FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTIA

Christ The King Sunday

November 22nd, 2026

Bold invites you to join in the reading.
* invites you to rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

We Gather to Worship

Prelude — My Shepherd Will Supply My Need "RESIGNATION" — *Victor Jonson (b.1978) arr. D. Wagner*

Welcome & Announcements

Votum

* Call to Worship

O come, let us sing to the Lord!

We will make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

We will make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

Come, serve the Lord with gladness!

We will give thanks to our loving God!

O come, let us worship and bow down!

We will kneel before the Lord, our king!

Rejoice for the Lord is good!

God's steadfast love endures forever!

Rejoice for the Lord is our shepherd!

God makes us lie down in green pastures!

Rejoice for we belong to the Lord! Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 478 — Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven — LAUDA ANIMA

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we confess that you are king. Yet we have failed to honor you with our whole lives. We have not followed your royal decree to always love and serve others. We have worshipped at the thrones of idols and have been led astray. Come O Shepherd King, and lead us back to you, we pray. Come O Lord, and lead us home.

~ Silent Personal Confession ~

O Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice for the Lord is good! Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Summary of the Law

Passing of the Peace

Peace be with you!

And also, with you! (Please greet those around you)

Call to Gratitude

Offertory - 8:00 Whatsoever You Do *Willard F. Jabusch (1930-2018) acc. Owen Alstott*

- 10:00 I Bring a Heart of Thanks *Pepper Choplin*

**I bring a heart of thanks to You. My voice will raise a song of praise.*
I bring a heart of thanks to You. My soul will rejoice to sing with boisterous praise.
How great is Your love, Your love and Your care; Your care and Your faithfulness,
*And great, How great my desire, desire to express my heart of thanks.**
Lord, we come to put our faith in You. Faithfulness in everything You do.
*You love what is righteous and is true. The earth is full of Your unfailing love.**

Response Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

We Proclaim the Word

Unison Prayer for Illumination

O Spirit, guide our feet. Lead us beside still waters. Lead is in right paths. Shepherd our lives now and always. Amen.

1st Lesson	Ezekiel 34:11-16 & 20-23	p. 623-624
Heart Song	God of Great and God of Small	*by Natalie Sleeth*

Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

Children's Sermon		Rev. McCloskey
2nd Lesson	Matthew 25:31-46	p. 23
Sermon	Shepherd King	Rev. McCloskey

We Respond with Gratitude

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Come from east and west! From north and south, come! This is the table of the Lord! Come every race and people! All who seek Christ are welcome here and received in love! Come and be fed by your loving God!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Truly it is very good and right to always give you thanks and praise, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You make us in your image and call us each by name. And so, with all creatures on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the unending hymn, saying…

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you. And blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, who by his baptism of death and by his resurrection gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and evil, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations.

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer to you our very selves in praise and gratitude, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's sacrifice for us. And so, let us proclaim the great mystery of faith:

Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon this sacred fellowship, upon this feast of love. By your Spirit unite us with Christ, so that through him we might be born anew. Therefore, in thanksgiving, we lift our voices united as a saved people using the prayer Jesus taught us, saying...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We give you thanks that, on the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

"This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me."

~ Receive the Bread and Cup ~

Voluntary	Take and Eat	*Michael Joncas (b.1951)*
	Taste and See	*James E. Moore Jr.*

~ Partake in the Feast ~

Prayer After Communion

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for this holy feast, in which we remember Christ's saving death and resurrection – in which we experience Christ himself. We remember your greatest gift of love embodied by Jesus Christ and we rejoice. May your Spirit renew us and transform us for your service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We are Sent Out to Serve

* Hymn No. 447 Lead On O King Eternal LANCASHIRE

* Charge & Benediction

Postlude Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven *Lani Smith (1934-2015)*
LAUDA ANIMA *by John Goss*

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Worship Leadership at 8:00am
Preaching: Rev. Christopher McCloskey
Pianist: Michael Linke

Worship Leadership at 10:00am
Preaching: Rev. Christopher McCloskey
Organist: Michael Linke
Choir Director: Diana Ackner
Accompanist: Iida Nyman
Liturgist: John Ackner
Ushers: Bob & Barb King, Ken Willcox, and Ed LeGere

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Announcements:

Our Life in Worship

WELCOME! We are so glad that you have joined us this morning to worship God! We strive to be a warm and welcoming community of Christian people who seek to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. You are encouraged to introduce yourself to the pastor and to those around you.

IF YOU ARE VISITING US FOR THE FIRST TIME - We encourage you to fill out a visitor card which you can find in each pew with the offering envelopes. Once completed these can be given to an usher so we can contact you. If you would rather, there is also a QR Code on the narthex bulletin board, which will allow you to digitally submit to us the same information. We also have a welcome bag for you, please speak to an usher to receive one.

LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS - are available for those who need them. Speak to an usher if you would like to try one.

RESTROOMS - There is one restroom just off the narthex. Other bathrooms are through the door on the right-hand side of the sanctuary then to the left or down the long hall to the right.

NURSERY CARE - The nursery is not currently staffed. The TV will be on with the livestream and you are more than welcome to use it with your child. If you have any questions please speak with Miss Diana.

FAITH FORMATION - There will *NOT* be any class today. Families will stay in worship to celebrate communion. Next week our topic will be *Advent 1 - Cry Out.* *Please be aware that the kids are singing during worship next week.*

CHOIR - Singers wanted! Want to join us for advent or Christmas? The more the merrier! See Miss Diana if interested.

POINSETTAS - Help us vest our sanctuary for Christmas by making a donation towards the purchase of poinsettias. You may make your donation in honor or in memory of a special person(s) or event. Dedications will be printed in our Christmas bulletins. The poinsettias will be distributed to shut-ins or those we wish to remember this season after the Christmas Eve service. Please submit your donation in the envelopes located in the Sanctuary and lobby by Monday, December 14th. The suggested donation is $15.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS - Are available today in the narthex or Brink hall lobby. Family devotion bags are also available in the narthex.

HANGING OF THE GREENS - Join us *TODAY* after 10am worship for decorating the church. Meet in the Sanctuary at 11:15 for a task. We'll work down the hall after the sanctuary is finished. Children will meet in Brink Hall to make crafts and cards. Lunch will be provided after the decorating is finished.

Our Life in Community

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER'S OFFICE HOURS - Rev. McCloskey will not be holding office hours this week. For pastoral emergencies, please call his cell at (203) 430-1990.

THE CHURCH OFFICE - will be open this week Monday - Wednesday from 9am-1pm. We will be closed on Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE - A big thank you to everyone who pledged for 2027. This year we set a pledge goal of $250,000. As of November 20th, we have received 63 pledges totalling $183,094. If you have not made your pledge, it is not too late! Leave your pledge in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office. Many thanks to Kathe Sheehan for leading another successful campaign!

RENEW BIBLE STUDY - is on a break. It will resume on December 1st to study "Until the Dawn: Actions for the Work of Advent" and Chapter 10 of Why Science and Faith Need Each Other.

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES - Rev. McCloskey's class on the Holy Roman Empire will meet for its final class on Tuesday November 24th at 6:00pm.

BRUNCH WITH SANTA - On Saturday, December 5th we will be having brunch with Santa from 10am to 12pm in Brink Hall. A free will donation will be collected to benefit the church's food programs. All are welcome to eat and get a picture with Santa along with coloring, crafts, and fun for all!

COOKIE DECORATING - *All* ages are welcome to join Miss Diana on Sunday, December 6th after 10am worship to bake and decorate cookies for this year's Cookie Walk. Join us in the church kitchen for some holiday fun while baking for a mission!

COOKIE WALK - Our annual Cookie Walk is on Saturday, December 12th from 10:00-1:00pm (or until sold out). Come purchase delicious cookies for all your holiday gatherings and gifts, to support the Food Distributions for our BackPack Program Families! Would you like to donate cookies? Bakers Instruction Sheets are available in the Narthex.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, December 13th, following the 10:00 am worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new members to the Consistory, and the 2027 Nominating Committee. The 2027 Budget will also be presented and an advisory vote will be taken. The Annual Report on the state of the church will also be distributed.

Our Life in Service

MISSION OF THE MONTH: Our November Mission of the Month is Over the Bridge. Over the Bridge Outreach is a ministry started by our very own Doug Bartling that's focused on: sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, providing encouragement and inspiration, feeding the hungry, clothing the poor, being a friend to the lonely, a crutch to the addicted and a motivator to the helpless.
If you would like more information regarding this important mission, or would like the experience of riding along with Doug, please contact the church office.

OVER THE BRIDGE - We are now accepting gently used mens' & womens' coats, sweat pants, hoodies, warm socks, gloves, hats, sleeping bags and blankets. Thank you for your continued support. Please contact Linda Naumowicz with any questions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - Thank you to everyone who packed a box or gave a donation to Operation Christmas Child! We were able to send 42 boxes this year! Thank You!

THANKSGIVING MEAL - There is a sign up sheet in the lobby and narthex for those who would like to provide homemade or store bought apple or pumpkin pies for this year's Thanksgiving Meal. We will need 70 of each in order to provide one for all who signed up. Please drop off at Brink Hall *TOMORROW* November 23rd.

This Week's Calendar

SUN, NOV 22	**8:00am & 10:00am**	**Christ The King Sunday Service, Sanctuary**
	9:00am & 11:15am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	11:15am	Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary & Brink Hall
TUES, NOV 24	6:00pm	Adult Education Series, Final Class Brink Hall
WED NOV 25	8:00am - 12:30pm	Thanksgiving Meal Distribution, Kitchen
	9:00am	Backpack, Brink
THURS, NOV 26		Closed, Happy Thanksgiving!
FRI, NOV 27		Church Office Closed
SUN, NOV 29	**8:00am & 10:00am**	**Advent Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
	9:00am	Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Brink Hall
	10:30am	Faith Formation Grades K-12, Classroom