God.**

**In fact, the one most valuable lesson humanity ought to have learned from philosophy is that it is impossible to make sense of truth without acknowledging God as the necessary starting point.**

**God has given me the ability to think, understand his world and deduce things and this gives me the ability to predict what will happen when we make aircraft.**

**But let us look at a hummingbird in flight and then hovering to feed.**

**Then look at a helicopter and you can see that the bird is way ahead in terms of control and maneuverability. So we study birds to gain knowledge when we make helicopters.**

**The same is true about gliders. Look at a vulture and see how they ride the thermals and gain altitude. Gliders copy this.**

**Truth is not subjective, it is not a consensual cultural construct, and it is not an outdated, irrelevant concept.**

**Truth is the self-expression of God. Truth is thus theological; it is the reality God has created and defined, and over which He rules.**

**Truth is therefore a moral issue for every human being. So when some politicians fabricate stories to get their way with the masses, we should always look behind the story and bring out the fact checkers.**

**You will soon uncover holes in the stories. Now these same politicians do not seem to care that they made up fake news, in fact they like it.**

**How each person responds to the truth God has revealed is an issue of eternal significance.**

**To reject and rebel against the truth of God results in darkness and wrath of God.**

**To accept and submit to the truth of God is to see clearly, to know with certainty what the real story is and that story is bound under the Law of our creator.**

**Once you get to this level of understanding of the issues, you can find life everlasting.**

**While God uses instruments to accomplish His purposes, the glory is His alone, for it is He, Not politicians, who acts through them and ensures their success.**

**Our God hears our prayers, fulfills His promises, and fills us with praise.**

**In John 8:31-32 Jesus said to the those who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free**

**This is not news but the reality of life as a Christian “From him and through him and to him are all things given.**

**To him we give glory forever. Amen.**

## **WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND SERVICE**

### **Offertory**

**Choir anthem “Empty hands, open arms Lloyd Larson**

### **The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

### **Dedication of our Gifts**

**Heavenly Father we have returned to your Church a portion of what we have been given. Give the Board of Managers the guidance that they need to use these gifts to continue doing your work in this our Church and in Your world. Amen**

### **Pastoral Prayers, Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**God of light, we have heard your message of truth. You are our one and only leader who will teach us what your truth is.**

**It is so easy to abandon the truth that you teach us . However it is more important that we check the statements that are quoted and reflect on your teachings to determine if these statements match your word.**

### **Closing Hymn: Guide me O thou great redeemer #651**

**Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah” was written by William Williams in 1745. It has been used for worship in congregations around the globe and across denominational lines. Williams beautifully uses imagery from the Old Testament book of Exodus to conjure a theme of God’s guidance through struggle.**

**He was born in Wales in 1717, to John and Dorothy Williams. According to Welsh hymn scholar Alan Luff, Williams grew up as an Independent and later a Calvinist, but had no intentions to be a minister.**

**In 1744, after being accused of various misdemeanors against the Church of England, Williams devoted himself to Methodism.**

**The hymn text was written soon after this in 1745. While it is still a mystery as to why Williams began composing hymn-texts in his native tongue, *United Methodist Hymnal* editor Dr. Carlton Young states that he became known as the most famous hymn writer of Welsh Methodism. Elements of the hardship Williams experienced as a traveling minister can be found throughout “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.”**

**Williams uses imagery from the Old Testament book of Exodus to conjure a theme of God’s guidance through struggle. One of the reasons this hymn has influenced such a broad array of congregants is the universal subject of hardship**

### **Commissioning (Unison)**

**In the power of the Holy Spirit, we now go forth into the world to fulfill our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.**

## The Benediction

**And as we go out from this place of worship let us always remember that  
If you abide in HIS word, you are truly HIS disciples, and you will know  
the truth, and the truth will set you free. AMEN**

### Choral Benediction:

**We are here joined in Christ**

**We are here joined in Christ, called to serve and adore Him.**

**Give us peace, perfect peace, patience and hope everlasting.**

**Send us to serve in our Master's name, and to glorify Him.**

**Joined with Christ & through Christ, praise our Father forever.**

## **Organ Postlude (Gary Postma)**

### **Reference Lectionary readings Nov 25 2018**

**Romans 1 18- 25, Psalm 93 responsive; John 18:33-38**

**Romans 1:18-25 New International Version (NIV)**

**God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity**

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

### **PSALM 93**

The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;  
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;  
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

<sup>2</sup> Your throne was established long ago;  
you are from all eternity.

<sup>3</sup> The seas have lifted up, LORD,  
the seas have lifted up their voice;  
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup> Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea—  
the LORD on high is mighty.

<sup>5</sup> Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;  
holiness adorns your house  
for endless days.

### **John 18 33- 38**

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

<sup>37</sup> “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

<sup>38</sup> “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.

